



Regulations Amendments

Approved by the Board in April
To go into effect October 1, 2019

Changes to Buried Class

Reason: Hard to find sites, winter weather difficulties, lack of consistency (variation in soil composition/density across the country).

- All levels will use tubs of substrate (Excellent and Master will no longer be outside buried in the ground).
- All classes have odor 4 inches beneath the surface.
- Novice- 6 tubs of play sand (1 hide)
- Advanced- 8 tubs of water (2 hides)
- Excellent- 12 tubs total, 6 play sand, 6 water (3 hides)
- Master- 16 tubs total, 8 play sand, 8 water (1-4 hides)

Survey

What do you think is the most important change that AKC Scent Work needs to implement?

#1 answer was changes to Buried

Increase Consistency, Establish Higher Minimum Standards

Reason: Some clubs are overusing search areas or putting searches too close together—to the detriment of the sport—in an attempt to offer more classes.

- Required separation between “active” search areas (those that have odor)
 - Container- 20+ feet apart, or physical barrier
 - Interior- 30+ feet apart, or physical barrier
 - Exterior- 30+ feet apart, or physical barrier
 - Buried- 20+ feet apart, or physical barrier
- Physical barrier is minimum 6 feet tall and reaches all the way to the ground.
- If crating and searches are in the same room, there must be a physical barrier between.
- Limit reuse of search areas- no more than 7 hides in the same area in a set of trials. Judges must mark location of removed hides with stickers or tape.
- “Nesting” searches is not allowed (if area is reused for another class, hide locations MUST change).
- Area can’t be used as “blank” for a Master search if it was used for odor during that set of trials.
- “Rows” refers to parallel straight-line rows (cannot be angled or offset from each other).

Daily Judging Limit

Reason: Classes vary significantly in judging time, hard numerical limit can result in very long days

- Change from hard numerical max of 125 per day to 8 hours judging time
- Judging Time Calculator to be used to limit entries (similar to Obedience)

Remove Requirement of Hide Steward

Reason: Provide greater flexibility, removes confusion and delays. Judges are less likely to cause contamination than a volunteer.

- Allow judges to set their own hides for odor classes
- Hide Steward will still be required for Handler Discrimination, since judge's scent is used for discrimination

Restructure High in Trial

Reason: Confusion in prior wording

- Handler Discrimination classes not included in High in Trial calculation
- If HIT is offered, clubs must also offer High Combined Division (HCD)- includes all odor classes + handler discrimination

Administrative

Reason: Clarify intent, provide greater specificity, remedy omissions

- Event applications will not be processed until processing fee is received.
- If a dog enters more than 2 difficulty levels in a trial, the Q for the lowest level will be disallowed.
- Clubs may be fined if they are late submitting Premium Lists (must be received 21 days prior to opening)
- Clarification of entry limit options: 1) Unlimited, 2) Numerical entry limit, 3) Judging hours limit
- Transfers ("move ups")- If the Premium List doesn't mention transfers, the club must allow them.
- Additional guidelines for First Received method- 1 address only, must accept USPS.
- Guaranteed entry for show workers is only allowed with the Random draw method, not First Received. Maximum 15% of the total entry limit may be guaranteed. Guaranteed entries must be read at the draw.
- Maximum time of the search must be recorded in the class header in the results catalog
- Dog's date of birth required to be printed in the results catalog
- Specifies required order of classes for catalog submission (classes may still be run in any order)
- Judges may show their dogs in classes that they aren't judging.

Judging Specifics

Reason: Clarify intent, provide greater specificity, resolve contradictions

- Failure to call "Finish" in a search with a known number of hides will be a fault plus maximum time, not an NQ.
- After an incorrect call, judge will point out 1 hide. Only in Novice classes may handlers reward at source after an incorrect call.
- Non-food distraction must be: tennis ball, dog toy, empty dog dish, dog brush, leash, or harness.
- Judge will mention number and type of distractions during briefing but will not point them out.
- Official timer to give a 30 second warning in all Novice, Advanced, and Excellent classes. No 30-second warning in Master or Detective.
- Distraction for Container Advanced may be in a container or loose in the search area.
- Judge will not state exact number of hides per area in Interior Excellent.
- For Handler Discrimination classes, handler may have a second scented article used to cue the dog.

No Special Accommodations for “Reactive” Dogs

Reason: Another organization allows “reactive” dogs to compete and requires special accommodations for dogs designated “reactive.”

- Clubs may dictate lining up and staging of competitors how they see fit; must be the same for all dogs
- No blanket rules that dogs are not allowed to interact (except in staging areas or warm-up areas).

Demo Dog

- Reworded to emphasize importance
- Club must make a demo dog available, but judge can choose whatever dog they want to use

Container Types

- Containers should mirror what real-life detection dogs search; luggage, parcels, etc.
- Silly or out-of-place objects shouldn't be used.
- Containers must be closed so as to “contain” the odor (ex: tote bags are not permissible unless they have a zipper closure).
- Cardboard boxes can be of any construction, but must have seam on the top for the odor to escape