

New Zealand Kennel Club

Sight Hound Field Coursing Regulations

Incorporated in

The Sighthound Field Coursing Club Rules,

And Registered with New Zealand Kennel Club

9 July 2015

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Blanket: A colourful cloth, without visible ornamentation, worn by the hounds during a course. The colours are bright yellow, bright pink and bright blue

Club: Any properly constituted club being associated or affiliated to the NZKC and recognised by the NZKC to run official coursing meets.

Course: Consists of 1, 2 or 3 hounds pursuing a lure of either mechanical or electrical drive over a selected course pattern. The course begins after the handler's affirmative response to "Are you ready?" and ends when all hounds in the course are under the handlers physical restraint.

Course Delay: A course delay shall include delays caused by hounds whose handlers delay the start of the course, hounds that break away from and avoid their handlers prior to the request "Are you ready?" and hounds that avoid their handlers after the command "retrieve your hounds".

Decision: Any official disposition of a hound by a judge other than a score: e.g., an excusal, dismissal or disqualification.

Dismissal: Dismissed for interfering with another hound.

Disqualification: Disqualified for fighting – The aggressor in fighting in the field

Draw: A random drawing determining the order in which the hounds will run.

Coursing Meet: A judged NZKC event. Titles or championship points are awarded to hounds competing at these events.

Handle: To take a hound to a lure field Trial or Meet as the owner's representative.

No course: Any course that a judge determines cannot be judged.

NZKC: New Zealand Kennel Club

Ownership: For the purposes of these regulations, ownership and co-ownership are equivalent.

Pre-slip: When a hound is slipped before the signal is given by the Huntmaster

Qualifying score: 50 % of the total possible combined scores from the preliminary and final courses.

Run-off: A competition to determine a final placement.

Score: A numerical figure given by a judge to a hound in competition

Scoring criteria: The categories listed below are used by judges in determining a hound's overall score:

- Enthusiasm: the hound's overall interest in coursing the lure.
- Follow: the relationship between the running of the hound and the movement of the lure.
- Speed: the hound's overall speed and acceleration in coursing the lure.
- Agility: nimbleness, the ability to move quickly and easily, negotiating the terrain and turns and recovering from falls.
- Endurance: the physical stamina of the hound.

Slip-lead: A slip lead is a simplified or quick-release mechanised slip which will give almost instantaneous freedom to the hound which is to be released when the Tally-ho signal is called by the Huntmaster. Recommended slips are those consisting of a leather or webbed strap with a wide collar, and double or single metal rings.

Trial: Event held for the purpose of qualifying hounds to participate in Coursing Meets and includes "Fun Days".

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Eligible Breeds:

1. Only purebred Sighthounds as recognised by and registered with the New Zealand Kennel Club Inc. may be entered in competition. These are at present: Afghan Hounds, Azawakh, Basenji, Borzoi, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Italian Greyhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, **Portuguese Podengo Pequeno**, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Deerhounds, Sloughis and Whippets. As other Sighthound breeds become recognised by the New Zealand Kennel Club Inc. these may be added to the list of eligible Breeds, i.e. Galgo Español, Cirneco dell'Etna etc.
2. Purebred Greyhounds registered with the Greyhound Racing Association are eligible for competition but must be first registered with the NZKC on the Second register.

Note: It is envisaged that rescue Greyhounds whose pedigree is unknown will be recognised by the New Zealand Kennel Club in a separate registry yet to be negotiated similar to crossbred dogs at present on the obedience, agility, etc registration system).

3. Spayed and neutered hounds may be entered.
4. All entries must be one year of age or older on the day of the Meet and must be qualified to compete. To qualify hounds must successfully complete a full course and demonstrate the pre-requisite enthusiasm, follow, speed, agility and endurance. If possible the hound should run with another hound of the same breed (or another breed with a similar running style), and show no inclination to interfere with the other hound. The Huntmaster and lure operator on the trial day are to agree on the hound's ability to qualify. The Huntmaster is to be responsible for ensuring the secretary is notified of the hound's qualification.
5. Whilst the wearing of muzzles is not compulsory, it is encouraged. However all disqualified and subsequently reinstated hounds shall wear muzzles at all times on the field. *Ref: Disqualification, Dismissal & Reinstatement of Hounds*
6. To compete at judged Coursing Meets owners of competing hounds must be current financial members in good standing of NZKC.
7. NZKC will accept entries with one signature for co-owned dogs on the understanding that prior consent for the dog to take part has been obtained from all owners. NZKC will accept these entries in good faith that this has been done and will not be responsible for, or a party to, any dispute which may arise among the owners as a result.
8. The owner entering a hound in a lure field trial does so at his own risk. The owner agrees to abide by the rules of NZKC.

9. Entries must be received by the Secretary no later than close-off date. No substitution entries on the day of the Meet will be permitted.
10. Entry fees shall be fixed by the Club and shall be refunded in such cases where hounds are scratched from the field for the following causes:
 - Hounds determined to be lame at the time of roll call shall be barred from competition and their entry fees refunded.

Bitches in season or bitches showing a discharge characteristic of being in season, or which come in season after the close of entries shall have their entry fees refunded. Notification to the Field Secretary of bitches in season must be made before roll call or prior to the event. Bitches known to be in season should not be brought onto the trial grounds.

11. If substitutions for hounds are allowed after the closing date, this must be stated in the schedule. Substitutions will only be accepted up to and no later than one week prior to the day of the event.
12. There shall be no consumption of any type of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by any judge, member of the field committee or by anyone working in an official capacity prior to the completion of their assignment. Said consumption shall be deemed detrimental to the sport.
13. Amendments to these Regulations may be made from time to time by the Executive Council of the NZKC

3. OFFICIALS

All lure field trials and meets shall have the following officials:

Field Chairman
Field Secretary
Huntmaster
Lure Operator
Inspection Personnel

They shall be responsible for the following duties which may be delegated as appropriate:

Field Chairman

Is responsible for:

- Is Chairman of the Field Committee.
- Responsible for overseeing smooth running of the event.
- Provides the grounds for the Trial/Meet.
- Shall appoint Inspection Personnel who shall have the responsibility of inspecting all hounds entered.
- Carries out, before the official draw, a roll call of entered hounds. Hounds not present shall be scratched.
- Ensures that all equipment is in place and functioning and that handlers have racing blankets.
- Provides for policing, i.e. clean-up of the grounds before, during and after the Trial/Meet.
- Must individually approve anyone who is to be allowed in the judging area other than the officials of the Meet (e.g. apprentice judges).
- May, at their discretion, excuse from the field for the day any hound that exhibits uncontrolled aggressive behaviour toward any person or hound on the trial grounds, except hounds competing in the course then in progress. The Field Chairman may also excuse, or levy and collect a penalty fee of \$5 from the owner of any hound that is loose on the field and not in competition at the time.
- In the event of an official protest, the Field Chairman shall notify the judge(s) immediately.
- In the event a published lure operator cannot fulfil his assignment, the Field Chairman must select a substitute lure operator and must announce the name of that substitute before the draw for the Meet at which the substitute is to operate the lure. If, subsequent to the draw, a lure operator must be substituted, no refunds shall be made.
- Shall handle all official protests on the day of the lure field Meet.
- Shall have the authority to dismiss from the grounds of a lure field Meet for the day any individual who wilfully interferes with any person, hound or official during trial hours.
- Shall announce the final placements at the end of the Meet.

Field Secretary

Is responsible for:

- Ensuring all dogs entered are qualified to compete.
- Preparation of Record Sheets.
- Distribution of Judging Sheets to Judges.
- Supervision of Draw.
- Provision of Draw to Huntmaster.
- Collection of completed Judging Sheets.
- Checking and collating score sheets.
- From Judges Sheets, determining Best of Breeds, Best in Field, etc.
- Liaising with Judges.
- Ensuring a permanent record is kept of the trial/Meet for Club archives.
- Notify results to NZKC.
- Insures all placement awards are on hand.

Huntmaster

- Will be in complete charge of all hounds and handlers.
- Shall call for the course to be walked and checked for hidden obstacles and holes.
- Shall call up each new course as each previous course is completed.
- Will ensure that a handler handles one hound only in each course.
- Will check that blankets are properly secured and leads are in position for release.
- Must explain release and retrieval procedures before each preliminary course only.
- Shall stand in close proximity to, but not in front of, the handlers and hounds.
- The lure must be positioned in front of the hounds and in the direction in which it will travel before the signal is given to activate it. The lure shall not be brought up from behind the hounds.
- As the Huntmaster is facing the lure, the hounds shall be placed according to their drawn blanket colour as follows: If a brace is run: PINK on the left, BLUE on the right. If a trio is run: YELLOW on the left, PINK in the middle, BLUE on the right.
- In a judged competition Meet, shall not tease the hounds with the lure.
- Shall question, in the following order, the judge(s), lure operator and handlers: "Are you ready?" and, after affirmative answers, the course is begun for the purpose of determining a pre-slip.
- Provides a hand signal to the lure operator to start the lure.
- Gives the signal "tally-ho" to release the hounds for each course, and "retrieve your hounds" when appropriate.
- Hounds should not be slipped before the sound of the "T" in "Tally-ho" Will notify the handler of the pre-slipped hound and the judge(s) of any pre-slips immediately at the end of each course. If the Huntmaster fails to notify the judge(s) of a pre-slip, then to all intents there has been no pre-slip, but the judge(s) shall have the prerogative to question the Huntmaster at any time if the release seems questionable.
- The Huntmaster may order a hound that fails to run at the tally-ho, or returns to its handler while the course is in progress, to be immediately retrieved. The

Huntmaster shall notify the judge(s) of an immediate retrieval at the completion of the course, but the judge(s) shall have the prerogative to question the Huntmaster at any time if the immediate retrieval seems questionable. In the case of a restart, it will be up to the judge(s) to determine whether a retrieved hound shall be included in the restart.

- Will cause the lure to be stopped upon a pre-slip and restart provided no tally-ho has been sounded.
- Will inspect the lure before every course and replace it if needed.
- Will notify the Secretary details of newly qualified hounds.
- Will neither pick up nor authorise anyone to pick up or touch the lure until such time as all hounds are on lead and moving away from the finish line, unless the lure is lying on the ground in the clear.
- Ensures that the lure be re-strung immediately upon completion of each course.
- Shall notify the inspection personnel if any of the hounds appear lame.
- Shall notify the judge(s) of any occurrence at the beginning or the end of a course which might be grounds for excusal, dismissal or disqualification. Appropriate action shall be at the sole discretion of the judge(s).
- Shall inform immediately the handlers of all hounds in a course that is called a no-course or a course in which a dog is dismissed or disqualified.
- May signal the Lure Operator to stop the lure any time a hound becomes entangled in the string or when a potentially dangerous situation may develop.

Lure Operator

- Will lay out the course.
- Will make at least one pilot run of the lure before the first course of the day and upon reversing or changing the course layout.
- Starts the lure at the signal from the Huntmaster and stops it at a safe distance from the lure machine.
- Will attempt to keep the lure 10 to 25 metres in front of the lead hound at all times after the course begins. In the event a hound becomes unsighted, the lure must continue in the originally planned direction until completion of the course.
- Will stop the lure on a signal from the Huntmaster or judge(s), but shall automatically stop the lure any time a hound becomes entangled in the string or when a potentially dangerous situation may develop.
- In judged Meets the same Lure Operator shall operate the lure throughout an entire round.
- Shall notify the judge(s) of any occurrence at the beginning or end of a course which might be grounds for excusal, dismissal, or disqualification. Appropriate action shall be at the sole discretion of the judge(s).
- Should make every effort to complete the assignment

Inspection Personnel

- Shall inspect each entry for lameness, bitches in season at roll call. They shall also investigate and report their findings to the Field Chairman regarding any observed or reported aggressiveness of any hound or abuse or mistreatment of any hound on

the grounds during the Meet hours. The hounds that pass Inspection shall be considered the entry, for the purpose of the draw, for their respective breed.

- Any hound found to be lame, or any bitch in season or which shows a discharge characteristic of being in season shall be barred from competition and entry fees shall be refunded. Where a hound is debarred from competition and the owner disputes the ruling, the Inspection Personnel shall refer the matter to the Field Chairman for a ruling.
- If a hound is injured in the Meet or becomes lame in the Meet, the Inspection Personnel shall determine whether the hound may continue to compete or whether it shall be withdrawn. A hound so withdrawn shall not be entitled to a refund of its entry fee.

4. COURSING JUDGES

1. Only those persons whose names appear on the list of eligible judges of NZKC, which will be published from time to time on the NZKC Website, may, at the discretion of the NZKC, be approved to judge at any NZKC sanctioned lure field Meet. Judges must be members in good standing of the NZKC
2. Judges approved by recognised Coursing associations overseas are also eligible to judge in New Zealand.
3. A registry of approved Coursing Judges will be kept and maintained by the Club Secretary.

General Requirements:

All of the following requirements must be met before a Judge is approved:

- Must be a member of the NZKC
 - Must be 18 years of age or older.
 - Must be in good standing with the NZKC.
 - Must have a good knowledge of the coursing abilities of purebred sighthound breeds recognised by the N.Z.K.C.
 - Must be conversant with the NZKC's Running Rules and Field Procedures.
 - Must have had lure coursing or open field coursing experience.
 - Must make written application to the Executive and Committee of their desire to be an approved Judge.
 - Must undertake a course of study as directed by his/her mentor Judge(s).
 - Must have acted as an apprentice judge under supervision of at least two already recognised Judges for a minimum of two lure field Meets.
 - Must judge to an approved standard a trial Meet especially held for the purpose of qualification and their abilities evaluated by at least two already recognised Judges.
4. No person shall accept a fee for judging but may accept reimbursement from the Club to defray expenses.
 5. The Club Executive and Committee may, after due and proper consideration, and after hearing all arguments presented, revoke or suspend the approval to Judge for cause in which his performance, or lack of performance, has substantially compromised his/her effectiveness as a Judge. Results of any such decision shall be forwarded to the NZKC within 7 days of the hearing. The judge shall have the right of appeal to the NZKC Executive Council

5. RUNNING THE MEET

Conducting the Draw

1. The order and arrangement of hounds coursing shall be determined by a random drawing by breed at the beginning of the Meet.
2. The Draw shall be after Roll Call and Inspection on the day of the Meet, and shall be made in full public view.
3. Upon request from an owner on the entry form, multiple entries from an owner shall be divided as evenly as possible between each course. This does not apply to Best in Field competition.
4. If only one member of a breed is entered, that hound may be run with another breed if all exhibitors involved agree. The hounds would be scored separately.
5. A hound that is excused will not be permitted to run in the final course, and will not be counted as having been in competition when calculating the points.
6. After the draw is completed, should, for any reason, a hound fail to appear for its course, such that a single hound remains to be run, that remaining hound will be run and scored alone, unless that hound can be added to a brace, should one exist.
7. Exhibitors should walk the course when requested to do so by the Huntmaster.
8. Every entry not excused, dismissed or disqualified, shall be run twice. The order for running for both courses shall be by random draw. Hounds absent at Roll Call or when their course is called shall be scratched.
9. Hounds may be run in braces or trios. Hounds shall be designated by colours according to their drawing:

1 st number drawn	YELLOW	(placed on the left)
2 nd number drawn	PINK	(middle or on the right in braces)
3 rd number drawn	BLUE	(placed on the right)

Course Run-offs

10. Ties for Best of Breed will be run-off or forfeited. If one hound in a tie run-off is dismissed or disqualified, the hound not dismissed or disqualified is considered to have won the runoff.
11. Ties for Best in Field will be run-off. Handlers have the option to withdraw their hound for this run-off and in so doing will concede Best in Field.

Best in Field

12. The highest scoring hound will be awarded Best in Field.

General

13. A person may handle any number of hounds during a Meet but may not handle more than one hound in each course.
14. Any owner who deputizes another person to handle his hound must not interfere with the hound or handler throughout the duration of the course.
15. Handlers shall provide and use, with each entry, approved slip leads or other appropriate release equipment. For safety considerations dogs should not run wearing collars.
16. Handlers are encouraged to muzzle their hound provided the muzzle has no sharp, hard edges and allows the hound to breathe freely.

6. JUDGING

In addition to those rules and procedures set out previously, as they relate to judges, the following shall apply:

1. The Club may, at their discretion, use up to three judges for any given Meet.
2. No judge shall handle a hound in the stake or stakes where he is officiating. No hound may be entered in a stake where a judge is officiating if the hound is owned or co-owned or resides with the judge or a member of that judge's immediate family.
3. No judge shall perform any other field Meet duties during his or her judging assignment.
4. Each and every judge, before beginning the assignment, shall walk the course.
5. While on the field during their judging assignment, no judge shall discuss anything relative to the judging assignment with any handler or owner.
6. While observing the course in progress, when two or more judges are used, the judges shall stand apart. They shall not converse during the running of the course, nor shall they discuss anything pertaining to that course, except to state "no course," until the score sheets have been turned in to the Field Secretary.
7. A judge shall be able to call a no-course at any time:
 - (a) the hounds are interfered with or disrupted or the judge cannot fairly score the course.
 - (b) when a segment of the lure falls off and any hound reacts to said segment, but only if the course cannot be fairly scored.
 - (c) If a hound or hounds touch or catch the lure and, in the judge(s) opinion(s) by so doing that action causes interference with the running of the course, it shall be declared a no-course. Any time a hound becomes entangled in the string, the judge(s) shall order the lure stopped and may declare a no-course.
 - (d) If the Lure Operator fails to maintain the 10-25 metre limit, and the hounds become unsighted, a judge shall have the discretion to call a no-course.
 - (e) If any judge calls a no-course on one or more of the hounds in a course, all judges will score the re-run.
8. Judges are responsible for scoring all categories in all courses, preliminaries, finals, run-offs, etc.
9. Placing of winners shall be decided on the basis of qualities evidenced by:

enthusiasm, follow, speed, agility and endurance in scoring the hounds. Judges shall score in whole numbers only, and shall be governed by the following system:

Enthusiasm	15 points
Follow	15 points
Speed	25 points
Agility	25 points
Endurance	20 points
Total	100 points

Less: Pre-slip penalty minus 1 to 10 points (from each judge)

When a pre-slip occurs, each judge shall levy a penalty of between 1 and 10 points for that course. The pre-slip penalty shall not be carried over in the case where a no-course is called on the course in progress.

Less: Course delay penalty minus 1 to 10 points (from each judge)

When a course delay occurs, each judge shall levy a 1 to 10 point penalty for that course. This includes when a hound is slipped when no Tally-ho has been sounded. The course delay penalty shall be carried over in the case where a no-course is called on the course in progress and shall be cumulative in the case of repeated delays.

10. A judge may score some hounds in a course and re-run other hounds from the same course. At their discretion, the judge may score hounds which fail to complete the course for any reason, if a judge is able to do so. In the case where the hounds fail to run in the preliminary course, a judge shall have the option of giving the hounds a minimum score or excusing them.
11. A zero total score from all judges, or a judge when only one is used, in the preliminary course automatically excuses a hound for the day. When computing points, the hound shall be considered as having been in competition if scored in the preliminary course.
12. Hounds may be excused from the field by a judge for the following reasons:
 - (a) Hounds who fail to run after the Tally-ho in either the preliminary or final course.
 - (b) Hounds that course other hounds rather than the lure.
 - (c) Hounds whose handlers or owners interfere with the judges or officials.
 - (d) Hounds who delay the course.
 - (e) Handlers who wilfully interfere with another competitor, their hound or any official.
13. Hounds shall be dismissed from the field by a judge, for the day, for interfering (aggressively or playfully) with the course of another hound. (Growling and/or barking, in and of itself, do not constitute grounds for dismissal.)

14. Hounds shall be disqualified by a judge, or by agreement of all judges where more than one is used, for the following reason: fighting – the aggressor in fighting in the field. In the event that not all judges disqualify a hound, this disqualification constitutes a dismissal.
15. If a hound is excused, dismissed or disqualified, the course may be called a no-course by a judge. The remaining hound or hounds may be run in a remaining course if one exists or be given the opportunity to re-run alone and be scored.
16. Judges shall immediately inform the Huntmaster when a course is called a no-course or when a hound is dismissed or disqualified.
17. Judges must state on the judge's sheet the specific reason for excusal, dismissal or disqualification.
18. A judge may not change his or her score or decision after a trial is concluded.
19. After a course has been judged, and the marked score sheets turned over to the Field Secretary, only the judge can change his final score and only in the case of an arithmetical or blanket colour error. Changes must be initialled by the judge.
20. The judge's decisions upon all matters relating to the course are final and binding.

7. QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR COURSING CHAMPION

1. On receipt of 100 points hounds are eligible to be awarded the title of CCh (Suffix Coursing Champion). This title will be awarded on application to the NZKC with proof of points earned.

Awarding of points

Points are to be awarded in the following manner:

- Best of Breed earns 20 points
 - Reserve Best of Breed earns 10 points
 - Best in Field earns 10 further points
 - Reserve Best in Field earns 5 further points
2. Certificates for Best of Breed and Reserve Best of Breed will be presented at the conclusion of the Meet showing the points earned.

Note: If any Judge awards Best of Breed or Reserve Best of Breed less than a score of 75, points are not awarded at that Meet. No Certificate will be presented.

3. Certificates will include hound's name, the NZKC Registration number, the date of the Meet and the signature/s of the judge/s.
4. The Secretary will keep a running total of the scores achieved by every dog in competition including the date and the Meet they were awarded. Owners can apply to the Secretary for the current points total for their hound.

8. DISQUALIFICATION, DISMISSAL & REINSTATEMENT OF HOUNDS

1. A hound's privilege to compete will be withdrawn upon either a disqualification or three (3) dismissals within six (6) lure field Meets. The NZKC will inform, in writing, the individual or individuals whose hound was disqualified and cite the reason given for the hound's disqualification.
2. When a hound is disqualified or dismissed at a Meet this shall be notified to the NZKC within 7 days of the meet.
3. The disqualification will be expunged after the hound completes three (3) additional trials against competition (not kennel mates) and is not excused, dismissed or disqualified at the trials. The Huntmaster and Lure Operator at the relevant trials will be advised by the owner or handler of the hound of the re-qualification attempt of their disqualified hound.
4. At that trial the Huntmaster will oversee the hound's demeanour towards the other hound and the Lure Operator will oversee the hound's ability on the lure. The Huntmaster and Lure Operator must agree that the hound has run cleanly (see General Rules) and advise the Secretary accordingly.
5. Upon receipt of the three successful trial results, the NZKC will advise the owner of the hound that their privilege to compete has been reinstated such reinstatement to be confirmed by no less than two Judges at the next competition Meet entered.
6. **All disqualified and subsequently reinstated hounds shall wear muzzles at all times on the field.**
7. A second reinstatement of the privilege to compete may only be accomplished by an explicit vote of the Executive Council of the NZKC. No hound may be reinstated more than twice.
8. Hounds that have been disqualified from competition may continue to take part in non competition events but must be run alone or with compatible hounds.