



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

March 17, 2015

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Hold Retriever Hunting Tests**

This communication is to inform your club that there have been four changes to the Retriever Hunting Test Regulations. Specifically, clubs that limit the number of entries they will accept in their Master level test: (1) must advertise a date and time when entries will start to be accepted, (2) must establish a “first in – first out” waiting list, and (3) may choose to set aside 15% of the Master level test entries for event workers. A fourth recommendation is to allow the use of shotgun simulators in Retriever Hunting Tests.

With the relevant additions/changes underlined, the new Regulations are as follows:

**Chapter 1, Section 3. Making Application.** *Starting after paragraph 3.*

New Paragraph

Clubs that limit the number of entries in the Master Hunter Test must advertise an opening date for its Hunting Test. In order for there to be transparency for all participants, the opening date shall be the Wednesday closest to three weeks prior to the first day of the event. The opening time shall be 8:00 pm Central Time.

New Paragraph

Clubs that limit the number of entries in the Master Hunting Test must establish a waiting list in order that entries that scratch prior to the closing date and time can be replaced. The waiting list shall utilize a “first in – first out” approach.

**Chapter 1, Section 4. No Special Inducements.**

A hunt-test giving club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminate between entrants. Except a club with a limited entry in Master test may set aside up to 15% of the Master entries for event workers. Remainder of the paragraph remains unchanged.

**Chapter 3, Section 8. Gunning.** *Fourth Paragraph.*

Either shotguns or shotgun simulators may be used. If a shotgun is used, it must be a 20, 16 or 12 gauge shotgun. Gunners firing live ammunition must be 21 years of age or older. Gunners firing popper loads or shotgun simulators must be a minimum of 16 years of age and if less than 21, must have successfully completed a Hunter/Gun Safety course.

The three changes regarding the entry process become effective when a club's contracted entry service is prepared to implement them or no later than July 1, 2015. The use of shotgun simulators becomes effective April 1, 2015.

The Performance Events Department appreciates the dialog and input it has received from the Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee in addressing the issues that led to the development of these changes.

This e-mail is being sent to the President and Secretary of all clubs licensed to hold Retriever Hunting Tests. You are encouraged to forward this information to any one that might be interested. General comments can be e-mailed to the AKC at [Huntingtest@akc.org](mailto:Huntingtest@akc.org).