



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

May 2023

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Pointing Breed Hunting Tests**

Subject: **New Buddy Hunt Concept at Junior Level / Flexibility in Judge Scheduling**

This is to inform your club of two changes to the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds* which take effect June 1, 2023. The exact wording of these changes are underlined as shown below and will appear in the next printing of the regulations.

- 1) The first change will allow a handler in the junior test level only, to bring a buddy to accompany them during the test. The buddy can be a junior, a friend or family member. The buddy may not assist in the handling of the dog or flushing the birds. They are strictly a guest that is allowed to observe and experience up close, the junior test. The intent is to help lower inhibitions to new handlers and encourage new people to the sport. The Performance Events Department [surveyed participants](#) and close to 80% supported this concept.

Chapter 1. General Regulations

Section 15. Closing and Drawing of Entries. Entry Limitations, Running Order.

(New paragraph #11)

The Buddy Hunt. At the handler's option in the Junior Hunter level test, the handler may be accompanied by one person. The purpose of the buddy is to engage new people in the sport and to familiarize new owners about what to expect prior to running their own dog. The buddy must not assist in handling the dog or in flushing birds. The buddy is there only to observe. During the flush, the buddy must stand back and not interfere with the dog or handler. The judge should instruct the buddy where to stand if there is uncertainty.

- 2) The second change will allow a pointing breed hunt test judge to enter in the same test level they are judging provided it is not in the same division. The intent is to provide greater flexibility to clubs and judges. An example would be a club is hosting the Senior test level and offering Divisions A and B. Judge Mr. Smith is judging Senior A. Mr. Smith may enter Senior B as there will be another judge assigned to Senior B.

Chapter 1. General Regulations

Section 6. Judges' Eligibility and Approval.

(New paragraph #13)

Judges shall not handle a dog in the test level division they are judging but may enter a different division of that test level or other test levels they are not judging provided there is not interference with their judging assignment.