

# **THE KENNEL CLUB FIELD TRIAL RULES**

## **FOR THE GUIDANCE OF FIELD TRIALS OF SPORTING DOGS**

**(Revised October, 1879.)**

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### **Management of a Meeting**

1 The management of a meeting shall be entrusted to a committee, in conjunction with field stewards, the latter of whom should be appointed by the committee before the time of running.

The stewards shall decide any disputed question by a majority of those present, subject to an appeal to the committee.

No steward shall vote during a meeting in any case relating to his own dogs.

### **Election of Judges**

2 The judge or judges shall be elected by the committee and their names shall be announced as soon as possible after the election. When a judge, from ill health, or any other unexpected cause, is prevented attending a meeting, or finishing it, the committee shall have the power of deciding what is to be done.

### **Description of Entry**

3 Every subscriber to a stake must name his dog at or before the draw, giving the names of the sire and dam of the dog entered and also, in puppy stakes, the name of the dam's owner. The secretary shall publish on the card the names of those who are subscribers, but do not comply with these conditions. These nominations shall not be drawn, but must be paid for.

### **Disqualification**

4 For puppy stakes, the names, pedigrees, ages, colours and distinguishing marks of the puppies shall be detailed in writing to the secretary of a meeting at the time of entry. Any puppy whose age, markings and pedigree shall be proved not to correspond with the entry given, shall be disqualified, and the whole of its stakes or winnings, forfeited.

### **Definition of Puppy**

5 No dog is to be considered a puppy that was whelped before the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year preceding that of his competing.

## **Payment of Stakes**

6 All money due for nominations taken must be paid on or before the draw, whether the stakes fill or not, and although from insufficient description, or any other cause, the dogs named may be disqualified. No entry shall be valid unless the amount due for it has been paid in full.

For all produce and other stakes where a forfeit is payable, no declaration is necessary; the non-payment of the remainder of the entry money at the time fixed for that purpose is to be considered a declaration of forfeit. The secretary is responsible for the entry money of all dogs whose names appear on the card.

## **Alteration of Name**

7 If any subscriber should enter a dog by a different name from that in which it shall have last been known in public, he shall give notice of the alteration to the secretary at the time of entry, and the secretary shall place on the card both the late and present name of the dog. If notice of the alteration be not given, the dog shall be disqualified.

## **Prefix of "NS".**

8 Any subscriber taking an entry in a stake, and not prefixing the word "names" to a dog which is not his own property, shall forfeit that dog's chance of the stake. He shall likewise, if requested, deliver in writing to the secretary of the meeting, the name of the bona fide owner of the dog name by him, and this communication is to be produced should any dispute arise in the matter.

## **Death of a Subscriber**

9 The death of a subscriber shall only affect his nomination if it occur before the draw, in which case, subject to the exceptions stated below, it shall be void, whether the entries have been made or not, and any money received for forfeits or stakes shall be returned. If he has parted with all interest in the nominations and dogs not his property are entered, paid for, and drawn, in ignorance of his being no longer alive, such entries shall not subsequently be disturbed. When dogs who have been entered in produce stakes change owners, with their engagements, and with their forfeits paid, the new owner, if otherwise entitled to run them in those stakes, shall not be prevented from doing so by reason of the death of the former owner.

## **Power to Refuse Entries**

10 The committee or stewards of any meeting may reserve to themselves the right of refusing any entries they may think fit to exclude; and no person, who has been proved, to the satisfaction of the committee of the Kennel Club, to have misconducted himself in any way in connection with dogs, dog shows, or dog trials, will be allowed to compete in any trials that may be held under the Kennel Club Rules.

## **The Draw**

11 Immediately before the dogs are drawn at any meeting and before 9 o'clock on every subsequent evening during the continuance of such meeting, the time and place of putting down the first brace of dogs on the following morning shall be declared. A card, or counter, bearing a corresponding number, shall be assigned to each entry. These numbered cards, or counters, shall then be placed together, and drawn indiscriminately. This classification, once made, shall not be disturbed throughout the meeting, except for the purpose of guarding, or on account of byes. Dogs, whose position on the card has been altered in consequence of guarding, or of byes, must return to their original in the next round, if guarding does not prevent it.

12 The stakes shall be run in the order they are given in the programme, unless the whole of the competitors or their representatives in the various stakes may agree otherwise, in which case, the order may be changed with the consent of the stewards or committee.

## **Guarding**

13 When more than one nomination in a stake is taken in one name, the dogs, if bona fide the property of the same owner, shall be guarded throughout; this is always to be arranged, as far as possible, by bringing up dogs from below to meet those which are to be guarded. This guarding is not, however to deprive any dog of a natural bye to which he may be entitled, either in the draw or in running through the stake.

## **Byes**

14 A natural bye shall be given to the lowest available dog in each round. No dog shall run a second such bye in any stake, unless it is unavoidable. When a dog is entitled to a bye, either natural or accidental, his owner or nominator may run any dog he please with him.

## **Postponement of Meeting**

15 A meeting appointed to take place on a certain day may, if a majority of the committee and stewards (if appointed) consider the weather unfit, be postponed from day to day; but if the running does not commence within the current week, all nominations shall be void, and the expenses shall be paid by the subscribers, in proportion to the number of nominations taken by each. In the case of produce stakes, however, the original entries shall continue binding if the meeting is held at a later period of the season.

## **Running in Order**

16 Every dog must be brought up in its proper order, without delay, under a penalty of £1. If absent for more than a quarter of an hour, its opponent shall be entitled to claim the trial, and shall, in that case, run a bye.



If both dogs be absent at the expiration of a quarter of an hour, the judge or judges shall have the power to disqualify both dogs, or to fine their owners any sum not exceeding £5 each.

### **By Whom a Dog is to be Hunted**

17 An owner, his keeper or deputy, may hunt a dog, but it must be one or the other; and when once the dogs are down, an owner must not interfere with his dog if he has deputed another person to hunt him.

### **Method of Hunting**

18 The person hunting a dog may speak, whistle, and work him by hand if he thinks proper; but he can be called to order by the judges for making any unnecessary noise, and if he persists in doing so, they can order the dog to be taken up, and he will be out of the stake. An opponent's dog may not be purposely interfered with or excited, or an appeal can be made to the judges, and if the opponent's dog points game, the other dog is not to be drawn across him to take the points; but if not backing of his own account, he must be brought round behind the other dog.

Dogs must be hunted together, and their keepers must walk within a reasonable distance of one another. After a caution, the judge or judges may have the power to disqualify the dog whose keeper persists in neglecting this rule.

### **Control of Dogs Competing**

19 The control of all matters connected with the dogs under trial shall rest with the judge or judges of the meeting, assisted in case of peculiar difficulties by the stewards.

### **Wearing Collars**

20 All dogs when necessary shall wear collars - the red for the highest dog on the car, whose place shall be on the left; the white for the lowest dog, whose place shall be on the right side.

### **The Judge or Judges**

21 The judge or judges shall be subject to the general rules which may be established by the Kennel Club for his or their guidance. At the termination of each trial, either by word of mouth or by the exhibition of a colour corresponding to that worn by the winning dog. No recalling or reversing of that decision shall be afterwards given, on any pretext whatsoever.

## **Length of Trials**

22 The length of a trial shall be determined by the judge or judges. When he or they are satisfied that decided superiority has been exhibited by one of the contending dogs, the trial should end.

## **Injuring a Dog**

23 If any subscriber or his servant shall, wilfully or by carelessness, injure, or cause to be injured, an opponent's dog during a trial, the owner of the dog so injured shall (although the trial be given against him) be deemed the winner of it, or shall have the option of allowing the other dog to remain and run out the stake and, in such case, shall be entitled to half its winnings if any.

## **"No-Trials" and "Undecideds"**

24 A "no-trial" is when by accident or some other unforeseen cause, the dogs are not tried together.

An "undecided" trial is where the judge or judges consider the merits of the dogs equal. If either is then drawn, the owners must at the time declare which dog remains in.

A "no-trial" or an "undecided" may be run again immediately, or at such a time during the meeting as the judge or judges may direct. If it stands over until the next day, it shall be the first trial run.

## **Withdrawal of Dog**

25 If a dog be withdrawn from a stake on the field, its owner, or someone having his authority, must at once give notice to the secretary or stewards. If the dog belong to either of these officials, the notice must be given to one of the others.

## **Impugning the Judge**

26 If any subscriber openly impugns the decision of the judge or judges on the grounds, he shall forfeit not more than £5 or less than £2, at the discretion of the majority of the stewards.

## **Stakes not Run Out, and Arrangement made thereon.**

27 When two dogs remain in for the deciding trial, the stake shall be considered divided, if they belong to the same owner, or to confederates; and also if the owner of one of the two dogs induces the owner of the other to draw him for any consideration; but if one of the two be drawn without considerations (from lameness, injury, or from any cause clearly affecting his chance of winning), the other may be declared the winner – the facts of the case being clearly proved to the satisfaction of the stewards.

The same rule shall apply when more than two dogs remain in at the end of a stake which is not run out; and in case of a division between three or more dogs, of which two or more belong to the same owner, these latter shall be held to take equal shares of the total amount received by their owner in the division. The terms of any arrangement to divide winnings, and the amount of money given to induce the owner of a dog to draw him, must be declared to the secretary.

### **Objections**

28 An objection to a dog may be made to the secretary, or to any one of the stewards of a meeting, at any time within ten days of the last day of the meeting, upon the objector lodging in the hands of such steward or secretary the sum of £5, which shall be forfeited if the objection prove frivolous, or if he shall not bring the case before the next meeting of the Kennel Club Committee, or give notice to the secretary, previous thereto, of his intention to withdraw the objection. The owner of the dog objected to, must deposit equally the sum of £5, and prove the correctness of his entry or case. All expenses in consequence of the objection shall be borne by the party against whom the decision is given. Should an objection be made which cannot at the time be substantiated or disproved, the dog may be allowed to compete under protest, the secretary or stewards retaining his winnings until the objection has been withdrawn, or heard and decided. If the dog objected to be disqualified, the amount to which he would otherwise have been entitled shall be divided equally among the dogs beaten by him; and if a piece of plate or prize has been added, and won by him, only the dogs which he beat in the several rounds, shall have right to contend for it.

### **Defaulters**

29 No person shall be allowed to enter a dog, in his own or any other person's name, who is a defaulter for either stakes, forfeits, or bets in connection with field trials or dog shows; or for money due under an arrangement for a division of winnings; or for penalties regularly imposed for the infraction of rules, by the stewards of any meeting; or for any payment required by a decision of the Kennel Club; or for any subscriptions due to any club entitled to acknowledgement by the Kennel Club. As regards bets, however, this rule shall only apply when a complaint is lodged with the secretary of the Kennel Club within six months after the bet becomes due. On receipt of such complaint, the secretary shall give notice of the claim to the person against whom it is made, with a copy of this rule, and if he shall not pay the bet, or appear before the next meeting of the Kennel Club, and resist the claim successfully, he shall be considered a defaulter.

### **Ineligible Persons**

30 Any person who is proved, to the satisfaction of the Kennel Club committee, to have been guilty of any fraudulent or discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, may, in addition to any pecuniary penalty to which he may be liable, be declared incapable of entering a dog in his own or any other person's name during any subsequent period that the Club may decide upon.



## Unfitness to Compete

31 Should any dog be considered by the judges of a meeting unfit to compete, by reason of being on "heat", or having any contagious disease, or any other cause, which clearly interferes with the safety or chance of winning of his opponent, such dog shall be disqualified.

N.B. - In the foregoing rules, the term "dog" is understood to mean both sexes.

The Irish Red Setter Club has held its third trials (September, 1887), over the lands of Earl Powerscourt. All the competitions were open, instead of being restricted in most instances to members, as on the previous occasions. The committee also have the judge's freedom to select the winners by the Kennel Club "tie" system, of the "spotting" plan of the National Club, and the adjudicators adopted the latter, with satisfactory results to all, so far as the trials could be so under strongly adverse circumstances of weather and other conditions.

