



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

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. **Drawing for Tracks Virtually:** Due to the ever-changing nature of Covid19, and the fact that some areas of the country have strict social distancing guidelines, the draw for run order of the tracks may be conducted virtually. The club will determine the procedure to follow and will publish the details in the premium list. If this has not been published in the premium list, or has been published and social gathering restrictions are implemented later, the club may seek permission to establish or change the procedure by emailing the Companion Events Department at tracking@akc.org or calling 919-816-3575.

The virtual meeting for the draw may be conducted via phone, text messaging, or video conferencing, and may be conducted the day before the test or the morning of the test at the club's option. The test secretary must provide the virtual meeting information to the participants and alternates at least 48 hours prior to the draw, and confirm the availability of the participants to attend. The test secretary, with one or both judges included in the virtual meeting, will conduct a roll call of participants and ask if there are any bitches in season, or 10-day conflicts with judges or tracklayers. If an alternate is present for the virtual draw, and a participant is absent, the participant will be marked "Absent" by the judges. The test secretary will draw for each entrant. The draw will be done in catalog order, and the numbers used must not be visible.

Based on the variants across the county, the club and judges will determine the best practices to implement on test day to maintain social distancing guidelines. Participants can provide cell phone numbers for the test secretary to call or text to assist in getting each participant to the track when needed. All other regulations stated in Chapter 2, Section 9 of the Tracking Regulations will be followed.

5. **Articles:** According to the latest CDC information published January 2021, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Club members, judges, tracklayers and exhibitors must remain vigilant and sanitize their hands frequently to avoid cross contamination.

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 certifications that have an expiration date in 2020 and in 2021 will be extended for one additional year, effectively making them a three-year certification.
4. 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 **has been permanently amended to ten (10) days effective for all tests held on or after January 1, 2021.**

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/) for the most up-to-date version.

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the Companion Events Department at tracking@akc.org.

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs