

Operational plan for the resumption of field trials

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Societies are required to consider Government advice, including DEFRA, in place at the time when planning a trial. It is also worth noting that current advice is different for different parts of the United Kingdom and this needs to be taken into account when planning the trial both in relation to the ground and expected entrants.

The health and safety of everyone attending field trials is of paramount importance, and it is vital that events are conducted with adherence to social distancing and health and safety guidelines. To ensure that this is the case the protocol as outlined below must be adhered to. While the organising committee has a significant responsibility in this regard, each individual has the primary responsibility for his or her own health and wellbeing and any risk factors relating to age or health, or health of close contacts, should be considered before entering an event.

All societies must undertake their own Covid-19 specific risk assessment in addition to the normal risk assessment undertaken for all trials. If the risk assessment is not tailored to the Club's own trial it cannot help it to meaningfully address the risks and it will not be demonstrating that the Club has actively managed the risks for the safety of all participants and visitors. All Clubs and Societies must appoint a Covid Safety Officer, whose responsibility is to make sure that Covid prevention procedures are maintained throughout the day. A log must be kept of any untoward incidents. The Covid Safety Officer must be named on the Field Trial schedule.

Government guidelines on social distancing, in force at the time, must be adhered to by all participants, whilst at the trial.

All references to face masks also include face coverings as detailed in government guidance and must be provided by the individual concerned.

Risk Assessments

The following areas should be considered for all Field Trial risk assessments:

Where reference is made to the competitor this applies to the handler on the day of the trial.

ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO THE TRIAL

Site visit to the ground with the keeper

- Risk assessment to be completed prior to site visit, updated as necessary and available on the day if requested.
- Hand sanitising gel / wipes should be required by all attendees and provided by them, however the society should have some spares available if required.

Judges appointments

- Societies are encouraged to appoint local judges where possible in order to minimise travel. Where an overseas judge was already under contract, the appointment may proceed provided it did not contravene any Government regulations or restrictions.
- Societies should encourage all judges to provide as much notice as possible should their circumstances change, which would mean they may not be able to fulfill an appointment.

Schedule, Entry Form and Draw

- Detail the requirement to follow Government Guidelines on all the schedule and draw documentation.
- Advise competitors how the day will be run and detail any procedures or changes to usual order of running on the schedule and draw (for example the requirement for competitors to provide their own numbers, the wearing of face masks etc).
- Detail how entries can be submitted, online processors are recommended but it would be acceptable for entry forms to be emailed to the secretary and payment made via paypal etc. (This would still constitute manual entries and a manual draw could be undertaken if required).
- There should be no handling of entry forms, cheques, or cash on the day.
- All Clubs and Societies must appoint a Covid Safety Officer, whose responsibility is to make sure that Covid prevention procedures are maintained throughout the day, this person may be an existing steward or an additional person. A log must be kept of any untoward incidents. The Covid Safety Officer must be named on the event schedule.
- A statement must be included in all schedules to state that if a competitor, or anyone in their household, has Covid-19 related symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19 they must not attend the event and should self isolate in line with Government advice.
- Written information on all participants and attendees must be collated, this must be detailed enough to allow NHS Test and Trace to contact all participants if any attendee becomes ill with COVID-19. These records must be kept for 21 days.
- There should be no Field Trial Cards on the day, all cards to be issued electronically in advance to all competitors.

Entries

Online entries are preferable to avoid the requirement to quarantine postal entries and any unnecessary contact with entry forms or cheques.

Accommodation for Judges and Officials

- Ensure any accommodation is following Government Guidelines on Social Distancing and hygiene requirements.
- Check judges are comfortable staying away from home and are not shielding, either themselves or another member of their household.
- Include statement to this effect on the confirmation letter.
- If appropriate arrange for hotel to provide packed lunch for resident judges.

Direction Signs

When setting out direction signs use gloves when using any tools borrowed from another to avoid the risk of cross contamination, if social distancing is not possible masks must be worn when in close proximity to another individual.

Veterinary Support

Confirm the vets can provide emergency services for non-registered patients and research the protocol for doing so should veterinary support be required on the day.

ARRANGEMENTS AT THE TRIAL

Parking

Vehicles must be parked with enough spacing between vehicles to ensure social distancing guidelines can be adhered to.

Equipment

- Risk Assessment must be available on the day to all attending the trial. The host / estate must have received this document in advance.
- Judges books and current regulations must be provided by the judge concerned and only handled by them.
- Certificates / prize cards / rosettes should be posted out following the trial instead of being available on the day to avoid any unnecessary physical contact. Certificates may be sent electronically.
- Radios must be handled when wearing gloves and thoroughly cleaned using antibacterial wipes before and after use. Earpieces must not be worn unless these are the individuals own.

Catering

- Hospitality and catering arrangements for judges, officials and stewards should be revised in line with relevant Covid-19 and food safety guidelines. Societies may wish to consider stipulating that no food will be provided to any attendees, including judges and officials.
- If food provisions are required these must be provided from approved retailers.

Judges

- Judges books and current regulations must be provided by the judge concerned and only handled by them.
- All stationery required by the judge to be provided by themselves.
- Game certificates will not be required to be completed and it will be assumed that the conditions of the stake were such as to enable the dogs to be satisfactorily tested. If this is not the case the Kennel Club Field Trial department must be notified within 7 days.
- There must be no physical contact with any competitor prior or post run.
- Face masks should be worn during any conferring between the judges.
- When handling game passed from a competitor, a face mask should be worn by the judge, judge's steward and game carrier and should be undertaken at a maximum distance possible. Hands must be sanitised between passing each bird. Gloves could be worn but would need to be changed and safely discarded following each individual run to ensure no cross contamination.
- Judges should be encouraged to submit online judges evaluation forms, via [our website](#). Physical nomination forms will not be provided by the Society.

Officials and helpers

(game carriers, judges' stewards, red flag carriers, game markers, number board carriers, beaters, stops, picker-up, caterers etc.)

All equipment used must be the individuals own wherever possible; game bags, red flags etc. If this is not possible then gloves must be worn and equipment must be thoroughly wiped down with provided antibacterial wipes after use.

Guns

- Shotguns must be handled by the owner only and cartridges must not be transferred between individuals.
- Guns must only shoot forward to safeguard the gallery, which must be socially distanced.

Spectators

It is advised that spectators are not allowed and only the handler of each dog will be permitted on to the trial ground. If a competitor has more than one dog running, an appointed individual, ideally from their own household must be willing to hold their additional dog. Other competitors should not be used for this purpose. Anyone else that traveled to the trial with a competitor should be asked to remain in their own vehicle and will not be permitted to spectate but details will be collected for Test and Trace purposes.

Armbands

It is recommended that societies do not provide competitor armbands. Competitors will be required to provide their own number, which does not need to be an armband but must be clearly visible.

Briefing

- Remind all attendees of any measures in place to ensure their safety; masks, gloves or antibacterial sanitiser should be provided by the competitors / judges but it is advisable for the society to have spares available.
- If a competitor has more than one dog running, an appointed individual, ideally from their own household must be willing to hold their additional dog. Other competitors should not be used for this purpose.
- Any individual not following Government Guidelines, or who is deemed to be putting the safety of others at risk will be asked to leave the trial ground.

Competitors

- Competitors should check how entries may be made as postal entries may not be accepted.
- Competitors should be aware that all communication, including the draw and Field Trial card, will be undertaken electronically.
- Competitors must provide their own face mask and hand sanitiser to use at appropriate times.
- Competitors will be required to provide their own number for identification purposes when in line. This does not need to be an armband but must be clearly visible to the judge when the handler joins the line.
- Competitors should make themselves aware of any specific requirements made by the Society.
- Competitors should be aware that spectators may not be allowed.
- Competitors must be aware that if they, or anyone in their household, has Covid-19 related symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19 they must not attend the event and should self isolate in line with Government advice.
- Competitors must not attend a Field Trial if they reside in an area covered by a local down enforced by the Government.

Transportation

- Where possible, travel around the shoot should be on foot, as this allows social distancing to be maintained and reduces the risk of Covid-19 transmission. If practicable, individuals or household groups should travel in separate vehicles. Transport should be planned well in advance of the day to ensure appropriate provision is in place.

- If using transport around the shoot, you must consider social distancing between passengers, sitting side by side, not face to face, and increasing ventilation in the vehicle. Face masks must be worn for the duration of the journey by everyone in the vehicle. Hand hygiene – using handwashing facilities or hand sanitiser before and after each journey is also encouraged.

Trophies

Hand sanitiser should be used after handling any trophies.

Presentation

- The winners must be announced but awards could be issued after the event to avoid unnecessary physical contact.
- Certificates / prize cards / rosettes could be posted out following the trial or sent electronically as appropriate.
- Alternatively trophies and awards should be sanitised and bagged in a plastic bag and kept aside for a minimum of 72 hours prior to the trial. Then the Secretary should sanitise their hands before presenting the bag to the recipient.

Gifts for Host and Keeper

- All gifts will be handled only when necessary and only when using gloves or after using hand sanitiser.
- No physical contact is permitted on the day.
- No cash payments should be made on the day and the use of cash should be at a minimum.

Field Trial regulations temporarily suspended / amended until 2 February 2021

Regulations have been amended / altered to facilitate Covid-19 safe trials as follows:

Entries

Regulation J7.f

Societies are advised that when a competitor is not able to attend a trial due to them or a member of their household having Covid-19 symptoms or having tested positive for Covid-19 or if they reside in an area subject to a Government lock down restriction they will not be liable for the entry fee, even if they withdraw less than 7 days before the trial.

Judging

Regulation J(A)3.b

Judges are responsible for providing their own copy of the current Field Trial Regulations, not the Chief Steward.

Regulation J(A)3.k

The Game Certificate will not be signed and it will be assumed that the conditions of the stake were such as to enable the dogs to be satisfactorily tested. If this is not the case the Kennel Club Field Trial department must be notified with 7 days.

Version suitable for printing