



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

September 2024

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Retriever Hunting Tests**

Subject: **Six Clarifications**

This is to inform your club of six clarifications made to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers*. Below is a brief summary of each item and then below how they will appear in order of chapters 1,3 and 5 and corresponding sections in the next reprinting of the regulation book. These clarification changes go into effect October 1, 2024.

- 1) Specify the hunt test application is required 3 months prior to the opening date.
- 2) Clarify the exact point honoring begins which is when the working dog is sent for a marked retrieve.
- 3) Clarify judges can release the dog to retrieve by saying the word "dog".
- 4) Clarify the blind must be clearly marked by a conspicuous object.
- 5) Clarify inspection of birds are required by a judge when damage of a bird is suspected due to hard mouth or unusual situation.
- 6) Specify for a senior test, blinds shall not be run between marks unless they are run first.

Item 1)

➤ **Chapter 1. General Regulations**

Section 3. Making Application. A licensed or member club that meets all the requirements of the American Kennel Club and wishes to hold a Hunting Test at which Qualifying scores toward titles may be awarded, must make application to The American Kennel Club on the official event application form provided or by using the AKC online event plan system for permission to hold a Hunting Test. This includes the judges panel which is part of the event application and is not to be thought of as separate. If the club is not a member of The American Kennel Club, it shall pay a license fee for the privilege of holding such event, the amount of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. Completed applications for AKC licensed and member club Retriever Hunting Tests must be received at least three (3) months prior to the closing opening date. This is to allow adequate time for processing and for the host club to prepare advertising in their premium list of all event details in advance of the event. Clubs applying to host a retriever hunting test are to submit their event application directly to AKC for processing to avoid delays or late fees.

Section 15. Premium Lists. The following information shall be included in the premium list for a licensed or member club Hunting Test: name of club, location and date, names and city/ state addresses of officers, time judging will commence, entry fees, Tests offered, names and city/state addresses of Judges together with their specific assignments, name, complete address and telephone number of Hunting Test Secretary, date and time of opening and closing of entries and drawing of entries, and the official AKC entry form. Premium lists shall also specify type or types of birds to be used. Premium lists shall conform to the official size of from 51/2" x 81/2" to 6"x 9". Before the Premium list is printed, a Judges Panel, containing the names and city, state addresses of the Judges and their assignments, must be submitted to AKC: Attention, Performance Events at least three months prior to the closing opening date of the event. Fines may be imposed for late submission of the Judges Panel which is considered to be part of the event application.

Item 2)

➤ **Chapter 3. Instructions to Judges and Hunting Test Committees**

Section 6. Honoring. In Senior and Master Tests, every dog shall honor in at least one hunting situation involving the retrieve of a marked fall(s) by remaining on the line off-lead while the working dog ~~retrieves, unless otherwise directed or until dismissed by the Judges~~ is sent for a marked retrieve.

Item 3)

Section 10. Send to Retrieve. Dogs shall be sent to retrieve by handlers only when released by the Judges, who shall then score each retrieve accordingly. Judges shall call the number of the dog ordered to retrieve or say "dog" rather than the name of the handler of the dog.

Item 4)

➤ **Chapter 5. Test Requirements for Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests - PART I Hunting Test Planning, Mechanics and Setup.**

Planning Hunting Situations.

On blind retrieves, wherever possible, the Judges shall plan their hunting situations taking advantage of hazards, such as islands, decoys, points of land, sandbars, ditches, hedges, small bushes, adjacent heavy cover, and rolling terrain. The blind must be clearly marked with a conspicuous object.

Item 5)

Judges' Responsibilities.

(4) Every bird retrieved and delivered to the handler and suspected of damage due to hard mouth or unusual situations, shall be inspected by one of the Judges. Failure to inspect retrieved birds must be catalogued as carelessness, and as an undesirable practice.

Item 6)

Section 6. Senior Hunting Test. Dogs shall be tested in a minimum of four hunting situations that shall include one land blind, one water blind (that may be run as a double blind on land and water), one double land mark, and one double water mark. There shall be at least one diversion shot and at least one of the hunting situations shall include a walk-up. In Senior tests, a double mark is defined as two marks presented before the dog is sent to retrieve. Blinds shall not be run between marks in Senior Hunting Tests unless they are run first.

This regulation update has been posted to the [Retriever Hunting Tests News And Updates](#) webpage. Please send any comments or questions to: huntingtest@akc.org If you send a request to update your email address, please provide your name, city and state.