



Founded 1897

Bloodhound Trials Information

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Association of Bloodhound Breeders

Notes for Guidance of Judges And Competitors at Bloodhound Trials

The following notes are, in effect, hints to Judges, but may equally be of interest to handlers of hounds and spectators at Bloodhound Trials, as they cover some aspects on bloodhound handling that may not be generally known.

1. What may appear to be inexplicable judging at Bloodhound Trials can occur and should be accepted in a sporting spirit. The Judge decides on what he/she has seen or been advised about and this is usually far more than spectators or competitors can know.

2. As much of the pleasure of competing in Bloodhound Trials will be lost if too many rules are introduced, it is hoped these notes aimed to give guidance to Judges and competitors will not be considered as still more rules to be observed by those competing in Bloodhound Trials.

3. Judging of Bloodhound Trials. The principle task of the Judge is to place in order of merit, those hounds that please him/her most by their quality of work. The Judge should consider the finding of a runner by hound and handler, without any assistance, to be of paramount importance. The standard of performance in the Intermediate and Senior stakes should be higher than in the Novice and Junior stakes where some assistance may have to be given to ensure a line will be completed.

4. A judge should make every effort to keep a questing hound in sight, observing everything that takes place, he/she must nevertheless remain well behind the hound and handler, in case the hound overruns its nose and casts back. There is generally no need for the Judge meticulously to follow the exact line in order to watch the hound at work. He/she may take advantage of any vantage point available to watch. Neither need he/she follow a hound that has gone astray, unless it is the only means of recalling hound and handler. A hunting horn or whistle may be carried for this purpose.

A Judge should leave the end of any slow line to the care of his/her assistant to finish, in order to reach the start of the next line on time. A Judge should check that the hound about to be hunted agrees with the name of the hound on the published programme. Any hound not brought to the start within a reasonable time of the start may be disqualified. Any hound chasing farm stock will be disqualified forthwith by the judge. This also applies to hounds hunted on a leash.

5. As it is customary for the Judge to announce the prize winners at the end of the day's hunting and give his/her reason for his decision, the taking of short notes are advised.

Trial Permits A trial permit is a necessary qualification for a Bloodhound to enter a Novice Stake at a Bloodhound Trial, and is obtained before closing date of Trials.

An approved Judge appointed by either the Association of Bloodhound Breeders or the Bloodhound Club will carry out this test. Before signing the 'Permit' the Judge must be satisfied that:

- a) the hound is capable of hunting a line 1 mile long, 1/2 hour cold (Restricted Permit)
- b) The hound has been seen to be steady with farm stock while running free and hunting a line (Full Permit)

6. Commendable Points in Bloodhound Hunting

A hound at work should be seen to be gay, possess thrust and drive, and in short - be a pleasure to watch. A Judge, however, should not overlook the older or heavier hound that may well be the best seeker of a lost person but in a less spectacular way. A good hound will show obvious keenness to hunt, concentration on its work, freedom from distractions, lack of nervousness, ability to cast itself when scent deteriorates or when the line has been foiled, disregard for game including foxes and deer (freedom from change), steadiness with farm stock especially sheep, ability to negotiate obstacles such as fences, hedges, walls and water, clearly marking those fences, gates etc., that the runner has touched, and is reasonable obedient to the handlers commands.

7. Faults Changing to another scent, lack of enthusiasm and concentration in hunting, tendency to potter and urinate frequently, inability to negotiate obstacles, out of control of its handler, rioting on farm stock, fur or feather, timidity or nervousness with quiet farm stock

8. Method of Handling Handlers are expected to operate in a natural manner as would be expected of them were they participating in an actual search for a missing person or child.

9. Lines Though care is taken to ensure lines are routed so ground conditions are similar for all hounds in the Stake, scenting conditions may not be equal. Last changes by a runner to avoid badly foiled ground may not be possible or wise. A hound on a poor scent may possibly overshoot a turn and then in casting wide regain the correct line after missing out a loop. The Judge will not necessarily penalise the hound as being at fault, as lack of land may have required the line having had to be laid with too tight a loop in it.

The direction and strength of the wind will have considerable influence on the way the hound 'owns' a line. With a wind blowing 'head on' a hound will cast (quarter) left and right. With a following wind the hound may pull out to avoid its handler, the Judges and perhaps its own scent. The Judge and handler, in such conditions, should carefully regulate their distance from a hound to permit the hound to make good its ground. With the wind blowing from left to right (or vice versa) of the line, especially on a 'hot' line, a hound may be seen 'owning' the line quite a distance downwind and in fact may pass objects on a different side to that walked by the runner.

10. Time Factor There is no time limit laid down for completion of a hunt. On slow lines the Judge will need to leave in time to start the next line on time. His assistant will remain if the hound is hunting and working well. If the hound is not working well the handler should be informed of the line to be followed to find the runner.

11. Leashing of Hounds Hounds that have not passed the test as being safe with farm stock must be hunted on a leash. These hounds are

marked in the catalogue as 'Restricted'. Hounds that have passed the test as being safe with farm stock have the choice of being hunted free or leashed. A hound hunted on a leash obviously will not cover the ground as quickly as a hound running free. No leashed hound should be penalised for time taken if the hound is clearly seen to be eagerly hunting the correct line with the handler following to the best of his/her ability and no time is wasted by the hound.

12. Advice to the Handler by the Judge It is permissible for a handler to tell the Judge at commencement of a hunt whether they wish the judge to put them back on the line should he/she go far wrong from the correct line and is obviously unlikely to regain it. A judge should not give advice/assistance to a handler except when asked, or in the case of a hound and handler going too close to some danger, or when approaching prohibited land, or likely to spoil another line.

13. Duties of Assistants to the Judge The assistants to the judge should render all possible assistance to the judge in order that the judge can keep the hound at work in view. Assistants should ensure that the judge leaves a slow hunt so as to arrive at the beginning of the next line in good time to prevent the start being delayed. They should inform the judge of the standard of hunting seen on the ends of those lines the judge was unable to see, as such information will be needed by the judge to make a decision.

14. Prizes Winning a first or second prize in a stake qualifies a hound for entry in the next higher stake apart from Intermediate stake where only a first place can qualify for Senior stake. Equal placing's are prohibited **Certificate of Merit** A certificate of Merit is not a prize, but may be awarded to hounds, not in the prize list, who show great merit.

15. Withholding of prizes The Judge is empowered to withhold prizes if, in his opinion, hounds competing do not show sufficient merit. When prizes are withheld the order should be from the lowest upward (i.e. there will be no withholding of prizes higher than those awarded) In the Senior stake the awarding of a Bloodhound Working Trial

Certificate will not be recommended if the hound is given help by the Judge to enable it to complete its line, or if the hound fails to identify its runner in a satisfactory manner.

16. Speaking Trophies Speaking trophies will be awarded by the judge to the hound that is considered to speak best to the correct line.

17. Identification An identification trophy will be awarded to a hound that makes the best identification. It should not be awarded unless the hound hunts an appreciable part of its line, particularly, the last few hundred yards. A hound that is controlled by its handler to identify, cannot be considered as having a free choice and should not be considered for the identification trophy, or in the case of the Senior stake should not be considered for the Kennel Club Working Trial Certificate.

18. Management of Trials The management of a Bloodhound trial is entrusted to the Trial Manager who shall be responsible for ensuring that regulations are observed, but he/she may not interfere with the judges decision which shall be final.

The trial manager will decide on any matter not related to judging and not provided for in the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations for Bloodhound Trials. Managers may call upon the Judge to assist with the decision which shall be final.

19. Duties of Stewards/Marshalls To brief and transport runners to and from the lines they are required to walk. Ensure runners commence their walk at the time laid down for the line. If possible, check with the runners at the end of their lines any variations they may have had to make and communicate such changes to the judge or the assistant. After the hunt has started, stewards may keep spectators informed where the lines should finish. They may inform handlers where their lines start and of any delays that may be expected. Give assistance to handlers at the end of a hunt to get back to their vehicles.

20. Weather conditions The judge together with the Trials manager

will decide when bad weather conditions justify a postponement of the Trials.

21. Bitches in season Owners of bitches found to be in season on the date of the Trials should notify the Trials Manager. Entry fees will be returned in full. If present at a Trial, a bitch in season shall be disqualified by the Judge and will be removed from the Trials ground.

22. While officiating Judges should not Smoke at any time.
Consume or have available alcoholic drinks.
Engage in mobile phone conversation with anyone other than Assistants or Line Walkers

23. The Working Trials Secretary should ensure that all Judges are provided with a copy of this guide.

ADVICE TO RUNNERS

Dress: As a long wait may occur at the end of the line clothing should be both warm and waterproof. A timepiece should be carried.

Footwear: Must be the wearers own. Should be preferably not too new and preferably be of leather construction. Rubber boots, or composition footwear should be avoided if possible.

Smeller: This should be a small item of the runners own clothing. Handkerchiefs, socks, ties, or head scarves are ideal. Large items of clothing such as raincoats, jackets etc. are not suitable, as some handlers take the smeller with them.

The start: Start walking at the time ordered. Position two flag sticks (provided) about 12 yards (11 metres.) apart to indicate by their line, the direction of your start. Attach the smeller to the first flag stick.

Line to be walked: The route you are to walk will be given using a map, make sure you understand the route instructions, but if an error is

made do not back track continue to walk in a smooth circle to re- cover the correct line. Inform the stake manager if you have gone wrong.

Note: The Judge should be informed if any serious departures are made from the route. Do not walk along animal tracks or hard pathways. Look ahead when about to cross fences, hedges, ditches etc. for a convenient crossing place. Do not touch fences, gates etc. if not actually passing through. Circle resting cattle, but keep on the correct line if cattle are moving around. Small patches of burnt heather or well trodden ground should be circled otherwise walk the correct line.

Finish: If possible always remain at the end of the line you have walked. If you do leave the end of your line, mark it so you can return to the exact spot. If you leave the end of your line to watch the progress of the hound that is searching for you, do not get upwind of the line you have walked at any time, as a bloodhound may very well smell your 'air' scent even if you are in a closed car. Do not get closer than a quarter of a mile downwind of your line in case the hound loses your line and in casting wide picks up your new scent.

For senior stake only ask two spectators at the end of your line to gather in a loose circle in order that the hound will need to make a selection before it can 'identify'. Act naturally until the hound 'identifies' you by clearly wagging its stern or by standing to lick your face. Then generally fuss it up and praise it.

Be prepared to direct any handler who's hound has obviously lost your line, onto the last 100 yards (90 metres) or so of your line, in order that the hound can possibly make a satisfactory 'run in'.

Some young bloodhounds are very timid and will not approach the runner at the end of the line.

In Novice Stake Only, if this is seen to be so, you may encourage it by calling it to you.

Should you go seriously wrong and lose your way when walking a line, continue walking until you reach a road, then wait until someone finds you. The line you have walked will still be useable if you have walked the correct distance.

Trials Cups and Trophies

Novice Stake

1st The Novice Field Trial Cup
2nd The Rochester Cup
3rd The Marksbury Tankard
Hound Speaking Best To The Line The Brooks Cup
Best Identification The Gillet Cup
Best Handler (never having won a higher stake) The Denis Piper
Christening Tankard

Junior Stake

1st The Alresford Cup
2nd The Bayham Badger Award
3rd The Bratton Tor Cup
Hound Speaking Best to the Line The Rector Cup
Best Identification The Kirtle Cup

Intermediate Stake

1st The Carrigmore Trophy
2nd The Flora Cup
3rd The Wuthering Cup
Hound Speaking Best to the Line The Easebourne Hunting Horn
Best Identification The Houdini Cup

Senior Stake

1st The Williams Cup & The Williams Salver (For the C.C. winner only)
2nd The Kevin Milligan Memorial Cup
3rd The W.T.Ch.Millvery Renegade Memorial Trophy
Hound Speaking Best to the Line The Savernake Cup
Best Identification The Bower Cup

Notes for all attending Bloodhound Trials

All competitors and spectators are reminded of the importance of closing gates and necessity of safeguarding farm and wild stock. Bloodhound Trials are held by courtesy of local farmers and landowners.

- 1.** For your hounds safety and that of other road users, the Association of Bloodhound Breeders recommends that hounds are suitably restrained and confined in vehicles behind a dog guard or cage. Ample ventilation should be provided and care taken on warm days.
- 2.** Hounds must be exercised on a leash.
- 3.** The Association of Bloodhound breeders will not be responsible for any injury or compensation occasioned by, or arising out of Bloodhound Trials.
- 4.** Car drivers are requested to aid other vehicles and drivers in the trials area and avoid causing hindrance to other road users not connected with the trials.
- 5.** Late arrivals may have difficulty in finding the party and are advised to make their own arrangements to be met. Instructions are left at the meet each day.
- 6.** Road Crossings. No-one (cars included) are allowed within 30 metres of the indicated crossing until the hound and handler have progressed.
- 7.** All Cups and Trophies if awarded are to stay within the United Kingdom.
- 8.** It is considered polite to offer to walk lines if you compete

Association Of Bloodhound Breeders Working Permit And Stock Test Procedure

The Association encourages members to train their hounds to hunt the 'clean boot'. This is vital if the breed is to maintain its accepted prowess at hunting a human quarry on a cold line.

Before competing at Working Trials, hounds have to obtain a working permit.

The Association of Bloodhound Breeders now has a standard procedure in place for the testing of hounds for working permits to enable those interested to compete in the twice yearly Champion Bloodhound Trials. The procedure for a hound applying for a full permit remains the same.

The hound will be asked to hunt a line one mile long, half an hour cold, going across country and if possible hunting through farm stock, in particular sheep. The hound will also be required to be seen running free through sheep.

A hound holding only the first part of a permit, who comes back at a later stage for a stock test, will be asked to fulfil part two of the procedure.

Part Two of the permit - the Stock Test - requires the hound to hunt a line half a mile long and half an hour cold, through a substantive number of sheep, without chasing or worrying the sheep. After successfully hunting through the sheep the hound is then taken back into the sheep unleashed and some of the sheep are driven across in front of the hound. The handler must remain silent and the hound must not chase the sheep.

Application for a permit test must be made in writing to the Secretary. Telephone applications will be accepted but written confirmation must be sent to the Secretary before the test takes place. The Secretary will then make arrangements with an approved judge and inform the owner of the hound accordingly.

A Working Permit card will be sent by the Secretary to the Judge concerned prior to the permit test unless the hound already has part one in which case the owner must take the permit card to the test.

The Judge will be asked to report back to the Secretary the result of the test.

A.B.B. and B.C. permit cards are not to be mixed, a hound must have both parts approved by the same club.

The Association has a number of experienced judges with access to sheep in sufficient numbers for stock tests.

The Secretary will endeavour to use a venue as convenient as possible for the handler but this will depend on circumstances prevailing at the time.

A judge may ask a handler to remain silent during a stock test.

Hounds can take Part One of the working permit after they reach the age of six months however hounds must be 12 months old before they can take Part Two of the working permit.

Should a hound fail its stock test there will be a one month cooling off period before the hound is re-tested. It is preferred that a re-test, especially for the stock test, should be carried out by the same judge whenever possible.

This procedure should also be followed in the case of a hound that has had its full permit revoked.

Permit tests are free to members of the Association, there is a £10 fee for non-members.

Judges

List D – Assistant to the Judge MUST:

Have the support of the Society's Committee.

Be proficient in map reading and be willing and competent to walk lines at trials.

Have a basic knowledge of livestock and the countryside.

Demonstrate a general interest in the sport, have attended Bloodhound Trials and followed working Bloodhounds.

Initiate their Bloodhound Trial Record Book.

It would be preferable for them to have handled a Bloodhound at trial.

List C – Lower Stakes Judges (Novice, Junior, Intermediate) MUST: comply with List D and in addition must:

Have the support of the Society's Committee.

Have carried out Assistant appointments on at least four occasions at Kennel Club Limited licensed Bloodhound Trials.

Have gained experience and helped in the organisation of Bloodhound Trials/Prestigious Stakes /Training Days.

Have attended the Kennel Club's Bloodhound Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure Examination.

List B – Prospective Senior Stake Judges

Specialist Judges MUST:

Comply with List C and in addition MUST:

Have the support of the Society's Committee.

Have judged stakes at Bloodhound Trials on at least three occasions at Kennel Club licensed events. Have overall knowledge and experience of the management and organisation of Bloodhound Trials.

List A – Senior Stake Judges MUST:

Have the support of the Society's Committee.

Have been approved by the Kennel Club to award Working Trial Certificates at Championship

Bloodhound Trials and have completed their first appointment. To receive Kennel Club approval.

Judges must meet the criteria set out in the following paragraph 'Judges

for the Senior Stake

Please note: Foreign Judges / Master of Hounds etc., are invited to judge at the discretion of the society committee in all Stakes other than Senior, for which Kennel Club approval is required.

Judges for the Senior Stake

Once a judge has progressed to list B they are in a position to be invited to judge the Senior Stake – the highest stake for Bloodhound Trials - and to award a Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate.

First-time Senior Stake judges must meet the following criteria before their judge's questionnaire will be considered by the Activities Sub-Committee: They must have judged at least three stakes, not at the same trial, at Kennel Club licensed Bloodhound Trials. A judge may include one overseas Bloodhound Trial Open Stake within the three stakes (only appointments in Belgium, Denmark, Holland or Sweden will be considered).

They must be included on a breed club B list.

They must have attended a Kennel Club Bloodhound Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the accompanying examination which includes Planning and Management of Bloodhound Trials.

They must be less than 75 years old on the first day of the trial.

Judges nominated for the first time to judge the Senior Stake will be assessed by a Kennel Club approved assessor prior to being approved by the General Committee of the Kennel Club .

Foreign Judges and Non-Specialist Judges (M.Hs, Huntsmen etc.) must: Comply with List C and in addition must: Have the support of the Society's Committee.

Have judged Stakes at Bloodhound Trials in the UK on at least two occasions at Kennel Club licensed events.

Foreign Judges: must be able to satisfy the Kennel Club with evidence of judging experience other than with bloodhounds in the UK.

All judges must have completed and passed a Kennel Club Bloodhound Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on The Kennel Club Academy every five years since passing the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination. This Regulation is effective from 1 January 2022.

Qualifying Procedure for Advanced Stakes.

Hounds to qualify from A.B.B. Trials only

BROUGH CUP

1st and 2nd. from Senior Stake, A.B.B. Spring and Autumn Trials to be invited to compete.

BRACKEN TROPHY

Winner of the Brough Cup and hounds awarded a Certificate of Merit in that stake.

MARLWOOD BEAKER

Winner of the Brough Cup, winner of the Bracken Trophy and hounds awarded a Certificate of Merit in the Bracken Trophy to be invited to compete.

Notes to Judges: A Certificate of Merit may only be awarded to hounds when there has been a stake winner in advanced stakes.

Veteran Stake

Conditions Of Entry

- 1.** The competition is by invitation only, to members of The Association of Bloodhound breeders.
 - 2.** Hounds must be a minimum age of seven years and retired from active participation in Championship Bloodhound Trials.
 - 3.** Hounds must be in possession of a current Association of Bloodhound Breeders Bloodhound Club Working Permit.
 - 4.** The competition to be held annually when conditions allow.
- Lines: One and a half miles long and two hours cold.

Note: The working Trial Secretary must be informed in writing when hounds have retired from competing in Championship Bloodhound Trials to enable their names be added to the register of those eligible to compete in 'The Veteran Stake'.

The Ailesbury Trophy

To be awarded to the owner of a hound, being a fully paid up member of The Association of Bloodhound Breeders, who wins most points at Association of Bloodhound Breeders working Trials during the year.

Points Table			
Stake	1st. Place		C.O.Merit
Marlwood Beaker	18		4
Bracken Trophy	12		3
Brough Cup	9		2
	1st. Place	2nd. Place	3rd. Place
Senior Stake	6*	5	4
Intermediate Stake	5	4	3
Junior Stake	4	3	2
Novice Stake	3	2	1
* Note 2 points to be added for K.C.W.T. Certificate			

Ronald Marshall Brooks Memorial Stake

Ron Brooks was chairman of the ABB from 1972 - 1989 and President from 1993 until his death in February 2019. He supported all the activities of the ABB and through his contacts acquired land for working trials across the country. He successfully hunted his own hounds and hosted numerous events from his home at Heath Hill. In his memory the spring senior stake has been named "Ronald Marshall Brooks Memorial Stake" in perpetuity. This fitting tribute brings together his love of hunting, the last trials Ron attended in spring 2018 at Heath Hill and his passing in spring 2019.

Line Walker Points Table

To recognise the contribution made to trials by the line walkers the following points table operates on an annual basis.

Points are awarded as follows: Novice line - 1 point,
 Junior line - 2 points Intermediate line - 3 points Senior line - 4 points
 Brough, Bracken and Marlwood 5 points each. If the hound is awarded
 1st - 1 Point

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR BLOODHOUND TRIALS I(c)

These Regulations to be read in conjunction with Kennel Club Working Trial Regulations [I].

1. Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates.

A Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate may be awarded to a Bloodhound winning a senior stake without assistance at a Championship Bloodhound Trial if it has clearly identified the runner to the satisfaction of the judge or judges. A hound will be considered to have made a satisfactory identification if it is seen to approach and clearly select the runner from a group of three people at the end of the line. Handlers who choose to work/hunt their hounds leashed must drop their leash within a minimum of 200yds/183m of the line up, so that a natural identification takes place that is free from any handler interference. Judges may award a Certificate of Merit in all stakes to any hound not being placed which has given a good performance.

2. Schedules.

a. The society holding a Bloodhound Trial must issue a schedule which shall form the basis of a contract between the society and those entering hounds. No modifications may be made to the schedule before the date of the trial, except by permission of The Kennel Club and such modifications must be advertised.

b. A copy of the schedule issued for each trial must be retained by the organisations for at least one year from the date of the trial and must be forwarded to The Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.

c. The schedule must contain:

- (1) The date and place of the Bloodhound Trial.
- (2) The latest date for applying for entry at the trial.
- (3) The amount of entry fees and any prize money.
- (4) A statement that a draw will be made for the order of running.
- (5) The conditions and qualifications for making entries and for intimating acceptance or refusal of entries.
- (6) A statement if applicable on details of how entries can be made via the internet.

- (7) An announcement that the Bloodhound Trial is held under Kennel Club Regulations for Bloodhound Trials with such exceptions as the committee of the society may decide. Such exceptions and conditions must have received the approval of the Board of The Kennel Club prior to publication of the schedule.
- (8) The definition of each stake, together with the qualification and limitations for entry in that stake.
- (9) The names of the judges.
- (10) A statement that spayed bitches and castrated dogs may compete.
- (11) An announcement that hounds under the age of 12 months on the first day of the Trial are not eligible for entry. Dogs aged four calendar months and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.
- (12) A Regulation which prohibits judges entering a hound which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership in the stake they are judging.
- (13) A separate official entry form which must include the declaration to be signed by the entrant as on the specimen entry form issued by The Kennel Club.
- (14) A statement that should circumstance so dictate the society, in consultation with the judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to The Kennel Club.

3. Entry forms.

Such forms must be in accordance with the approved form issued by the secretary of the Bloodhound Trial. All entries must be made on the official entry form and each competitor must use a separate form.

4. Catalogue.—The society must publish a catalogue for the trial containing:

- a. The name of the society holding the trial.
- b. The date and place of the trial.
- c. The names and addresses of competitors.
- d. The registered name of each hound entered, the stake in which it is entered together with its full particulars as recorded on the entry form.

e. The name of the judge for each stake.

Championship – Within 14 days of the close of the trial, a copy of the official catalogue for the trial, containing a full and correct list of all the entries, with all the senior stake awards correctly marked, must be submitted to The Kennel Club.

5. Veterinary support.

The secretary of a licensed Bloodhound trial is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements for the trial and anticipated entries. The name, address and telephone number of the veterinary surgeon, practitioner or practice supporting the trial is to be available.

6. Management.

a. Societies must schedule one other stake in addition to The Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate stake.

b. A stake manager must be appointed by the committee of the society for each stake who shall be responsible for ensuring that the Regulations are observed but may not interfere with the judges' decisions which shall be final. The stake manager shall decide upon any matter not related to judging and not provided for in the Rules and Regulations and may call upon the judge or judges to assist in the decision which will be final. The stake manager should be present throughout the stake and must not enter or work a hound in that stake.

c. The stake manager and the judges should assess the weather conditions and should they consider the weather unfit for holding the trial the commencement may be postponed until such time as it is considered necessary for the trial to be abandoned and the entry fees returned.

d. When a judge is prevented from attending or finishing a meeting which has commenced, the stake manager shall decide what action is to be taken.

e. The order for running lines shall be determined by a draw and competitors notified accordingly by post of their reporting time prior to the date of the trial.

f. The committee may reserve to themselves the right to refuse any entries.

g. Replacement judges appointed in an emergency must have had previous judging experience.

7. Approval of Judges.

a. Societies must apply to the Board for approval of all judges at championship Bloodhound trials at least six months before the date of the trials. All first time senior stake judges must be applied for a minimum of eighteen months before the date of the trial on the form provided. Individuals may apply to the Board for approval to award Championship Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates for the first time, provided that the judge has fulfilled the minimum criteria in accordance with Regulations I(C)7.b., I(C)7.c. and I(C)7.d. Subject to approval judges would be included on the list of Approved Championship Bloodhound Working Trial Judges.

b. On application for a person's first appointment to award a Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate, the nominee must meet the minimum conditions which apply are:

A person must:-

(1) have judged at least three stakes, not at the same trial, at Kennel Club licensed Bloodhound Trials.

(2) have completed and passed a Kennel Club Bloodhound Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on The Kennel Club Academy and have attended a Kennel Club Planning and Managing of Bloodhound Trials Seminar and passed the assessment.

c. Prior to being granted Board approval judges must have been assessed by a Kennel Club approved assessor.

d. A person may be approved to judge one Senior stake in each calendar year commencing 1st January.

8. Judging.

a. Judges at Kennel Club licensed Bloodhound Trials must judge in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.

b. All judges must have completed and passed a Kennel Club Bloodhound Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on The Kennel Club Academy every five years since passing the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination. This

Regulation is effective from 1 January 2022.

c. Judges at Bloodhound Trials may not enter a hound which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership in the stake which they are judging.

d. An award or prize may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge there is a lack of sufficient merit.

e. The committee shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the appointment of any judge.

9. Competing.

a. Only one person may handle a hound during a trial; an owner having deputed authority to another must not interfere with the handling of that hound.

b. If an entered hound is absent one hour before the published start time for its line, the hound shall be liable to be disqualified by the judge.

c. Punitive correction or harsh handling of the hound is forbidden.

d. No hound entered for competition and at the meeting may be withdrawn from competition without notice to the stake manager.

e. No competitor shall impugn the decision of the judge or judges.

10. Classification.

a. Working permits.

To compete at Kennel Club licensed trials a hound, resident in the UK, must hold an Association of Bloodhound Breeders or Bloodhound Club working permit. Hounds resident in countries outside the jurisdiction of The Kennel Club must hold a restricted working permit issued by a Bloodhound club in their own country similar in content to that issued in the UK. Awards gained at Bloodhound trials held overseas do not count towards eligibility to compete at Trials licensed by The Kennel Club.

b. Stock test

Bloodhounds entered on a restricted permit must be hunted on a leash, they may only be hunted free if they hold part two of a working permit issued by the Association of Bloodhound Breeders or the Bloodhound

Club to certify they are steady with farm stock. Hounds are required to have passed a stock test in the UK before being hunted off leash and are ineligible to compete in a Senior stake until successfully stock tested. Hounds aged 6 months or over may take part one of the working permit, however hounds must be at least 12 months of age before undertaking part two of the working permit.

c. Entries

Bloodhounds must be entered in the lowest stake for which they are eligible at the closing date for entries.

11. Definition of stakes

a. Novice stake

The line shall be approximately 1.6km (one mile) long and not less than half an hour cold. For Bloodhounds holding a working permit at the close of entries. No hound that has gained 1st or 2nd place in the Novice stake or gained 1st or 2nd place in a Junior stake, or gained 1st place in an Intermediate stake or Senior stake may enter.

b. Junior stake

The line shall be approximately 3.2km (2 miles) long and not less than one hour cold. For Bloodhounds that have gained 1st or 2nd place in the Novice stake at the close of entries. No hound that has gained 1st or 2nd place in a Junior stake, or gained 1st place in an Intermediate stake or Senior stake may enter.

c. Intermediate stake

The line shall be approximately 4.0km (two and a half miles) long and not less than one and a half hours cold. For Bloodhounds that have gained 1st or 2nd place in the Junior stake at the close of entries. No hound that has gained 1st place in Intermediate stake or Senior stake may enter.

d. Senior stake

The line shall be approximately 4.8km (3 miles) long and not less than two hours cold. For Bloodhounds that have won an Intermediate stake at close of entries. Bloodhounds are ineligible to compete in a Senior stake until successfully stock tested.