



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

January 2025

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Beagle Field Trials & Approved Beagle Field Trial Judges**

Subject: **Hounds Measured on Elevated Surface / Drawing Procedure for GDB / Definition of a Derby in Two-Couple Pack/ New Grand Master Hunter (GMH) Title**

This is to inform your club of four new changes to the *Beagle Field Trial Rules*. Below is a brief overview of each followed by the specific language to go into the rulebooks upon the next reprint. Changes shown in numbers one through three are effective January 1, 2025, and change number four, a new (GMH) title, is effective April 1, 2025.

1) Allow hounds to be measured on an elevated surface such as a table.

Judges are tasked with conducting the measuring according to the procedures which state that hounds must be measured on the ground or floor. For handlers and especially judges, this can be cumbersome to have to stay kneeling on a hard floor or ground throughout the measuring process. Allowing judges to measure on an elevated surface such as a table would alleviate the cumbersome requirement of having to remain on the floor or ground for the duration of the measuring. This is being offered as an optional alternative.

Procedure 3. Measuring. 3-D

The contact bar shall be loosely placed across the shoulder blades at the highest point, the hound standing in a naturally alert position with the head up but not stretched upward and with its feet well under it and forelegs vertical on a flat, level board with a non-slip surface, placed at floor or ground level or alternatively on a raised, flat, extremely stable surface such as a table. All classes must be measured consistently using the same measuring method, either at floor or ground level or on a raised surface. The contact bar must never be set in advance at a specified height but may only be set at the height of the particular hound being measured. The hound shall be posed for measurement by the measurers, and once the reading has been made, no additional measurements shall be taken.

2) Remove the drawing procedure for hounds by the same owner in Gun Dog Brace trials.

Oftentimes in the Gun Dog Brace format one owner or handler enters multiple hounds. The job of the field trial secretary can easily become quite complicated with having to keep track of multiple entries by the same owner and having to make sure dogs of the same owner are not drawn out together in the same brace or trio of the first series. Removing this procedure would simplify the drawing process, make it easier to manage and make it consistent with other formats. All hounds entered get to compete and be judged equally, with the better hounds advancing and the top hounds placing regardless of ownership and draw.

Additional Standard Procedures for Beagle Field Trials Run in Braces on Rabbit or Hare

Procedure 6. Closing, Drawing, Bracing Absentees.

6-B The running order of the hounds entered in each class shall be determined by drawing, and the hounds shall be drawn in braces, or trios if applicable, for the first series. In the first series the hounds must be run in the order drawn. ~~However, at Gundog Brace trials, should a second hound owned by the same person be drawn in the same brace or trio, that hound will change places with the next hound drawn which is not so owned. This change will be made with a hound drawn later if possible, but may be made with a hound drawn earlier if necessary. The running together of two or three such hounds may be permitted in the first series when a separation is impossible, but in no other case.~~

3) Allow the definition of a Derby hound in Two-Couple Pack to be under two years of age.

For many in hunting sports, the definition of a Derby is a dog that is under two years old on the first day of the trial. Specifically in Beagle field trials the traditional definition has been, a Beagle is a Derby throughout the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, if it was whelped not later than June 30 of the previous year and not earlier than July 1 of the year before that. This stems from the old understanding of what constitutes a field trial season and getting younger hounds ready for the Derby stakes. Currently the Large Pack format is excluded from this definition where instead a Derby is simply a Beagle that has not reached its second birthday on the first day of the trial. The Two-Couple Pack beagling community has sought that same definition of a Derby dog as a Beagle under two years old on the first day of the trial.

Procedure 9. Beagle Hunting Test for Two-Couple Pack

Definition of a Beagle Derby

A Beagle is a Derby throughout the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, if it was whelped not later than June 30 of the previous year and not earlier than July 1 of the year before that, except that at trials held in Large Packs on hare or in Two-Couple Pack a Beagle shall be a Derby if it has not reached its second birthday on the first day of the trial.

4) Offer new Grand Master Hunter (GMH) suffix title in Two-Couple Pack hunting tests.

The Two-Couple Pack hunting test program currently offers a Master Hunter (MH) title. To earn a MH title a dog must have a total of sixty points with three first placements in events with at least six packs starting. Many would like to be able to continue running their hound after having achieved a MH title. By allowing a new GMH title, Beaglers would be able to continue running their hound and have another level to achieve and strive for. The GMH title would require hounds earn another sixty points and another three first places with at least six packs starting. GMH hounds would have earned one hundred twenty points and six first placements in total.

Procedure 9. Beagle Hunting Test for Two-Couple Pack

(new paragraph)

24. Grand Master Hunter Title. The title of Grand Master Hunter, will be granted to any hound which has earned a Master Hunter Title and then has earned 3 additional First places and an additional 60 points at Two-Couple Pack Hunt Tests with at least 6 packs starting. This title will be designated by the suffix title GMH in all official records.

This rule update has been posted to the [Beagle Field Trials Rules Update](#) webpage and emailed to all Secretaries and Presidents of organizations licensed to host beagle field trials as well as all approved beagle field trial judges. Please remember to keep your email address current so you can receive announcements. If you need to check or update your email address or if you have any questions or comments, please send an email to: fieldtrials@akc.org