



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

# Tracking

## Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants

The AKC supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges clubs to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club should be published in the premium, club website and posted on signage/flyers at their event.

### General Practices

1. Clubs, official and participants are required to follow state and local guidelines that apply to the area where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with current guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should provide masks if desired for officials, judges and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Have plenty of hand sanitizers placed for people to use.
6. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch).
7. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station to be delivered as well.
8. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
11. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, bathrooms etc.)

12. Meals – No potlucks. Recommend supplying boxed for judges and volunteers. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunches/drinks.
13. Parking areas – Park with increased distance between vehicles, if possible.

### Tracking Event Practices

1. Structure of the Event: On the plotting and test day, judges and event workers should maintain social distancing and may wear masks. Judges and tracklayers should use their own equipment for map making. One person should be designated to handle the tracking flags for each track each day. If the flags will be handled by two different people for each track, one on the day of plotting and another on the day of laying the track, the flags should be wiped down after being staked.
2. Practice safe handling of paperwork and awards. The test secretary should wear gloves when exchanging paperwork with the judges, and when finalizing the judge's books at the end of the event. If an awards presentation will take place, both the setup and participants should be spaced out to allow social distancing.
3. Day of the Test: Ask exhibitors to wait by their vehicles until the time of the draw. The draw for run order should be set up to allow for safe social distancing. The secretary may call each entrant up one at a time. Draw items should be sanitized and handled with gloves. After the draw for run order, an event worker should be designated to control traffic for exhibitors and the gallery people. This will ensure each exhibitor will be able to park closest to their track and are able to maintain social distancing. The gallery should practice social distancing guidelines.
4. Articles: All tracklayers are advised to wear gloves while handling the articles that will be dropped on each of the track(s). A new pair of gloves should be used for each set of articles. Researchers have stated the virus can live on plastic and metal for as long as 7 days, and various cloth materials for as long as 2-3 days. Clubs are advised to provide unused and sealed articles for each track.

### Policies that Have Been Temporarily Suspended/Modified

1. Event Application Late Fees – Event application late fees are waived through the end of October. This provide clubs more flexibility in planning or rescheduling their events.
2. For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply Event Application fees to the club's next event of the same type.
3. Tracking Certifications - Any tracking certification that expires March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 will be granted an additional one-year extension, e.g. a certification that would expire October 1, 2020 will not expire until October 1, 2021.
4. Closing Dates – At the club's option, Tracking events are allowed to close 7 days prior to the event through December 30, 2020.
5. Judges – The regulation that no exhibitor may show a dog under a judge at a tracking test if the exhibitor has participated in a training session taught by that judge within thirty (30) days prior to the date of the event is waived through December 30, 2020.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Tracking website ([www.akc.org/sports/tracking/](http://www.akc.org/sports/tracking/)) for the most up-to-date version.

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the Companion Events Department at [tracking@akc.org](mailto:tracking@akc.org).

**Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs**