

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel
128 Frontage Rd, Newark, NJ

September 15-16, 2026

The Board convened on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 1:43 p.m. Eastern Time.

Present at this meeting (Newark, NJ): Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Dominic Carota, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Ms. Sue Goldberg, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Dan Smyth, and Mr. Robin Stansell.

Absent: Mr. Jason Hoke, Ms. Sylvia Thomas.

The Executive Secretary, Ms. Sheila Goffe, and the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Ted Phillips were also present.

July Minutes

Copies of the July 13-14, 2026 Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Hoke, Ms. Thomas) to approve the July 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

PRESIDENT

President's Update

Ms. DiNardo introduced the AKC Board to Julia Russell, AKC's new Executive Vice President of Customer Strategy & Growth. Ms. Russell has been with AKC for more than one month and will oversee several key areas, including Registration, Marketing, Customer Service, and Education. In her role, she will work closely with the executive team to advance initiatives focused on operational efficiency, business process improvements, and enhancing the overall customer experience.

AKC continues to expand international outreach and mutual cooperation agreements around key areas that impact dog enthusiasts worldwide.

As AKC works to improve business and technology practices, we continue to advance educational initiatives and best practices for canine care. AKC is releasing a new document and poster entitled *Dog Sense at AKC® Events: Best Practices for the Care and Well-Being of Dogs*. The poster will be

displayed prominently at every AKC dog event is a reminder of key components of safety and responsibility including: temperature and environmental safety, crating and housing, grooming area safety, supervision and daily care, and health and emergency preparedness.

Revered dog expert and long-time staff member Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services, announced her retirement, effective in early 2027.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Legal Update

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Status update as of August 31, 2026.

Business Transformation Update:

Jill Zapadinsky, Senior Director, Call Center & Customer Service and Tim Pursell, Senior Director, IT, participated in this portion of the meeting. Ms. Zapadinsky and Mr. Pursell provided an update on use of Artificial Intelligence solutions to improve operational efficiency, enhance customer experience and enable staff to focus on higher-value activities. By automating common interactions in customer service, the AKC can improve service levels while allowing customer service staff to focus on more complex inquiries requiring expertise and judgment.

Quarterly Update on Communications, Social Media & Digital Content

Brandi Hunter Munden, VP, Public Relations and Communications, and Melissa Olund, Senior Director, Digital Marketing, joined this portion of the meeting. Ms. Munden and Ms. Olund presented an update highlighting the collective achievements of the Communications, Social Media, and Digital Content teams in Q2.

Unique Clips Evaluated in Q2: 10,000 (+ 14% from 8,759 in 2025)

Q2 Totals Comparison

Year	Clips Evaluated
2023	5,946
2024	6,502
2025	8,759
2026	10,000

*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Notified.

Communications/PR Activities

Media Coverage Highlights Resulting from Proactive Pitches:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Media Outlet</u>	<u>Subject</u>
4/22	<i>The New York Post</i>	Rarest dog breeds
4/24	<i>Chewy.com</i>	Most Popular Breeds
5/6	<i>Associated Press</i>	National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day
5/30	<i>Good Housekeeping</i>	AKC expertise
6/25	<i>Patch</i>	AKC MOD cooling center for dogs

Q2 Performance Highlights

- 4.34% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications; 2% in Portuguese
- 5.03% increase in the media visibility of AKC Chief Veterinary Officer
- Media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) on par with Q2 2025

IT Transformation Plan – Update

Since the October 2025 update, AKC's IT Transformation program has moved from planning into formal execution. Following a competitive evaluation process, AKC selected BDO as its transformation partner. The contract has been fully executed, the program kickoff has been completed, and structured interviews and discovery activities with leadership and key stakeholders are now underway.

FINANCE

Preliminary Financial Statements (Unaudited) through July 31, 2026

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, reported on preliminary financial statements for the period ending July 31, 2026. AKC's July year-to-date results demonstrate continued financial stability.

Through July 2026, AKC generated \$788,000 of net operating income equal to 1.6% of operating revenue which totaled \$52.9 million. While registration revenues and units remain below prior-year levels, improved expense management and growth in recording and service fee revenue have substantially strengthened financial performance compared to 2025. Total expenses were \$52.1 million, approximately \$636,000 (1%) below forecast and \$4.2 million (7%) below the prior year period.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services, joined this portion of the meeting.

Board Meeting Dates for 2027 & 2028

The Board approved the following Board and Delegate Meeting dates for 2027 and 2028.

2027 Board Meetings

January 11, 2027*

February 3-4, 2027

April 12-13, 2027

May 10-11, 2027 (Raleigh)

July 12-13, 2027

August 9, 2027*

October 11-12, 2027

November 8-9, 2027

*One-day meeting via videoconference.

All meetings are at AKC Headquarters in NY unless otherwise specified.

2028 Board Meetings

January 10-11, 2028

February 7-8, 2028

April 10-11, 2028

May 8-9, 2028

July 10-11, 2028

August 7-8, 2028

October 9-10, 2028

November 13-14, 2028

2027 Delegate Meetings

The 2027 March, June and September Delegate Meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, with the Delegate Committee meetings held the Monday before. The December Delegate meeting is set for Friday, December 17, 2027 (Delegate Committee meetings on December 16), to be held in conjunction with the AKC National Championship.

2028 Delegate Meetings

The 2028 March, June and September Delegate meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, with the Delegate Committee meetings held the Monday before. The December Delegate meeting is set for Friday, December 15, 2028 (Delegate Committee meetings on December 14), to be held in conjunction with the AKC National Championship.

Government Relations Update Second Quarter 2026

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations, provided an update on activities and accomplishments of the GR Department in Q2, including legislative and regulatory activity,

policy trends, Congressional policy briefings, major projects, other significant activities, and legislative successes.

The AKC GR team is currently monitoring more than 1,980 legislative bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the sport and the American Kennel Club.

AKC GR is also monitoring 718 actively pending proposed regulations (administrative or implementing changes to dog laws) at the state and federal level.

In the second quarter, the team published 35 legislative alerts, which are delivered via geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents, the AKC GR legislative action center, and social media. Staff provided written or oral testimony on 30 measures.

Parent Club Request to Retire Momentum, Sonnenschein & Ingebar

The Giant Schnauzer Club of America has requested the retirement of the kennel names: "Momentum", "Sonnenschein" and "Ingebar" on behalf of the owners. Staff recommends that the Giant Schnauzer Club of America, request to retire "Momentum", "Sonnenschein" and "Ingebar" be granted.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Hoke, Ms. Thomas) to waive standard procedure and consider the request immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Hoke, Ms. Thomas) to approve the request to retire the Momentum, Sonnenschein & Ingebar kennel names.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® – Seppala Siberian Sleddog

Ms. O'Neill reported that the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) Committee has approved a petition for the Seppala Siberian Sleddog to be accepted into the FSS program with an effective date of 60 days after the board meeting of September 15, 2026.

Veterinary Outreach 2026 Update

Ms. O'Neill provided an update to the AKC Board on the accomplishments of the Vet Outreach program from 2025-2026. This included:

Meet the AKC Presentations: 21 presentations conducted in 2025 with a total of 1065 students attending. In 2026 13 presentations were conducted during the Spring Semester to a total of 535 students. The schedule for the fall semester is still being coordinated with 3 confirmed including the new vet school at Rowan University in New Jersey.

Tours of Dog Shows or Other AKC Events: Staff coordinated tours for veterinary students at 8 dog shows or other AKC events within a close proximity to the veterinary school.

Conferences Attended: AKC had informational booths at 5 veterinary conferences.

CUSTOMER STRATEGY & GROWTH

AKC Education Q2 Review

The Board reviewed a quarterly update provided by the Education department. Key accomplishments included: continued expansion of AKC Canine College, development of educational pathways designed to introduce new audiences to AKC programs and sports, growth of youth and public education initiatives, improvements to Library & Archives access and operational efficiency, and strategic expansion of the AKC Groomer Program.

The department also advanced new revenue opportunities through industry partnerships and program optimization within the grooming community.

COMPANION & PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events joined this portion of the meeting.

Judging Privilege Approval for Former Employees

The Board considered a proposal to establish a formal process for the reinstatement of judging privileges of former employees whose judging privileges were placed on inactive status due to full-time employment with the AKC. The new policy sets forth conditions and requirements applying to former employees seeking reinstatement of judging privileges. The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear, consistent and transparent process that protects the integrity of AKC's judging program while ensuring that the former employees are treated equitably.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia and seconded by Mr. Fugiwara, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Smyth, and Mr. Stansell. Opposed: Dr. Garvin. Absent: Mr. Hoke, Ms. Thomas) to waive standard procedure and consider the request immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Fugiwara and seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Smyth. Abstained: Mr. Stansell. Absent: Mr. Hoke, Ms. Thomas) to approve the new policy setting forth conditions and requirements applying to former employees seeking reinstatement of judging privileges.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

The Board recessed for the day at 5:35 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:05 a.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

Present at this meeting (Newark, NJ): Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Dominic Carota, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Ms. Sue Goldberg, Mr. Steven Hamblin, and Mr. Robin Stansell.

Mr. Dan Smyth joined the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Absent: Mr. Jason Hoke, Ms. Sylvia Thomas.

The Executive Secretary, Ms. Sheila Goffe, and the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Ted Phillips were also present.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events, Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, and Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services, joined this portion of the meeting.

Multiple All-Breed or Limited-Breed Shows in One Day

The Multiple All-Breed or Limited-Breed Shows in One Day Program defines the criteria for holding two All-Breed or Limited-Breed shows back-to-back on the same day. The Board discussed a staff proposal requiring the judging schedules for two All-Breed or Limited-Breed shows held in one day to: a) account for a minimum allowance of 45-minutes to one hour for rest or meals when a judge's cumulative assignment on the day is more than five hours of judging; and b) that a special attraction group competition may only be offered at the second show.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin and seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin. Abstained: Mr. Stansell. Absent: Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Ms. Thomas) to approve the new board policies.

This policy is effective October 7, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Junior Task Force Update

Ms. O'Neill provided an update on the activities of the Junior Task Force, which has been meeting regularly since July 2025. Highlights of activities include:

- Recognition of clubs that actively support 4-H Canine Activities: Three clubs have been honored to date.
- AKC National Championship 2025: Task Force members gave each Junior competing in all events a special lanyard recognizing their participation.
- AKC National Championship 2026: On track for an entry of 150 in Juniors competition.
- Junior Regional events: Nine clubs have been selected or already completed Regional Junior competitions in 2026. Eight more have been selected for 2027.

Other accomplishments include special educational initiatives, Juniors clubs, Junior showcase events and special outreach initiatives through *Family Dog Magazine*.

Conformation Point Schedule – Three-Point Major Requirements

Staff provided a memo informing the Board of a request received to modify how the point schedule is calculated. No further action was taken.

Fines and Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

Events & Entries

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers for the eight months ending August 25, 2026. (See Appendix A.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, joined this portion of the meeting.

Foreign Judges

The Board reviewed a memo presented by staff concerning foreign Exempt Judges.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – American Water Spaniel

The American Water Spaniel Club, Inc. (AWSC) has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for the examination of the American Water Spaniel through all levels of Conformation competition. Currently, American Water Spaniels may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

Staff recommends the Board approve the AWSC's request for the American Water Spaniel to be added to the list of breeds required to be judged on the ramp through all levels of Conformation competition.

Upon a motion by Dr. Davies and seconded by Ms. Goldberg the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Ms. Thomas) to waive standard procedure and consider the request immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Carota and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Ms. Thomas) to approve mandatory use of the ramp for examination of American Water Spaniels in Conformation competition effective January 1, 2027, as sufficient notice must be provided to superintendents to ensure inclusion in all premium lists.

Recertification Exam Update

In November 2020, the AKC Board of Directors revised the Judging Approval Process to establish continuing education requirements for Conformation Judges. In 2025, the Board directed staff to restructure the exams. The revised exam uses single-answer multiple-choice questions, lowers the passing score from 85% to 80%, groups similar question types together, and replaces scenario questions that used icons to mimic the Best of Breed class with questions based on a marked judge's book page.

As part of ongoing restructuring for judges exams, staff provides the Board with updates on pass/fail rates and other key findings for the period that covers the period of April 22, 2025 through August 12, 2026.

Since April 22, 2025:

854 judges have completed (pass or fail) at least one version of the recertification exam
661 judges (77.4%) satisfactorily completed the requirement (passed)

<i>Exam</i>	<i># Passed</i>	<i>Average Score</i>
<i>A</i>	508	84.7%
<i>B</i>	123	82.6%
<i>C</i>	30	82.0%

<i>Category/Date</i>	<i>Exam A</i>		<i>Exam B</i>		<i>Exam C</i>		<i>Overall</i>	
	9/18/25	8/12/26	9/18/25	8/12/26	9/18/25	8/12/26	9/18/25	8/12/26
<i>Eligibility and Assignments</i>	85.3%	87.9%	77.7%	80.9%	89.1%	86.0%	84.1%	85.0%
<i>General Procedures</i>	90.9%	91.2%	91.4%	91.9%	89.1%	87.2%	90.5%	90.1%
<i>DQs/Excusals</i>	86.7%	88.9%	84.6%	81.4%	89.4%	84.1%	86.8%	84.8%
<i>NOHS</i>	68.3%	70.7%	65.1%	62.8%	78.3%	72.8%	70.6%	68.8%
<i>Conflicts of Interest</i>	77.3%	79.2%	86.3%	85.5%	86.8%	80.0%	83.5%	81.6%
<i>Multiple Entries</i>	77.4%	75.6%	58.7%	60.6%	76.0%	68.9%	71.6%	68.9%
<i>Exhibitor Protests</i>	79.3%	81.7%	89.2%	85.6%	84.4%	82.3%	83.9%	83.1%
<i>Measuring & Weighing</i>	86.6%	88.3%	92.2%	93.3%	83.4%	78.3%	87.1%	86.1%

CLUBS

The Board reviewed a request for AKC Membership, member club bylaw amendment approvals and newly licensed clubs.

Request for AKC Membership

American Eskimo Dog Club of America

Households: 150

1st Licensed Show: March 8, 1996

Bylaws: Acceptable

Recommendation: Publish in October 2026 and November 2026 Gazettes

Report on Member Club Bylaws Approved in July and August

Connecticut River Working Group Association, Hartford, CT (2008)

Ingham County Kennel Club, Ingham County, MI (1943)

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America (1958)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in July and August

Cane Corso Club of South Florida, Lehigh Acres, FL (including all communities south of Route 70), 20 total households, 12 local.

Clearwater Beagle Club, Patterson, MO (including communities north to DeSoto and south to Piedmont, in proximity to Route 67), 19 total households, 8 local.

Erie Canal Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club, greater Syracuse, NY (including communities north to Argyle, south to Norwich, west to Rochester, and east to NY/MA/VT state lines), 21 total households, 12 local.

Mid MO Retriever Club, greater Tebbetts, MO (including communities east to Warrenton, west to Boonville and south to Camdenton), 26 total households, 14 local.

Rutherford County Coon Hunters Association, Rutherford County, NC, 15 households, 9 local.

Pacific Northwest Miniature Bull Terrier Club, Portland, OR (including communities north to Puyallup, WA, south to Molalla, OR in proximity to Interstate 5), 22 total households, 12 local.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Inspections, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Non-Inappropriate Actions

The Board received a report of charges preferred.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Inappropriate Actions

The Board received a report of charges preferred.

Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions as of August 26, 2026

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of August 26, 2026.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Compliance Status Report – Second Quarter 2026

The Board received a report of Compliance quarterly statistics for the second quarter of 2026.

Inspections Status Report – Second Quarter 2026

The Board received a report on inspections statistics for the second quarter of 2026.

CONSENT

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Ms. Thomas) to approve the following Consent agenda items.

American Bulldog – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous Class

The American Bulldog has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Policy approved in January 2004 by the Board of Directors. Requirements include an active Parent Club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area, and documented club activity.

The Board VOTED to approve a staff recommendation that the National American Bulldog Club become the Parent Club for the breed and the American Bulldog be approved to advance to the Miscellaneous Class.

This change is effective June 30, 2027.

Dutch Shepherd Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group

The American Dutch Shepherd Association submitted a petition seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Dutch Shepherd to be eligible to compete in the Herding Group. (See Appendix B.)

The Board VOTED to approve the Dutch Shepherd breed standard and eligibility to Dutch compete in the Herding Group.

The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on June 30, 2027.

Parent Club Designation for Appenzeller Sennenhund Club of America

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the Appenzeller Sennenhund Club of America to be designated as the Parent Club representing the Appenzeller Sennenhund with the AKC.

Junior Showmanship Regulations, Section 5 – Criteria to Advance to Open Class

The Board VOTED to approve the revision of the *Junior Showmanship Regulations*, Section 5 – Classes and Divisions (A) Novice Class. This expands the addition of Reserve Best Junior with competition to count towards the eligibility to move from the Novice Class to the Open Class. (See Appendix C.)

This is effective immediately.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Welsh Springer Spaniel

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc. (WSSCA) to mandate the use of a ramp for the examination of the Welsh Springer Spaniel through all levels of Conformation competition. Currently, Welsh Springer Spaniels may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

This change is effective January 1, 2027, as sufficient notice must be provided to superintendents to ensure inclusion in all premium lists.

Premium Lists – Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 6, Section 2

The Board VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to amend Chapter 6, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to require the following publications in premium lists: (1) notice and broadcast information of any commercial or club-sponsored recording and/or electronic transmission of the event, and (2) notice of any club-imposed recording restrictions.

The proposal will be read at the December 2026 Delegate meeting and voted on at the March 2027 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be July 1, 2027, to ensure publication in the premium list for any affected events.

English Springer Spaniel Field Trials – Frequency of Judging

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (ESSFTA), that testing judges be allowed to judge four field trials in a twelve-month period instead of three. This is a loosening of a restriction on frequency of judging.

This is a change to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels*. The change would appear in an italicized section, which may be made by a vote of the Board.

This change is effective September 21, 2026.

Retriever Field Trials – Maximum Distance for Retired Guns/Throwers

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed change to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers* so the maximum distance a retired gun or thrower can travel is 15 yards. The Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee was briefed at their June 2026 meeting and had no issues with this amendment. (See Appendix D.)

This change is effective May 1, 2027.

CAT and Fast CAT® – Clarification Updates

The Board VOTED to approve nine clarification updates made to the *CAT and Fast CAT® Regulations*. These updates offer better clarity for exhibitors and host clubs.

These are changes made to the *CAT and Fast CAT® Regulations* and may be made by a vote of the Board. (See Appendix E.)

The changes are effective November 1, 2026.

Beagle Field Trials – Five Changes from the Beagle Advisory Committee

The Board VOTED to make five changes to the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures*;

1) allow clubs the option to combine Field Champion Only classes either by sex or by height, 2) allow clubs the option to pre-measure hounds prior to the start of their small pack trial, 3) if a tracking collar is worn it must match the same color as the assigned collar or be black, 4) judges must choose either the 10-7 or 5-4 scoring system, 5) hounds trailing deer is to be considered a serious fault deserving of elimination and when trailing other game shall be given a demerit at the judge's discretion. (See Appendix F.)

The first listed change regarding Field Champion Only Stakes is a rule change which requires approval of the Board and Delegate Body.

The proposal will be read at the December 2026 Delegate meeting and voted on at the March 2027 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be May 1, 2027.

All other recommendations are Standard Procedures and can be made by a vote of the Board. The changes are effective November 1, 2026.

Pointing Breed Hunting Test – Change to Judging Requirement

The Board VOTED to reduce the number of qualifying legs an approved pointing breed hunting test judge must have earned while handling a dog at the test level to be judged, or at a higher level, from three qualifying legs to one qualifying leg. This change would be a two-year pilot trial. (See Appendix G.)

This is a change to the *Regulations for AKC® Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds* and may be made by a vote of the Board.

The changes are effective November 1, 2026.

Delegate Approvals

Rylee Carlon

To represent Richland Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: July, August 2026

Dr. Lisa A. Connor

To represent Great Pyrenees Club of America

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

Anna K. Gracie

To represent Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America

Published in *AKC Gazette*: July, August 2026

Spencer Guynup

To represent Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

Laurie Isaacson

To represent Santa Clara Dog Training Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: July, August 2026

Debra Lindsay

To represent Trap Falls Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: July, August 2026

Ashley Maas

To represent Central Iowa Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

Walter Sommerfelt

To represent Tennessee Valley Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: July, August 2026

Sebastian Steele

To represent Des Moines Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

Susan Swords

To represent Magic Valley Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

Lauren Westover

To represent Fayetteville Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

Tina Winston

To represent Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA

Published in *AKC Gazette*: July, August 2026

Katherine A. Wright

To represent Montgomery County Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

NEW BUSINESS

Promoting Breeder Education Resources

The Board discussed promoting and informing clubs about AKC's extensive resources and educational materials for breeders.

Conformation Group Judges

The Board discussed concerns regarding a shortage of qualified group judges for Conformation events.

Next Meeting of the AKC Board

The next scheduled meeting of the AKC Board of Directors is October 12-13, 2026 at AKC Headquarters in New York City. The following meeting is scheduled for November 5-6, 2026, at the AKC Operations Center in Raleigh, NC.

Adjourned: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 2:48 p.m. Eastern.

Attest: _____
Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary

Appendix A

AKC EVENTS STATUS REPORT
FOR THE 7 MONTHS ENDED JULY, 2026
REPORTING ON EVENTS PROCESSED AS OF AUGUST 25, 2026

	EVENTS			ENTRIES			UNIQUE ENTRIES			ENTRIES PER EVENT		
	Number of Events	Increase/ (Decrease) from 2025	Percentage Change	Number of Entries	Increase/ (Decrease) from 2025	Percentage Change	Number of Unique Entries	Increase/ (Decrease) from 2025	Percentage Change	Entries per Event	Increase/ (Decrease) from 2025	Percentage Change
Conformation												
All Breed	873	20	2	657,778	-27,750	-4	63,775	-2,897	-4	753	-51	-6
Limited/Group	229	33	17	37,876	2,623	7	17,835	805	5	165	-15	-8
Specialty	1,994	105	6	84,394	1,866	2	30,396	448	1	42	-2	-5
Beginner Puppy	1,015	97	11	19,212	2,633	16	5,894	430	8	19	1	6
Open Show	297	39	15	3,036	-350	-10	475	-28	-6	10	-3	-23
Total Conformation (1)	4,408	294	7	802,296	-20,978	-3	72,459	-2,369	-3	*	*	*
National Owner Handled Series (2)	2,314	149	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Agility	2,448	37	2	679,443	-13,732	-2	21,224	-561	-3	278	-10	-3
Obedience	1,407	9	1	58,951	-2,113	-3	9,493	-341	-3	42	-2	-5
Rally	1,673	32	2	93,207	3,755	4	14,147	-213	-1	56	1	2
Tracking	188	-5	-3	668	-19	-3	446	-44	-9	4	0	0
Field Trials	991	-11	-1	61,386	-3,884	-6	6,390	-28	0	62	-3	-5
Hunting Tests	621	-56	-8	31,288	-5,591	-15	6,437	-1,038	-14	50	-4	-7
Coonhound	43	-48	-53	326	-296	-48	155	-38	-20	8	1	14
Herding	551	31	6	7,054	362	5	1,232	46	4	13	0	0
Farm Dog Certified	285	41	17	4,206	135	3	2,040	20	1	15	-2	-12
Lure Coursing	220	-7	-3	4,282	-741	-15	1,190	-146	-11	19	-3	-14
Coursing Ability	309	-7	-2	8,724	-856	-9	2,345	-67	-3	28	-2	-7
Fast CAT	2,136	104	5	148,202	-6,084	-4	22,556	-489	-2	69	-7	-9
Earth Dog	58	-7	-11	2,657	334	14	327	33	11	46	10	28
Scent Work Trials	1,157	88	8	189,284	25,084	15	13,362	1,059	9	164	10	6
AKC Temperament Tests (4)	289	40	16	4,418	59	1	1,964	26	1	15	-3	-17
Virtual Obedience Tests	21	0	0	292	104	55	116	38	49	14	5	56
AKC Fetch (4)	500	-89	-15	6,779	-2,549	-27	3,013	-1,133	-27	14	-2	-13
TOTALS (5)	17,305	446	3	2,103,443	-27,030	-1.3	178,896	-5,245	-2.8	*	*	*

Please Note:

- 1) Total Unique Entries for Conformation is across all five Conformation competition types and will not reflect the sum of each individual competition type as an individual dog may compete in more than one of the individual competition types.
- 2) TOTALS do not include NOHS
- 3) For unique entries in Temperament Tests and Fetch, divide entries by 2.25
- 4) TOTALS are the sum of all sports.

Light Green: All entries are not captured for these sports. The numbers shown are the unique number of dogs passing or placing.

as of 8/25/2026

Appendix B**STANDARD OF THE DUTCH SHEPHERD****GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The first impression of the Dutch Shepherd is of a medium-sized, middle weighted, well-muscled dog of powerful and well-balanced structure. His carriage is natural and relaxed, but alert. He is a dog with lots of endurance, a lively temperament and an intelligent expression. The breed is presented in three coat types, short-, long- and rough-haired. The difference between sexes is clearly recognizable, especially in the shape of the head and build of body. Both male and female should be judged equally. Faults - Any deviation from these specifications is a fault. In determining whether a fault is minor, serious, or major, these two factors should be used as a guide: 1. The extent to which it deviates from the standard, 2. The extent to which such deviation would actually affect the working ability and welfare of the dog.

SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Males should be 22½ to 24½ inches in height and females 21½ to 23½ inches, measured at the withers. The length, measured from point of breastbone to point of buttock, compared to the height, should be a 10 to 9 ratio. Bone structure is solid and moderate weight in correct proportion to his height, appearance well balanced, neither too light or too heavy. Males under 21 inches or over 26 inches shall be disqualified. Females under 20 inches or over 25 inches shall be disqualified.

HEAD

Size should be in proportion to the body. Is wedge-shaped seen from above and in profile. The skull and muzzle are equal in length. Expression - should be intelligent and lively, indicating alertness, attention and readiness for activity. Eyes - are dark colored and medium size, set slightly oblique, almond shaped and not protruding. Dogs with distinctly yellow or blue eyes shall be disqualified. Ears - are medium sized, stiff, and erect. Disqualification - drooping or hanging ears. Skull - is flat and never rounded. The stop is moderate and distinct. Muzzle – The bridge of the muzzle is straight and parallel to the top of the skull. The jaws should be strong and powerful. Nose - is black without spots or discolored areas. The lips should be tight and black, with no pink showing on the outside. Teeth - full complement of strong, white teeth, evenly set. Bite - is scissors. A level, overshot or undershot bite is a fault.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck - is not too short, dry, without folds and gradually flowing into the body. Topline - There is a smooth, gentle transition from the neck to the top line of the body, in which head and neck are carried in a natural pose. The withers are slightly higher and slope into the back, which must be level, straight, and firm from withers to hip joints. Body - Firm, but not coarse. Chest - Deep and long, not narrow, ribs slightly sprung. The fore chest is fairly well developed. Abdomen - Slight tuck up. Loin – Firm and short with moderate depth, Croup - is slightly sloping and moderate length. Tail - At rest, hangs straight down or with a slight curve. Reaches to the hock. In action, carried gracefully upwards, never curled or carried sideways. Cropped or stump tail are disqualifications.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder-blades are well joined to the body and well sloping. The forelegs are powerful, of good length, well-muscled. The bone is solid but not heavy. Always generally showing a straight line, but with sufficient suppleness of pastern. The upper arm is approximately equal in length to the shoulder-blades and well angulated with the connecting bones. The elbow is well attached. Forefeet are oval, well knit, toes arched. Nails are black and pads are elastic and dark. Dewclaws are permissible.

HINDQUARTERS

The hind-legs are powerful and well-muscled. The bone is solid but never heavy. Not excessively angulated. With a correctly angulated rear, a perpendicular line dropped from the point of rump will meet the top of the rear foot. The thigh and lower thigh are of approximately equal length. The hock is perpendicular. Dewclaws - none present. The hind feet are oval and well-knit with arched toes, black nails and elastic dark pads.

COAT

The dog is shown in natural coat without excessive grooming. Whiskers are present in all coat-types. The short-hair coat is uniformly quite hard, close fitting, and not too short coat with a woolly undercoat. The ruff, breeches and tail plume are clearly visible. The long-hair coat is long, straight, and well fitting, harsh to the touch, without curls or waves also with a woolly undercoat. The ruff and breeches are distinct and the tail abundantly coated. The head, ears, feet and hind legs below the hocks are short and densely coated. The backsides of the forelegs show a strongly developed coat, the feathering shortening in length towards the feet. There are no fringes at the ears. The rough-hair coat is dense, harsh, tousled coat with a woolly, dense undercoat all over the body except for the head. The coat should be close fitting. The upper and lower lips should be well covered with hair, with beard, and two well defined, coarse rough eyebrows that are distinct but not exaggerated. Furnishings are not soft. The hair on the skull and on the cheeks is less strongly developed. In profile it seems as if the head has a more square appearance. Strongly developed breeches are desirable. The tail is covered all round with hair. The brindle color may be less pronounced because of the tousled coat. The rough hair coat should be hand-plucked on average twice a year.

COLOR

Brindle. The base color is golden or silver. Golden can vary from light sand color to chestnut red. The brindle may be black or a dark brown and is clearly present all over the body and in the ruff, breeches and tail. A small amount of white on chest or toes is permitted. Too much black is a fault, as well as heavy white markings on the chest or feet. A black mask is preferred. Disqualification - Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest, or frosting on muzzle.

GAIT

Dog is a trotter with free, smooth and supple movement, without exaggerated drive or stride. The Dutch Shepherd tends to single track at a fast gait; the legs, both front and rear, converging toward the center line of gravity of the dog. The backline should remain firm and level, parallel to the center of motion, with no crabbing.

TEMPERAMENT

The Dutch Shepherd should reflect the qualities of loyalty and reliability, alertness, and watchfulness. He is active, independent, with persistence, intelligence, prepared to be obedient, and gifted with the true shepherding temperament. The Dutch Shepherd Dog works willingly together with its owner and he deals independently with any task which is assigned to him. When herding larger flocks he must have the capacity to work together with several other dogs. He should not show fear or shyness nor viciousness by unwarranted or unprovoked attack.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Males under 21 inches or over 26 inches. Females under 20 inches or over 25 inches. Yellow or blue eyes. Drooping or hanging ears. Cropped or stump tail. Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest, or frosting on muzzle

AKC Board Approved September 15, 2026

Effective June 30, 2027

Appendix C

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP REGULATIONS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
Section 5. Classes and Divisions.	Section 5. Classes and Divisions.	
(A) Novice. This shall be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show and who at the time entries close have not won three (3) first place awards, with competition present, in a Novice Class. A first place in Novice without competition leading to a Best Junior award with competition would count as one win towards moving to Open at a licensed or member show. Junior Handlers who win a third Novice Class with competition, if a win in Novice leads to a Best Junior with competition present it will count as one win towards moving to Open, after the closing of entries for a show are required to transfer their entry from the Novice Class to the Open Class by notifying the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the judging of the class at the show.	(A) Novice. This shall be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show and who at the time entries close have not won three (3) first place awards, with competition present, in a Novice Class. A first place in Novice without competition leading to a Best Junior or <u>Reserve Best Junior</u> award with competition would count as one win towards moving to Open at a licensed or member show. Junior Handlers who win a third Novice Class with competition, if a win in Novice leads to a Best Junior with competition present it will count as one win towards moving to Open, after the closing of entries for a show are required to transfer their entry from the Novice Class to the Open Class by notifying the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the judging of the class at the show.	<i>The addition of Reserve Best Junior with competition to count towards the eligibility to move from the Novice Class to the Open Class.</i>

Appendix D

FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR RETRIEVERS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
Standard Procedure for Non-Slip Retriever Trials	Standard Procedure for Non-Slip Retriever Trials	
8. On marked retrieves, a dog should be able to see each bird in the air and as it falls, and the Guns shall be so stationed as to be conspicuous to and easily identified by the dog. No Dry Guns should be stationed in the field and visible to the dog while a marking test is run, or while the marking portion of a combination mark/blind test is run. Guns may be requested to shoot twice at every bird. After birds have been shot, all Guns shall remain quiet and shall not move their positions unless and until so instructed by the Judges. Judges may instruct Guns and their associated bird thrower to retire from the sight of the dog, or dogs, on line provided that every reasonable efforts must be made to insure that the movement of retired Guns is only permitted at a time and under conditions to minimize the chance that the running dog will be distracted by such movements. The permitted movement of retired Guns and their associated bird throwers should be limited to the minimum distance required for effective concealment. Such retirement should be in a direction away from the direction in which the bird is thrown.	8. On marked retrieves, a dog should be able to see each bird in the air and as it falls, and the Guns shall be so stationed as to be conspicuous to and easily identified by the dog. No Dry Guns should be stationed in the field and visible to the dog while a marking test is run, or while the marking portion of a combination mark/blind test is run. Guns may be requested to shoot twice at every bird. After birds have been shot, all Guns shall remain quiet and shall not move their positions unless and until so instructed by the Judges. Judges may instruct Guns and their associated bird thrower to retire from the sight of the dog, or dogs, on line provided that every reasonable efforts must be made to insure that the movement of retired Guns is only permitted at a time and under conditions to minimize the chance that the running dog will be distracted by such movements. The permitted movement of retired Guns and their associated bird throwers should <u>shall</u> be limited to the minimum distance required for effective concealment <u>with a maximum distance of no more than 15 yards</u>. Such retirement should <u>shall</u> be in a direction away from the direction in which the bird is thrown.	<i>This establishes a maximum distance that throwers and gunners can travel.</i>

Appendix E

COURSING ABILITY TEST (CAT) AND FAST CAT® REGULATIONS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
CHAPTER 2 Making Application to Hold a CAT or Fast CAT®	CHAPTER 2 Making Application to Hold a CAT or Fast CAT®	
SECTION 8. PREMIUM LISTS. A premium list must be provided for licensed or member club CATs and Fast CATs. The host club is responsible for all the info that appears in the premium list. The premium list shall be printed on paper or provided electronically, and shall state whether the event is “Licensed by The American Kennel Club” or held by an “AKC Member Club.” Premium lists shall measure not less than 5½ x 8½ inches nor more than 8½ x 11 inches. Only information pertaining to the test shall be included in the premium list, except that CAT or Fast CAT events held at the same site on the same date as another licensed or member AKC event, may use the same premium, however all event numbers must appear on the entry form(s). For Fast CATs only, if a club holds two of the same kind of test on the same day, it must be stated in the premium if they will be held concurrently or consecutively. Premium lists for CAT events must include course plans. Plans must show course layouts and approximate distances between	SECTION 8. PREMIUM LISTS. A premium list must be provided for licensed or member club CATs and Fast CATs. The host club is responsible for all the info that appears in the premium list. The premium list shall be printed on paper or provided electronically, and shall state whether the event is “Licensed by The American Kennel Club” or held by an “AKC Member Club.” Premium lists shall measure not less than 5½ x 8½ inches nor more than 8½ x 11 inches. Only information pertaining to the test(s) shall be included in the premium list, except that CAT or Fast CAT events held at the same site on the same date as another licensed or member AKC event, may use the same premium, however all event numbers must appear on the entry form(s). <u>Clubs hosting back-to-back events at the same location may publish their event information in the same premium list so long as it is clear which club is hosting which events including their event numbers.</u>	<i>This clarifies that when clubs are working together to host events and providing a premium, it must be clear which club is in charge and hosting.</i> <i>This clarifies that clubs can hold CATs consecutively if they want to and validates those that are already doing it and that they are it must be stated in the premium list.</i>

turns. The premium shall state the distance for each course and the eligibility of dogs for each course, including that veteran dogs may run two-thirds of the normal course distance at the owner's discretion.	For Fast CATs only, If a club holds two of the same kind of test on the same day, it must be stated in the premium if they will be held concurrently or consecutively. Premium lists for CAT events must include course plans. Plans must show course layouts and approximate distances between turns. The premium shall state the distance for each course and the eligibility of dogs for each course, including that veteran dogs may run two-thirds of the normal course distance at the owner's discretion. <u>If two CAT events are being held on the same day, the premium shall state whether they will be held concurrently or consecutively.</u>	
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COURSING ABILITY TEST (CAT) AND FAST CAT® REGULATIONS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
CHAPTER 2 Making Application to Hold a CAT or Fast CAT®	CHAPTER 2 Making Application to Hold a CAT or Fast CAT®	
SECTION 16. COLLAR/PARAPHENALIA. Dogs may wear any collar except a choker collar, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar. The collar should be snug to minimize the chances of getting hung up on something during the run. The event committee at its discretion may require tags hanging from the collar to be secured to ensure the dog's safety. Owners should be	SECTION 16. COLLAR/PARAPHENALIA. Dogs may wear any collar <u>on the grounds or on course</u> except a choker collar, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar. The collar should be snug to minimize the chances of getting hung up on something during the run. The event committee at its discretion may require tags hanging from the collar to be secured to ensure the dog's	<i>This clarifies that a choke, prong or shock collar are not allowed on the grounds or on course.</i>

aware that there is a chance that tags hanging from the collar could become entangled on something during the run. If owners are concerned, tags may be taped to the collar. Owners may use clips or rubber bands to hold the dog's hair. The owner assumes responsibility for the safety of the dog with regard to the dog's collar and paraphernalia on the dog. Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course. Dogs may be muzzled at the owner's discretion. Muzzles must not have sharp, hard edges and must allow the dog to breathe.	safety. Owners should be aware that there is a chance that tags hanging from the collar could become entangled on something during the run. If owners are concerned, tags may be taped to the collar. Owners may use clips or rubber bands to hold the dog's hair. The owner assumes responsibility for the safety of the dog with regard to the dog's collar and paraphernalia on the dog. Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course. Dogs may be muzzled at the owner's discretion. Muzzles must not have sharp, hard edges and must allow the dog to breathe.	
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COURSING ABILITY TEST (CAT) AND FAST CAT® REGULATIONS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
CHAPTER 3 Standard Procedures for Coursing Ability Tests (CAT)	CHAPTER 3 Standard Procedures for Coursing Ability Tests (CAT)	
SECTION 2. COURSE DESIGN. The course shall be designed with safety for non-sighthound breeds as a primary consideration. There shall be no turns more acute than 90 degrees. The total length of the course shall be no less than 600 yards and should be as close to 600 yards as is possible. The lure will consist of plastic strips or a white plastic bag. Depending on the size and type of dog, the dog will run	SECTION 2. COURSE DESIGN. The course shall be designed with safety for non-sighthound breeds as a primary consideration. There shall be no turns more acute than 90 degrees. The total length of the course shall be no less than 600 yards and should be as close to 600 yards as is possible. The lure will consist of plastic strips or a white plastic bag. <u>It is recommended clubs use 3 lures spaced 10</u>	<i>This clarifies the lure does not have to be white and provides clubs guidance when setting up the lure so that dogs can gain more visual follow of the lure as they are approaching turns.</i>

either the full course or a 300-yard course. The 300-yard distance shall be clearly marked. Safety is of utmost importance. Many of the dogs running the Coursing Ability Test will not possess the agility of a sighthound and this must be a consideration in the design of a course.	<u>feet apart for their lure setup.</u> This can be particularly helpful for dogs when having to navigate turns. Depending on the size and type of dog, the dog will run either the full course or a 300-yard course. The 300-yard distance shall be clearly marked. Safety is of utmost importance. Many of the dogs running the Coursing Ability Test will not possess the agility of a sighthound and this must be a consideration in the design of a course.	
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COURSING ABILITY TEST (CAT) AND FAST CAT® REGULATIONS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
New Section	CHAPTER 3 Standard Procedures for Coursing Ability Tests (CAT)	
	<u>SECTION 12. CALLING A RESTART.</u> <u>A restart can be called should a dog become interrupted while running along a course.</u> <u>When a restart is called, the dog may resume running from the same place along the course where the interruption occurred.</u>	<i>This clarifies if a dog becomes interrupted while running in CAT, the dog can resume and continue the course from where it ran last, when a restart is called.</i>

COURSING ABILITY TEST (CAT) AND FAST CAT® REGULATIONS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
CHAPTER 4 Standard Procedures for Fast CAT®	CHAPTER 4 Standard Procedures for Fast CAT®	
SECTION 2. COURSE/EQUIPMENT. A. Safety: Safety is of utmost importance. It is the responsibility of the event committee to ensure the safety of the course, the equipment and the conduct of those involved with the event. It is recommended that the event committee run a test dog prior to the start of the event to ensure that the equipment functions properly and all personnel understand their jobs. Prior to moving the lure to position it for the start, the lure operator shall announce “hold your dogs” in order to caution owners. C. The Finish: The club must provide enough room for a safe run-out area. It is required this be a minimum of 30 yards and suggested the run out be 50 yards. The club should consider fencing the end of the course in order to help collect the dogs. It is recommended that an owner or someone familiar with the dog stand at the finish in order to catch the dog once the course has been completed. A handler cannot recall their dog from the start line. F. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure.	SECTION 2. COURSE/EQUIPMENT. A. Safety: Safety is of utmost importance. It is the responsibility of the event committee to ensure the safety of the course, the equipment and the conduct of those involved with the event. It is recommended that the event committee run a test dog prior to the start of the event to ensure that the equipment functions properly and all personnel understand their jobs. Prior to moving the lure to position it for the start, the lure operator, <u>or hunt master or any secondary assistant at the end of the course</u> shall announce “hold your dogs” in order to caution owners. C. The Finish: The club must provide enough room for a safe run-out area. It is required this be a minimum of 30 yards and suggested the run out be 50 yards. The club should consider fencing at the end of the course in order to help collect the dogs. <u>If fencing is used, the fencing material for the back wall of the catch pen, that which faces the start line, must be yellow in color.</u> It is recommended that an owner or someone familiar with the dog stand at the finish in order to catch the dog once the course has been completed. A handler cannot recall their dog from the start line. F. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure.	<i>This clarifies that the Hunt Master can also be allowed to call out and caution owners as well as a secondary person if needed at the bottom of the course.</i> <i>From a safety standpoint, this will allow dogs better distinguish the horizon line as they are approaching the end of the course.</i> <i>This clarifies the lure does not have to be white.</i>

COURSING ABILITY TEST (CAT) AND FAST CAT® REGULATIONS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
New Section	CHAPTER 4 Standard Procedures for Fast CAT®	
	<u>SECTION 11. CALLING A RERUN.</u> <u>A rerun should be called if a dog was</u> <u>interfered with or disrupted including if a</u> <u>dog touches or catches the lure before the</u> <u>finish line. If a rerun is called when a time</u> <u>was recorded, the handler may elect to keep</u> <u>that time and not rerun or complete the</u> <u>rerun with the newly recorded time</u> <u>replacing the previous.</u>	<i>This clarifies that clubs can offer a rerun in Fast CAT and in what instances as well as the handler has the option not to do rerun their dog if so offered.</i>

Appendix F

BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
CHAPTER 9 Description of Classes and Championship Requirements	CHAPTER 9 Description of Classes and Championship Requirements	
Section 2. Field Champion Only Stakes If a club chooses to hold a stand-alone FC only trial, the regular trial application fee shall apply. All rules applying to Beagle Field Trials shall apply to FC only classes unless otherwise specified in this section. To be eligible to participate in a FC only stake, a dog must have been recorded as a FC according to AKC records.	Section 2. Field Champion Only Stakes If a club chooses to hold a stand-alone FC only trial, the regular trial application fee shall apply. All rules applying to Beagle Field Trials shall apply to FC only classes unless otherwise specified in this section. <u>A host club of a FC Stake has the option to offer two classes either by sex, Open Dogs and Open Bitches or by size, 13” and 15”.</u> <u>The advertisement for the Stake must clearly identify the classes offered. Once approved by the AKC, classes cannot be changed.</u> To be eligible to participate in a FC only stake, a dog must have been recorded as a FC according to AKC records.	<i>This change applies to the Rules for Brace, Small Pack, and Small Pack Option Field Trials and the Rules for Large Pack Field Trials.</i> <i>This gives clubs the option when hosting field champion stakes to combine classes usually due to low entry either by sex or by height.</i>

BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
General Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials	General Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials	
Procedure 3. Measuring (1) Brace and Small Pack Trials. At field trials run under Small Pack Procedures, only the hounds called back by the Judges for second series in a Brace trial or for the winners pack in a Small Pack trial shall be required to be measured; except that if there are eight or less entries in a class, all hounds in that class shall be measured before the drawing.	Procedure 3. Measuring (1) Brace and Small Pack Trials. At field trials run under Small Pack Procedures, only the hounds called back by the Judges for second series in a Brace trial or for the winners pack in a Small Pack trial shall be required to be measured <u>unless the host club of an SPO trial has at their option, advertised in advance that all hounds are to be pre-measured; or</u> except that if there are eight or less entries in a class, all hounds in that class shall be measured before the drawing.	<i>This allows the host club of a Small Pack trial the option to require hounds to be pre-measured prior to the start of the trial.</i>

BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
General Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials	General Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials	
Procedure 4. Judging 4-D Collars If a hound under judgement wears a collar, it shall be a well-fitting collar with nothing hanging from it and with no attachments other than tags for identification purposes. Hounds may wear tracking collars at the option of the host club. The premium list and event advertising must state that tracking collars are not allowed, otherwise they will be allowed. The collar surface against the dog's neck shall be flat (no protrusions). While the hounds are under judgment, handheld devices must be turned off. Handheld devices may be turned on only after the hound has been eliminated from competition by the judges or judgment has ceased. Special Training devices that are used to control and train dogs, including but not limited to, collars with prongs, electronic collars used with transmitters, muzzles and head collars may not be used on dogs at AKC events.	Procedure 4. Judging 4-D Collars If a hound under judgment wears a collar, it shall be a well-fitting collar with nothing hanging from it and with no attachments other than tags for identification purposes. Hounds may wear tracking collars at the option of the host club. <u>When a hound is wearing a tracking collar, the color of the collar must match the color of the assigned field trial collar or be black. Judges must check tracking collars for prongs.</u> The premium list and event advertising must state that tracking collars are not allowed, otherwise they will be allowed. The collar surface against the dog's neck shall be flat (no protrusions). While the hounds are under judgment, handheld devices must be turned off. Handheld devices may be turned on only after the hound has been eliminated from competition by the judges or judgment has ceased. Special Training devices that are used to control and train dogs, including but not limited to, collars with prongs, electronic collars used with transmitters, muzzles and head collars may not be used on dogs at AKC events.	<i>This prevents judges from misidentifying dogs under judgement.</i>

BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
General Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials	General Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials	
Procedure 7. Instructions to Judges 7-B Before each class the Judges shall agree upon a uniform point system of crediting and demeriting hounds and shall inform the Chairman of the Field Trial Committee of the system they are going to use, and he in turn shall inform the handlers of this system. <i>Suggested scoring systems:</i> <i>The judges may use any uniform point system that they feel is satisfactory. However, the two following point systems that are recommended for large pack judges:</i> <i>The 10-7 Scoring System</i> <i>Hounds must be on the line to be given credit. The scoring credit of the hounds on a marked line for drive shall be in descending order from first hound on the line: 10 points - 7 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 ; and 1 point for each of the rest of the hounds that are on the line at the same time. A maximum of 25 points is available for a check. The points may be divided up among any number of hounds that the judge feels</i>	Procedure 7. Instructions to Judges 7-B Before each class the Judges shall agree upon a uniform point system of crediting and demeriting hounds and shall inform the Chairman of the Field Trial Committee of the system they are going to use, and he in turn shall inform the handlers of this system. <i>Suggested scoring systems</i> <u><i>The two point systems to be used for large pack judges are as follows:</i></u> <i>The judges may use any uniform point system that they feel is satisfactory. However, the two following point systems that are recommended for large pack judges:-</i> <i>The 10-7 Scoring System</i> <i>Hounds must be on the line to be given credit. The scoring credit of the hounds on a marked line for drive shall be in descending order from first hound on the line: 10 points - 7 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 ; and 1 point for each of the rest of the hounds that are on the line at the same time. A maximum of 25 points is available for a check. The points may be divided up among</i>	<i>This would eliminate the two scoring systems as being suggested but instead judges would have to pick one or the other essentially standardizing scoring systems.</i>

<i>deserve credit for working the check, however, no more than 25 points total may be credited for any one check.</i> <i>The 5-4 Scoring System</i> <i>Hounds must be on the line to be given credit. The scoring of the hounds on a marked line for drive shall be in descending order from first hound on the line: 5 points - 4 - 3 - 2 and 1 point for each of the remaining hounds that are on the line at the same time. A maximum of 15 points is available for a check. The points may be divided up among any number of hounds that the judge feels deserve credit for working the check, however, no more than 15 points total may be credited for any one check.</i> 8-J Except for trailing deer, which shall be a demerit, trailing game other than announced, shall not be considered a demerit, nor shall any hound be demerited for failing to pack if the pack has been proven to be on game other than announced. In the event that such hound has been ordered up, it shall be reinstated in the pack.	<i>any number of hounds that the judge feels deserve credit for working the check, however, no more than 25 points total may be credited for any one check.</i> <i>The 5-4 Scoring System</i> <i>Hounds must be on the line to be given credit. The scoring of the hounds on a marked line for drive shall be in descending order from first hound on the line: 5 points - 4 - 3 - 2 and 1 point for each of the remaining hounds that are on the line at the same time. A maximum of 15 points is available for a check. The points may be divided up among any number of hounds that the judge feels deserve credit for working the check, however, no more than 15 points total may be credited for any one check.</i> 8-J Except for Trailing deer, which shall be a demerit, <u>is a serious fault deserving of elimination. A hound that runs deer for any length of time should be punished as severely as circumstances allow.</u> Trailing <u>any other</u> game other than announced, shall not be considered a demerit <u>penalized at the judge's discretion.</u> nor No hound shall any- hound be demerited for failing to pack if the pack has been proven to be on game other than announced. In the event that such hound has been ordered up, it shall be reinstated in the pack.	<i>This addresses scoring situations when a hound goes off rabbit and trails other game. This applies to all trial formats.</i>
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Appendix G

REGULATIONS FOR AKC® HUNTING TESTS FOR POINTING BREEDS

Regulation Current	Proposed Line In/Line Out	Comments
CHAPTER 1 General Regulations	CHAPTER 1 General Regulations	
Section 6. Judges' Eligibility and Approval. Anyone at least 18 years old and in good standing with The American Kennel Club may be approved to judge a Hunting Test subject to the qualification requirements in force at the time. In order to be an Approved Judge: • Must apprentice judge at least twice at the level to be judged or higher. Must apprentice judge a minimum of 12 dogs in total. • Must attend one AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Test Seminar. • Must pass an AKC Hunting Test written test. • Must handle a dog to at least three qualifying legs at the level to be judged or higher. • Approved pointing breed field trial Judges are exempt from the “handled in three qualifying legs” requirement, but must pass the written test prior to judging Pointing Breed Hunting Tests.	Section 6. Judges' Eligibility and Approval. Anyone at least 18 years old and in good standing with The American Kennel Club may be approved to judge a Hunting Test subject to the qualification requirements in force at the time. In order to be an Approved Judge: • Must apprentice judge at least twice at the level to be judged or higher. Must apprentice judge a minimum of 12 dogs in total. • Must attend one AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Test Seminar. • Must pass an AKC Hunting Test written test. • <i>Starting November 1, 2026 - for a two-year pilot trial basis</i>, must handle a dog to at least three <u>one</u> qualifying legs at the level to be judged or higher. • Approved pointing breed field trial Judges are exempt from the “handled in three <u>one</u> qualifying legs” requirement, but must pass the written test prior to judging Pointing Breed Hunting Tests.	<i>This reduces the number of qualifying legs required for approved judges from three to one for a pilot trial period of 2 years.</i>