



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

April 2024

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

Subject: **Removal of 30-Day Restriction / New 5th Placement**

This is to inform your club of two changes to the *Beagle Field Trial Rules*. The first change is the removal of an inconvenient and outdated rule which requires whenever there are two trials held by the same club, they must be held 30 days apart. This will no longer be required starting April 1, 2024. The second change allows judges to award a 5th placement which would award 1/5th of a point for each dog defeated (*also referred to as a starter*) in place of an NBQ designation. This would apply to all trial types except brace and gun dog brace starting May 1, 2024.

The exact wording of these changes is shown by the underlining and strikethrough below and will appear in the next printing of the rulebooks as follows:

- (1) **Chapter 3. Making Application to Hold a Field Trial. Section 3.** A licensed or member club may hold up to two licensed field trials in a calendar year ~~provided the second trial is at least 30 days from the last day of the first trial.~~
- (2) **Chapter 9. Description of Classes and Championship Requirements. Section 5.** Awarding Championship Points. Field Championship points for Beagles shall be awarded only to hounds placing in licensed or member trials in Open Classes in which there were six or more starters. The championship points shall be awarded on the following basis:

1 point to the winner of first place for each starter;
1/2 point to the winner of second place for each starter;
1/3 point to the winner of third place for each starter;
1/4 point to the winner of fourth place for each starter;
*1/5 point to the winner of fifth place for each starter.

*The point value for fifth place applies to all hunting formats except brace and gun dog brace, where there shall be no fifth place awarded but a judge can designate a dog as a next best qualified hound "N.B.Q.".

A starter is an entered eligible hound that has not been disqualified and that is not measured out for second series or for the winners pack, and that has been cast or laid on a line with its brace mate at the start of its first series heat at a brace trial; or that has been cast at the start of its first series pack at a small pack trial; or that has been cast at the start with the rest of the pack at a large pack trial.

PROCEDURE 4. JUDGING

4-B In all classes the Judges shall award places as follows: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, *and 5th.

*For brace and gun dog brace only, after four places have been awarded, the Judge shall designate the next best qualified hound as "N.B.Q." not fifth place. At the discretion of the judge, a dog designated N.B.Q. can be moved up should any of the top four hounds commit a serious fault so as not to merit further consideration for placement.

Chapter 4 Ribbons, Money Prizes and Special Prizes

SECTION 1. A club holding a licensed or member field trial shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes of the following colors in the four regular classes:

First prize—Blue.
Second prize—Red.
Third prize—Yellow.
Fourth prize—White.
Fifth prize or *N.B.Q—Dark Green.

For additional non-regular classes, a club holding a licensed or member trial shall offer ribbons or rosettes of the following colors:

First prize—Rose.
Second prize—Brown.
Third prize—Light Green.
Fourth prize—Gray.
Fifth prize or *N.B.Q—Orange.

SECTION 3. If ribbons or rosettes are given at sanctioned field trials they shall be of the following colors, and shall bear the words Field Trial, but may be of any design or size:

First prize—Rose.
Second prize—Brown.
Third prize—Light Green.
Fourth prize—Gray.
Fifth prize or *N.B.Q—Orange.

*N.B.Q applies only to brace and gun dog brace formats where there is no fifth place awarded.

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