

Changes to Regulations for FAST CAT®

The Board reviewed a request from the Performance Events department to make ten changes to the Regulations for FAST CAT® to bring added clarification, flexibility and safety to the sport. The Herding, Earthdog, and Lure Coursing Delegate Committee reviewed and concurred with these recommendations at their June 2018 meeting.

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Wooding) to consider the matter at this meeting waiving its normal notice procedures. Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Tatro the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Wooding) to approve, these regulation changes **which will become effective September 1, 2018**. Except recommendation #10 will become **effective January 1, 2019**.

Changes to the Regulations for FAST CAT®.

1. Require the minimum age of a Huntmaster to be at least 16 years old.
2. Prohibit using times taken during non-licensed runs and converting them into official AKC run times.
3. Stipulate to handlers they are not permitted to run with their dog during an official run but must remain either at the start or finish area of the course.
4. Require courses be straight from start to finish and must be clear from any potential hazards.
5. Clarify that at least the dog's front paws must be inside the 10 feet long start box upon release.
6. Prohibit the wearing of head collars (also called, head halters, head harnesses, Halti or Gentle leads) during the running of the course.
7. Caution clubs that an inaccurate time could occur when using a squawker as a lure and if so, they must take the necessary steps to correct it.
8. Require clubs specify the timing method to be used in their premium list.
9. Give clubs the flexibility to hold their events concurrently if desired.
10. Require all host clubs be equipped with a backup lure machine, should one fail during an event.

New Regulations

CHAPTER XVI - REGULATIONS FOR FAST CAT®

Section 9. HOSTING FAST CAT EVENTS.

Any club licensed to hold AKC Lure Coursing Trials or Coursing Ability Tests are automatically licensed to hold Fast CAT events. A club is limited to twelve Fast CAT events per year. A club may not hold more than two Fast CAT events on the same day.

If a club holds two events on the same day, they have the option to hold them concurrently or consecutively. Clubs should specify in their premium list which way they intend to run their two events. When held concurrently, a dog entered in both tests would be allowed to complete both runs in succession (back to back) without having to wait for one event to finish before the next can begin. A Fast CAT event must start and conclude on the same day.

Section 10. COURSE/EQUIPMENT.

A. No change

B. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line. Clubs may define this space by having a start box that is 10 feet long. A dog's front paws must be inside the start box upon release.

C. No change

D. Timing Devices: Timing Devices:

The time to complete the 100-yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). The club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam equipment to obtain the time. Clubs must specify in their premium list which timing method is to be used. If stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the bottom of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.

E. Lure Equipment: Clubs may use either a drag or continuous loop system. If a continuous loop system is used the "return" string must be set outside of the running course. The lure operator and the lure equipment shall be safely positioned in a manner that does not interfere with the retrieval of the dog at the end of the course. Clubs are required to be equipped with a backup lure machine should one fail and become inoperable during an event.

F. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure. Clubs using a squawker instead of a plastic bag should use caution as it may prematurely break the beam of an automatic timer. This can depend on variables such as wind and smoothness of the terrain. If an inaccurate time were to occur, the club must take steps to correct it.

G. Course/Fencing: The course must be essentially flat and must be straight from start to finish. The course can only be measured using a tape measure and no type of measuring wheel. The course must be free of any potential hazards. Pulleys are prohibited from placement inside the course. The club should consider fencing the course area, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium should state if the location of the event is enclosed with fencing.

Section 11. HUNTMASTER.

Because Fast CAT is a timed event, there is no judge. The huntmaster has control of the course. The huntmaster's responsibilities are detailed in the Lure Coursing Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 5. In summary, the huntmaster is in charge of all dogs and handlers on the field, shall ensure handlers understand safe release and retrieval procedures, shall ensure the lure is properly positioned, shall ensure the lure operator, timers and starting line signal person are ready, shall signal the lure operator to start the lure and shall give the verbal signal "tallyho" to release the dog. The minimum age of the huntmaster must be 16 years old.

Section 13. COLLARS/PARAPHERNALIA.

Dogs may wear any type of collar except choker collars, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar. The collar should be snug to minimize the chances of catching on something during the run. Clubs may, at their option, require that tags hanging from the collar be taped up. Owners may have their dog wear a muzzle if they desire. Owners may use clips or rubber bands to hold the dog's hair. The owner assumes responsibility for the safety of the dog with regard to the dog's collar and paraphernalia on the dog. Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course.

Section 14. HANDLERS.

Handlers are not permitted to run with a dog during an official run but must remain either at the start or finish area of the course. Handlers are not to allow dogs to be enticed through the course with anything other than the lure during its official run.

Section 15. SUBMITTAL OF RESULTS.

Clubs must mail the event Secretary Report and (name of results form once finalized) to the Performance Events Department within 7 days from the completion of the event. All necessary forms for submitting results are downloadable from the AKC website. Clubs may not submit results for runs other than those occurring during an official licensed event.