

Basenji Club of America
National Specialty Lure Field Trial Procedures

The National Specialty Lure Field Trial Procedures provide direction to host clubs/groups for the Lure Field Trial held during the National Specialty. These Procedures describe the responsibilities assumed by the National Specialty Chairperson to ensure the lure field trial event is a safe and positive experience for exhibitors and their hounds. During the organization and planning of the Lure Field Trial, the National Specialty Chairperson shall work closely with the BCOA Lure Field Trial Committee. *The National Specialty Chairperson shall provide each member of the National Specialty Field Trial Committee with a copy of these Procedures.*

By vote of the BCOA general membership, The BCOA National Specialty Procedures require that one whole day or the equivalent (which may consist of two half-days) be provided for lure coursing.

I. SCHEDULE

TWO YEARS BEFORE TRIAL DATE:

- Select National Specialty Field Trial Committee, including Field Trial Chair (FTC) and Field Trial Secretary (FTS).
- Solicit suggestions for potential judges in the BCOA BULLETIN or BULLETIN BOARD.

PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 10, ONE YEAR BEFORE TRIAL DATE:

- Based on the recommendation of the Field Trial Committee (after considering recommendations from the fancy), the Specialty Chairperson shall submit the names of two judges and their reimbursement requests to the BCOA Board of Directors for approval.

ONE YEAR BEFORE TRIAL DATE:

- Field Trial Chair (with consultation from the National Specialty Field Trial Committee) selects a primary field and, if conditions warrant, an alternate field.
- Remainder of National Specialty Field Trial Committee is selected and confirmed.
- Field Trial Secretary reserves trial date with the appropriate sanctioning body. (For scheduling procedures, see the AKC and/or ASFA Running Rules and Regulations.)

SIX MONTHS BEFORE TRIAL DATE:

- Send premium list to appropriate sanctioning body for approval. (FTS should obtain requirements for Premium Lists from the appropriate sanctioning bodies well in advance of this date.)
- Distribute approved premium list to the appropriate target audience.
- Call or write the BCOA Lure Coursing Committee with any questions or concerns. Please do not delay in requesting help.

II. JUDGE SELECTION

- Solicit suggestions for judges from Basenji coursing participants early in the process, using articles or ads in The BCOA BULLETIN or BULLETIN BOARD.
- Judges must be all-breed licensed lure coursing judges. Judges for National Specialty Trials should have significant experience judging the breed, and be well-versed in Basenji running style and field behavior. No hound may be entered at the National Specialty Trial if it is owned or co-owned by either judge officiating or by members of the judges' immediate families or households.
- Two judges are required for each Trial.
- Judges are selected by the National Specialty Field Trial Committee, giving due consideration to (1) the suggestions of the fancy, (2) expenses.
- Lure coursing judges may not receive fees or compensation in excess of actual expenses incurred in attending and judging the trial(s).
- All judges must sign and return judging agreements before their names are submitted to BCOA Board for final approval.
- Once all judges have accepted the National Specialty assignment, their names must be submitted to the BCOA Board for approval no later than September 10, one year prior to the Specialty.

III. NATIONAL SPECIALTY FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE

- At least two years before the Specialty, the National Specialty Chairperson, (in consultation with the Chair of the BCOA Lure Coursing Committee), shall select a National Specialty Field Trial Committee.
- The National Specialty Field Trial Committee consists of (at a minimum) a Field Trial Chairman and Field Trial Secretary. The FTC and FTS must be BCOA members in good standing. The National Specialty Field Trial Committee is the Committee responsible for

the initial planning stages of the Trial.

- The Chair of the BCOA Lure Coursing Committee is responsible to the BCOA Board of Directors for all BCOA coursing trials and tests. For this reason, the BCOA Lure Coursing Committee Chair or a member of the BCOA Coursing Committee named by the Chair is a member of every National Specialty Field Trial Committee, and should be actively involved in planning the Trial from the beginning.
- The Field Trial Chair and Field Trial Secretary must possess a thorough knowledge of all applicable lure coursing rules and procedures, and be able to respond appropriately to all issues that arise at a lure field trial.
- It shall be the job of the National Specialty Field Trial Committee to:
 1. Determine which events shall be offered;
 2. Solicit recommendations for judges, obtain judges' agreements, and submit the names of judges to the BCOA Board for approval;
 3. Arrange for a coursing site (and an alternate site, if necessary);
 4. Propose entry fees to the Specialty Chair, determine closing date and time for entries in coordination with the Specialty Chair, and otherwise set the contents of the coursing Premium Lists. (The closing date of the Lure Field Trial must be the same as that for the other Specialty events; there should be no entries accepted on the day of the trial.);
 5. Arrange for the use of adequate coursing equipment;
 6. Select the balance of the Field Committee;
 7. With respect to ASFA events, notify and consult with the ASFA Regional Director for the region in which the Specialty Trials are to be held.

IV. DUTIES OF THE FIELD TRIAL CHAIRMAN

- The Field Trial Chair serves as Lure Coursing Chairperson for the purposes of the National Specialty Procedures.
- The FTC is primarily responsible (in consultation with the National Specialty Field Trial Committee) for:
 1. Obtaining adequate grounds for the Trial;
 - a. The field size should be large enough to permit a course plan of at least 700 yards);

- b. The field should be within reasonable driving distance of the Specialty show site (typically no more than thirty minutes driving time from the show grounds);
 - c. The FTC should balance the quality and overall safety of the field against the location of the field (ease of access/proximity to the show site) in selecting the National Specialty field.
 - d. If flooding or other conditions might render the primary field unusable, or if a written lease for the field cannot be obtained, it is advisable to obtain a back-up field.
 - 2. Selecting the Field Committee;
 - 3. Providing all required information about the field and field committee to the FTS so that the FTS can prepare and submit the Premium List in a timely manner;
 - 4. Providing additional field-specific information for the Premium List to the FTS, including the availability of shade, water, food, etc, so that entrants can make provisions as necessary;
 - 5. Designing or obtaining appropriate course plans for the Specialty Trial field.
 - 6. Obtaining adequate primary and back-up coursing equipment to run the Trial, ensuring that all equipment is in proper working order;
 - 7. Ensuring that the field, equipment and time allotted to the trial and tests are sufficient to accommodate an event with maximum possible entries and exposure to the Fancy. If the field, equipment or time is limited, the event entry should be limited accordingly;
 - 8. Ensuring that the coursing events are not scheduled to overlap any other mandatory National Specialty event without prior approval of the National Specialty Oversight Committee.
- The FTC possesses the duties and responsibilities of that office on the day of the Trial, as determined by the rules and regulations of the sanctioning bodies. The FTC also ensures that current copies of relevant rules and regulations are available on site, and that they are followed.

V. **DUTIES OF THE FIELD TRIAL SECRETARY**

- The FTS is primarily responsible (in consultation with the National Specialty Field

Trial Committee) for:

1. Obtaining approval from sanctioning agencies for the Trial and Test date, as prescribed by the appropriate Running Rules or Regulations.
2. Assuring that all necessary forms are on hand before the Trial;
3. Preparing the Premium List(s) and submitting them to the sanctioning agencies at least six (6) months before the Trial;
4. Accepting entries and preparing paperwork for the Trial;
6. Closing entries at the scheduled time, so that a full and accurate catalogue can be prepared;
7. Submitting Trial records to the sanctioning bodies in a timely fashion after the Trial.
8. Performing the duties and responsibilities of the FTS on the day of the Trial, as determined by the rules of the sanctioning bodies.

VI. FIELD COMMITTEE

- The Field Committee consists of the FTC, FTS, Lure Operators, Huntmasters, Field Clerks, Inspection Committee and others responsible for running the National Specialty Lure Field Trial. The Field Committee is critical to the success of the Trial, and its members must be chosen carefully on the basis of skill and experience in their respective positions. The Field Committee should plan to be physically present at the field for all Specialty trials and tests.
- **LURE OPERATORS:** All lure operators should be experienced in Basenji running style and competent to run the lure at a high-profile event. No lure operator may operate the lure for any flight or stake in which any hound is entered that he/she owns or co-owns, or that is owned or co-owned by a member of his/her immediate family or residence.
- **HUNTMASTERS:** All huntmasters must be familiar with applicable rules, and knowledgeable about all aspects of the position. The safety of the hounds often depends upon the huntmaster's ability to act swiftly and appropriately. No huntmaster may huntmaster for any flight or stake in which any hound is entered that he/she owns or co-owns, or that is owned or co-owned by a member of his/her immediate family or residence.
- **PADDOCK MASTER:** The paddock master works to keep the Trial on schedule by ensuring that the next course is in the paddock ready to run, and that subsequent courses are notified and on their way to the paddock.
- **FIELD CLERKS:** Field Clerks should be experienced and reliable, able to work under

pressure, and should receive their assignments as far in advance of the trial as possible. One field clerk will be needed to assist the FTS, while one or two field clerks will be needed to assist the judges on the field.

VII. CLASSES AND SANCTIONING BODIES

- The National Specialty Field Trial Committee determines the events to be offered. If, in the opinion of that committee, there is sufficient time to offer two Trials, both an ASFA and an AKC Trial should be offered, in addition to any coursing Tests the committee deems appropriate.
- If only one Trial can be offered, the National Specialty Field Trial Committee shall determine if it will be an ASFA or an AKC Trial. *This decision should reflect reasonable assumptions about the type of Trial most likely to be of interest to the majority of potential coursing entrants.*
- The National Specialty Field Trial Committee sets any entry limits that are reasonably required in order to run the Trials and Tests in the time allotted. By vote of the BCOA general membership, The BCOA National Specialty Procedures *require* that one whole day or the equivalent (which may consist of two half-days) be provided for lure coursing.
- The National Specialty Field Trial Committee determines which Classes (regular and non-regular) shall be offered. As many non-Regular classes (e.g., Breeders and Kennel Stake) as possible should be offered. The Single Stake typically is not offered due to time and equipment constraints (especially if AKC Junior Courser tests are offered).

VIII. CATALOGUE

- The Field Trial Secretary is responsible for preparing copy for the Specialty Field Trial catalogue.
- The FTS may prepare the catalogue, it may be prepared by an appointed catalogue editor, or it may be included with the Specialty catalogue.

IX. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Eliminate field delays on the day of the trial by using brand new, top quality lure line.** This is not a place to save money. Have a sufficient supply of highly visible lures as well.
- **Use a battery charger to keep the batteries in peak condition if possible.** If electricity or a generator is not available, have an ample supply of fully charged batteries, or a vehicle that can run through the entire trial to keep the batteries charged. Do not expect to run the whole trial on two batteries.

- **Remember your judges:** plan to have cold drinks and snacks for them, and provide a canopy or tent to protect them (and the paperwork!) from the elements. At a single breed Trial, the judges will be on the field all day.
- **Provide an elevated platform (ladder or scaffolding) for the lure operator.** It can be deceptively difficult to see the lure on gently rolling terrain that may look flat.
- **Use course plans that are longer than minimum length (at least 700 yards, more than 800 yards ideally,) and that allow the dogs to show follow and agility as well as speed.** Dogs and lure should be visible to the lure operator and judges throughout the course. *If you are unsure about your course plan, involve the BCOA Lure Coursing Chairman and/or the expertise of a local lure coursing club to generate an appropriate course plan.*
- **Select a field large enough to handle a long course.** Trees, sharp drop-offs, and other obstructions to sight or safe running dramatically reduce the size of a field, and make the field unsafe. If the field is not regularly used for field trials, lay out a (long) course to ensure that the field is large enough, and that the lure can be seen by the judges, lure operator and huntmaster at all times. Fencing and/or natural boundaries should be adequate to insure the safety of inexperienced dogs.
- **Remember that BCOA does not provide field trial equipment.** Make arrangements with a local coursing club to provide equipment and, if possible, additional field workers (especially lure operators and individuals familiar with the equipment.) However, no matter how much non-BCOA assistance is provided, this is a BCOA Trial. *Knowledgeable BCOA members must be in charge at all times, especially with respect to paperwork, protests, and communication with judges.*
- **Make sure that everyone involved in and attending the Trial (not merely those entered) is aware that bitches in season should not be brought onto the trial grounds.** Put this information in the Premium List, include it in any advertisements for the field trial, and put up signs at the entrance to the grounds to ensure compliance.
- **Invite the Field Committee for the following year's National Specialty Lure Trial to participate in or observe the Trial.** Allow them to learn from your experience.
- *****If you have questions or problems, please talk to the Chair and members of the BCOA Lure Coursing Committee.*****

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