

## **AKC Actions to Assist the Sports**

The following are a list of actions that have been implemented to assist exhibitors, clubs and judges during this unprecedented time of uncertainty and concern for safety.

### **Actions That Apply to All/Several Sports**

#### **1. Event Application Fees**

Event application fees for cancelled events are applied to the club's next event of the same type. Implemented in April, this action is effective for events cancelled in 2020.

#### **2. Waive Event Application Late Fees**

This action allows clubs to wait longer to determine if they can hold their event, reducing the risk that the local guidelines will change. Implemented in April, this action is effective through October.

#### **3. Suggested Best Practices By Sport**

The Sports and Events Departments collectively developed "Suggested Best Practices" for all the sports that AKC sanctions. A total of nineteen different documents were created for the different sports. The documents are available on the AKC website.

#### **4. Judge Time/Distance Conflicts – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility and Scent Work**

Time/distance conflict restrictions for the sports listed were waived through year-end 2020. This allows clubs to more easily assemble their panels during this time when many judges do not wish to travel or are limiting the distance they may travel for an assignment.

#### **5. Provide Letters of Support**

The Sports and Events Departments developed letters of support to provide clubs for inclusion in their packets to local and state officials which strengthens the clubs case to hold an event. The letter provides historical data about the club and, used in combination with the Best Practices, demonstrates the actions being taken to maintain a safe environment for participants.

### **Actions That Apply to Conformation**

#### **6. Expand the Distance All-breed and Group clubs can travel to hold an Event**

Implemented in April, this modification allows all-breed and group clubs to travel up to 200 miles out of their territory to hold a show. Current policy allows clubs to travel 125 miles. In July the Board approved allowing clubs to travel up to 300 miles in extenuating circumstances. This has been effective for clubs that have lost their site. Effective through end of 2020.

#### **7. Expand the Distance Specialty clubs can travel to join another Specialty club of the same breed**

This action was implemented in April and allowed specialty clubs to travel up to 300 miles out of their territory to join another specialty club of their own breed. Current policy allows specialty clubs to travel up to 200 miles. This has assisted breeds with fewer specialty clubs around the country. Effective through end of 2020.

#### **8. Additional opportunities for Specialty Clubs to hold events**

Implemented in April, this action allows specialty clubs to hold additional designated specialties. Specialty clubs supporting their breeds at more events provides multiple positives for the sport: more opportunities for a specialty win, more opportunities to promote the breed, more opportunities to promote the club, and increased entries for the host club. Effective through year-end 2020.

#### **9. Judges Education - AKC Breed Webinar Series**

The Judging Operations Department in collaboration with AKC's Education Department launched its Judges Education Webinar Series on March 30<sup>th</sup>, providing a daily breed webinar presented by a parent club approved presenter utilizing parent club materials. Attendance of the live webinars can be accepted on applications for that breed. There has been tremendous interest by not only prospective judges, but also by current judges seeking continuing education. The daily schedule continued through July and was then modified to a weekly offering on Tuesdays. To-date, 79 breeds have been presented with 23,181 attendees.

#### **10. Judges Education - Expanding Educational Opportunities for Judges**

The Board approved a recommendation from the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process to include as acceptable means of education on applications virtual tutoring in all breeds and the attendance of a live breed webinar presented by a parent club presenter. These actions were in recognition of the advancements in distance learning and the challenges associated with in-person education at this time.

#### **11. Allow Additional Entries When Two All-Breed Shows are Held on One Day**

Based on the experience of clubs holding two all-breed shows in one day as well as the implementation of guidelines and restrictions for that show format, in May the Board approved raising the limit on the number entries for two shows in one day to 600 per show. The Board will review the policy prior to July 2022 to determine if further refinement is warranted.

#### **12. Allow Isolated Clubs the Opportunity to Hold More Shows**

In May the Board approved allowing clubs that qualify for three shows (isolated clubs) that also qualify to hold two shows in one day (small shows) the option of holding four shows over a maximum of three days. The Board will review the policy prior to July 2022 to determine if further refinement is warranted.

#### **13. Premium List and Opening of Entries**

Many shows have added an entry limit to their events. The demand to participate in dog shows has been far greater than the entry limits allow. The action allows for a 72-hour delay for the opening of entries from the time of publishing the premium to give exhibitors time to make decisions. Events whose entries are limited must have a defined date and time for the opening of entries which is to be prominently displayed in the premium list.

#### **14. AKC Show Manual indoor/outdoor requirement**

Some clubs were being forced to move rings outside at the last minute due to changing COVID restriction for inside gatherings. The AKC action allowed clubs to move forward with their events knowing they could make last minute adjustments without penalty. By requiring the premium list to state the potential for a ring location change, exhibitors can make informed decisions. Effective through year-end 2020.

**15. Three opportunities for Championship points in a single day**

This action allows exhibitors up to three opportunities per day (previously two) to earn Championship points provided one of the three is a Specialty show. With many all-breed shows cancelling, Specialties were seeking to associate with all-breed shows later in the year. Effective through year-end 2020.

**16. Allow Juniors to Compete Beyond their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

The cancellation of AKC events has prevented Juniors from participating in AKC sports. To support the participation of Juniors in AKC Sports, this action extends the opportunity for Juniors over 18 years of age to compete until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday or December 31, 2021, whichever comes first.

**17. Modify the Process to Formulate the 2021 Points Schedule**

To minimize the impact of the reduced number of events in 2020 and the resulting large entry shows, the 2020-point schedule will be used as the basis for the 2021-point schedule. There will be no increases of competitors required for points and there will be reductions in those cases where the point schedule formulation process indicates the number of competitors should be reduced.

**18. Proposal to allow Parent Clubs to hold two National Specialties in 2021**

The Board approved the recommendation to modify the Rules to allow parent clubs who did not hold a National Specialty in 2020, to offer two Nationals in 2021. The proposal is scheduled to be read at the delegate's September 2020 meeting, and voted on at the December 2020 meeting.

**19. NOHS Judge Exhibiting Conflict**

Per NOHS regulations, judges assigned to NOHS Groups/Best in Show may not exhibit on the same day. The Board agreed to wave this restriction for events held through December 31, 2020 to assist clubs in completing their panels. An individual assigned to judge an NOHS Group or BIS (only) may exhibit the same day but may not compete in the NOHS competition.

**20. Conformation Judges – Additional Permit Breeds**

The Board approved a recommendation from the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process to increase the cumulative number of permit breeds a judge may have at one time by six through year-end 2020. This action was an effort to assist judges who are unable to complete regular status requirements in current breed due to the cancellation of events. .

**21. Conformation Judges - AKC Canine College Breed Courses**

To assist judges pursuing breed education, the Education Department has offered breed courses available in the Canine College at half off. The course, developed collaboratively with the breed's parent club, are accepted on applications for the breed upon successful compilation. The 50% off offer is in effect through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**22. Extending Two Shows Over Three Days**

In order to reduce the number of exhibitors in attendance at any point in time, clubs may extend two shows over three days. Effective through July 2021.

**Actions That Apply to Obedience/Rally**

- 23. Judge Assignments in a Cluster** – An individual may judge the same classes more than twice in a cluster or local geographic area. This helps clubs during a time when many judges are reluctant to travel. This is effective through year-end 2020.
- 24. Entering Under a Judge** – The regulation that no exhibitor or dog may show a dog under a judge at an obedience or rally trial if the exhibitor or dog has participated in a training session taught by that judge within thirty (30) days prior to the date of the event is waived through year-end 2020. This helps clubs during a time when many judges are reluctant to travel by allowing clubs to utilize local judges who are also trainers.
- 25. Event Closing Date** - Clubs are allowed, at their option, to have a closing date seven days prior to the event through year-end 2020. This will provide clubs and exhibitors greater flexibility to decide what to do.
- 26. Obedience Figure 8 Exercise** – Upright posts, tall pylons or chairs may be used in place of people in the figure 8 exercise through year-end 2020. Judges may leave the equipment in the ring provided the posts don't interfere with any other exercises.
- 27. Obedience Novice Group Exercise** – The distance between dogs is modified to 8 feet (currently 6 feet) through year-end 2020.
- 28. Waive the Two-Judge Title Requirement** - The two-judge requirement to title a dog in ten obedience classes and four rally classes has been waived through year-end 2020.

Obedience – 10 titles			
Novice	CD – PCD	Beginner Novice	BN
Open	CDX - PCDX	Graduate Novice	GN
Utility	UD - PUTD	Graduate Open	GO
		Versatility	VER

Rally – 4 titles	
Novice	RN
Intermediate	RI
Advanced	RA
Excellent	RE

**Actions That Apply to Tracking**

- 29. 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.
- 30. Event Closing Date** – At the club's option, Tracking events are allowed to close 7 days prior to the event through year-end 2020.

### **Actions That Apply to Agility**

- 31. Trial Closing Date** - Clubs are allowed, at their option, to have a closing date seven days prior to the event through year-end 2020. This will provide clubs and exhibitors greater flexibility to decide what to do.
- 32. Course Maps** – May be posted online and emailed to exhibitors as early as 6 pm the day before.
- 33. Leashes** – Exhibitors may choose to put leashes in their pockets or wear them when running the course so that they are not touched by others.
- 34. Trials spread over 2 Days** - To help reduce the number of exhibitors on site at a time clubs have been allowed to run specific height groups on Day 1 and a different group on Day 2. For example – 4-12 inch dogs will compete on Saturday (2 runs each type of class) and then 16-24 inch dogs on Sunday (2 runs each type of class). This model allows for the 2 days of trials but instead grouped by height over 2 days.
- 35. Waive the Two-Judge Title Requirement** – Allows for clubs to use local judges for trials and does not impact exhibitors. This change was done for 9 agility classes (18 total titles) from July 1, 2020-year-end 2020.

Novice level	NA – NAP – NAJ – NJP – NF – NFP
Open level	OA – OAP – OAJ – OJP – OF - OFP
Excellent level	AX – AXP – AXJ – AJP – XF – XFP

### **Actions That Apply to Performance Events**

- 36. Scheduling** – Schedule participants in blocks if possible, to reduce size of crowd.
- 37. Award Ceremonies** – Discontinue award ceremonies or, if necessary, hold award ceremonies outside.
- 38. Inspection Committees** – If the sport has an inspection committee, this should be done in the parking lot one dog at a time.

### **Actions That Apply to Family Dog Events**

- 39. Canine Good Citizen Tests** – Eight modification were made to the CGC family of tests regarding shaking hands and distances. Effective through year-end 2020.
- 40. AKC Temperament Test** – Four modifications were made to the ATT test regarding greetings and distances. Effective through year-end 2020.

September 7, 2020