AMERICAN BLOODHOUND CLUB

TRAILING TRIAL EVENT STANDARD

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a trailing trial is to certify the bloodhound's abilities for trailing, scent discrimination and correctly identifying a specific person in a field setting. When participating in a trailing trial, the bloodhound should show willingness and aptitude for the exercise, and the handler should demonstrate competence and naturalness in handling the bloodhound. To earn a qualifying score, the field performances of both bloodhound and handler, as demonstrated in a trailing trial event, must conform to the trailing trial regulations and standards described in this document.

Three levels of certification, each with its own abbreviated title, are described in this standard:

☐ Mantrailer (MT);
☐ Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI); and
☐ Mantrailer Excellent (MTX).

Each title, as awarded, specifies the level of certification for which the bloodhound has qualified.

Levels of certification, as described in this standard, are for the sole purpose of titling a bloodhound in a ***sporting event*** and should not, in any manner, be considered a qualification for police or search and rescue work. All trailing trial participants should be guided by the principles and regulations of teamwork between handler and hound and by good sportsmanship.

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR ABC-SANCTIONED TRAILING TRIAL EVENTS

Section 1: Making Application for Trailing Trial Events

1.1 Individuals and Groups Eligible to Make Application
Any member in good standing or regional group belonging to the American Bloodhound Club (ABC) may request and be granted permission to hold a trailing trial event. The trailing trial event may be held in conjunction with a National Specialty or Regional Specialty or held as an independent event.

Other organized groups, such as a breed club or other specialized group, also may request and be granted permission to hold a trailing trial event. At least one person in the group must be an ABC member in good standing. The ABC member will be responsible for ensuring that the event is held in compliance with ABC regulations, and that all required applications, fees, and reports are submitted as required.

1.2 Paperwork Required to Make Application
A sponsoring individual or group that is interested in holding a trailing trial event must request an application packet from the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson. Forms used for making application, and during the course of the trailing trial event, must be forms previously approved and recognized by the ABC Trailing Trial General Committee.

Requests to hold trailing trial events must be submitted to and approved by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson at least **six months (180 days)** prior to the first-choice date selected for the event. The number of trails requested on the application cannot be changed and should reflect the site and number of judges selected. The completed application packet must contain:

a. a clear general map of the site; tentative locations of trails; number of trails offered for each trailing level;
b. the number of judges needed for the trial; signed judges agreements
c. a draft copy of the premium list with participant information;
d. the name, address, and phone number of the Trailing Event Chairperson and Event Secretary (see section 2)
e. budgetary information.

The ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson will review all submitted documents and application information to determine whether the planned event meets all requirements of this standard.

1.3 Grounds for Disapproval of Application
An application for a trailing trial could be rejected, returned for additional or missing information, denied sanctioning, or otherwise disapproved if any one of the following conditions occur:

a. the site for the event is not specified;
b. the site chosen for the event is not appropriate for the event as planned;
c. the number of judges needed is not included or is insufficient to judge the number of trails offered;
d. a person is selected to judge who is not currently an ABC-approved trailing judge;
e. a person is selected to judge who is not qualified for the level assigned;
f. the number of trails offered is not specified;
g. the names of the Trailing Event Chairperson and Event Secretary are not specified;
h. the planned event does not conform to the requirements of the standard;
i. the application for the event is submitted too late.

Section 2: Duties and Responsibilities of Sponsoring Individuals / Groups

2.1 General Duties of the Sponsoring Individual / Group
The sponsoring individual or group will be responsible for all costs and equipment as specified (see Section 2.2). The group should designate sections of the event site for each level offered, ensuring sufficient space for that level's requirements. The sponsoring individual or group will ensure that judges

selected are currently approved to judge in accordance with the rules and regulations. The sponsoring individual or group will appoint a Trailing Trial Event Committee, a Trailing Event Chairperson, an Event Secretary, and a Transportation and Logistics Chairperson.

2.2 Event Equipment Required
The sponsoring group must provide a judging packet for each trail containing the following:
a. judges' worksheet;
b. scent articles;
c. packaging materials for scent articles;
d. a map of the area to be used

Sponsoring groups are **strongly** encouraged to provide the following additional equipment:
a. two-way portable radio or working cell phone for the event base; and for each judging team per trail;
b. beverages and water for event participants and staff;
c. basic first aid kit;
d. table and chairs for judges to complete reports;
e. flags should be available and may be used at the judges discretion
f. extra copies of each trail map;
g. extra scent article kits (clean article / material packaging elements);
h. additional judges' worksheets, pens, pencils, blank paper, clipboards.

2.3 The Trailing Trial Event Committee
A Trailing Trial Event Committee must be appointed by the sponsoring individual or group. This committee will consist of at least three persons, not including the chair, and will exercise all the authority vested in a hound show bench committee (see AKC requirements). If a trailing event is held in conjunction with a specialty, either national or regional, the Trailing Trial Event Committee will have sole jurisdiction only over those hounds entered in the trial and their handlers and/or owners: provided, however, that if any hound is entered in both the trailing trial and in the specialty breed classes, the Trailing Trial Event Committee will have jurisdiction over such hound, the owner or handler only in matters pertaining to the trial event, event rules and regulations. The Bench Show Committee will have jurisdiction over such hound, owner and/or handler in all other matters.

2.4 Event Staff and Duties: Trailing Event Chairperson, Event Secretary, Transportation and Logistics Chairperson
A sponsoring group will be required to appoint one person for each of the following responsibilities:
☐ Trailing Event Chairperson;
☐ Event Secretary;
☐ Transportation and Logistics Chairperson.

The Trailing Event Chairperson is responsible for overseeing the entire event, including making sure that judges and runners have been assigned to each trail, that each trial adheres to the requirements of this standard, and that all selected judges have been approved by the ABC. During the event, the Trailing Event Chairperson is also responsible to confer with judges in cases of hounds' lameness or injury (see Section 12.6) and to preside over any hearings concerning issues that might arise during the course of the trailing trial event (see Section 12.9 and Chapter 2).

The Trailing Event Chairperson is also responsible for fully documenting the trailing event and for completing and submitting a final event report, which must be received by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson no more than 30 days after the event takes place. If the report is not received by the deadline, a fine of $50 + $5/day will be assessed against the sponsoring group or individual until such time that the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson receives the report. The event report will include copies of all entries, copies of all judges' sheets and trial maps, signed judges' agreements for every judge, a financial report with all expenditures and income, and the original of any Event Entry Certification Test certificates along with the proper fees.

The Event Secretary is responsible for all moneys received and disbursed and will ensure that all entries are accounted for, will receive all entries and send out entry confirmations, will ensure that the premium list is accurate, will ensure that all trophies, ribbons and certificates are on hand, and will distribute and collect all trail maps, scent articles, and judges' worksheets. The secretary also must ensure that the event agenda is posted, and that judges have been confirmed and accounted for prior to the event.

The Transportation and Logistics Chairperson is responsible for obtaining all event equipment, including stakes, flags, radios, etc., and for ensuring that the event equipment is accounted for and in good working order. The Transportation and Logistics Chairperson will also arrange for transportation needs and schedule vehicles so that runners, judges, hounds, and handlers will be transported to the start of assigned trails and picked up at the trails' end.

Section 3: Levels of Titling Offered at Trailing Trial Events

3.1 Three Levels of Trailing Titling
Three levels of trailing titles are offered at trailing trial events:
☐ Mantrailer (MT)
☐ Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI)
☐ Mantrailer Excellent (MTX)

3.2 Mandatory Number of Mantrailer-Level Trails
Every ABC-sanctioned trailing trial event must offer at least two Mantrailer-level trails.

Section 4: Determining Eligibility to Enter Trailing Trial Events and Specific Trailing Levels

4.1 Event Entry Certification Test Required
All hounds must pass the Event Entry Certification Test, (EECT) to be eligible to enter the Mantrailer test. The EECT must be staged and judged in strict accordance with the rules of this standard. The minimum age for hounds entered in an EECT will be six months on the date of the event. Hounds determined to be less than six months old on the date of the event will be prohibited from competing, and the EECT will be canceled immediately.

4.2 Event Report Required for Titles to Be Valid
Any title won during an event will not be registered or valid until a completed trailing trial report has been received and accepted by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson. Therefore, any hound that has not yet passed a given certification level may not be entered prematurely in the next higher level. A hound must pass the MT level to be eligible for the MTI; a hound must pass the MTI to be eligible to enter the MTX level. All such successful trails are required to be passed at ABC-sanctioned trailing trial events. All hounds must pass each level in the order prescribed; no hounds will be permitted to skip a level for any reason.

4.3 Thirty Days of Continuance in Entering Trailing for Titles Awarded
With the exception of the EEC, a hound may continue to be entered in any one level for 30 days after the owner and/or handler has been notified that the hound has successfully completed a qualifying trail in that level.

4.4 Judges, Hounds, and Handlers Who Are Ineligible to Compete
No person selected and approved to judge at a specific trailing trial event will be permitted to enter or to handle a hound in that event. No hound bred by or belonging, either wholly or in part, to a judge may be judged by that judge at any level, including the Event Entry Certificate Test. The Trailing Event Chairperson and the Event Secretary are prohibited from entering or handling a hound in the trailing trial event.

Section 5: Selecting Judges

5.1 Minimum Number of Judges
The sponsoring group will select the minimum number of judges. Selection will be made only from the approved judges' list, which is available on the ABC website, www.bloodhounds.org or from the Trailing Trial Chair Person.

The minimum number of judges will be requested and scheduled based on the total distance of trails offered, the number of trails offered, and the level of trails offered

5.2 Approval of the Judging Slate
The Event Secretary will document the names of those judges selected and send a copy of the slate to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson for final approval. The Trailing Event Chairperson is responsible for ensuring that judges selected are approved to judge at the levels needed. No judge will be assigned to judge more than four miles of trails per event day.

5.3. If Additional Judges are Needed
If, after the entries have closed, due to extenuating circumstances such as a judge's inability to fulfill his or her judging assignment, the sponsoring group must immediately contact the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson and request permission for the selection of additional judges or for assistance in locating additional or substitute judges for the event.

If no additional judges are available, the sponsoring group will determine the number of trails and levels that can be judged and notify the entrants of the limitation. A lottery will be conducted to choose entrants (see Section 9); those entries not drawn for available trails will be used to establish a list of alternates. Limiting the number of previously published trails offered, although permitted, should be done only as a last resort.

5.4. Judges will be assigned to each trail with designation of a primary judge and secondary judge. The primary judge has the sole responsibility of plotting the trail, walking with the runner(s), and insuring that the runner(s) are in place before the trail starts.

5.5 Judges are limited to not judging the same hound on more than two successful trails, not including the EECT. A judging team shall not judge the same hound on more than one successful trail.

If there are **any** changes to the approved application, prior to the trial, the sponsoring group must immediately contact the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson.

Section 6: Notifying the ABC Board of Directors

TTC receives the completed Trailing trial Application, reviews and sends it to the Trailing Committee for approval/disapproval/approval with conditions.
Upon approval by the Trailing Committee, the TTC sends the Trial information to the Newsletter editor for inclusion in the Vote-By-Mail section of the next available Newsletter.
After the mandated 30 days, the Recording Secretary shall notify the TTC of the results of the ABC Board decision to approve/disapprove/or table the proposed event and the results of the vote will appear in the next Newsletter.

Section 7: Creating Premium Lists — General Contents

7.1 Premium Lists
The premium list will specify the dates and times when entries for the trailing trial event will open and close. The premium list will specify the names and addresses of the Trailing Event Chairperson and Event Secretary, who will be responsible for receiving entries. The premium list will include the names and addresses of scheduled. The premium list may not be released, mailed out, or given to handlers more than sixty days prior to the event.

7.2 Limitation of Number of Trails Offered
The ABC Trailing Trial General Committee strongly encourages trailing trial event sponsors to limit, based upon the site and resource capacity, the number of trails offered in trailing levels and events. Prominent notice of such limited entry must appear on the title or cover page of the trailing trial event's premium list.

7.3 Fees
Entry fees will be determined by the Trailing Event Chairperson and the sponsoring group. Entry fees will be set to defray the actual costs of the event. Checks for entry fees are to be made payable to the sponsoring group.

Each entry for the Mantrailer (MT), Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI) and Mantrailer Excellent (MTX) will include a $5.00 (U.S.) Each Event Entry Certification Test will include a $10.00 (U.S.) fee. All fees will be forwarded to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson, within 30 days, who will then forward them to the ABC Treasurer to be deposited into the trailing trial fund.

7.4 Trailing Awards
The premium list will list all trophies, ribbons, prizes, and certificates to be awarded to successful entrants. Should any award, ribbon, or prize be donated by a specific person(s), such donation will be noted in the premium list. The ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson will provide signed American Bloodhound Club trailing certificates and rosettes to the Event Secretary. The sponsoring group or committee may elect to award special prizes.

Section 8: Entering Trailing Trial Events — Forms, Contents, and Regulations

8.1 Official Entry Forms
To be acceptable, entries must be submitted with the entry fee on the official trailing trial entry form.

8.2 Eligibility for Entry
As used in these regulations the word "hound" refers to either sex but applies only to the bloodhound that is purebred and eligible for registration in the American Kennel Club (AKC) Stud Book or for an Indefinite Listing Privilege ILP/PAL with the AKC.

8.3 Entry Deadlines
The closing date for a trailing trial event will be no later than thirty days prior to the event. The closing time will be no later than 5:00 PM on the closing day. No entry will be accepted unless it is received by the Event Secretary prior to the closing date and hour as published in the premium list

8.4 Changes In or Cancellations of Entries
No entry will be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received, in writing, by the Event Secretary prior to the closing date and hour as published in the premium list except that a correction may be made when the hound has successfully completed the level entered at another sanctioned event held prior to the closing. Such exception will be made only if the change or move-up is received in writing prior to the close of the entries as specified above. Facsimile(fax) and email changes are acceptable. No fees will be refunded for hounds withdrawn from the trial(s).

8.5 Submittal of Entry Information for Verification of Eligibility
Within one day of the trailing trial event's closing date, the Event Secretary will send a copy of all entries received by the deadline to the Trailing Event Chairperson for verification of eligibility for all levels except the Event Entry Certification Test.

Section 9: Assigning Trails by Lottery

9.1 Trail Assignment by Lottery
Trailing assignments will be determined by conducting a lottery when the number of entries in a given trailing level exceeds the number of trails available for that level.

9.2 Lottery Procedure
After the event entry closing date has passed, the Trailing Event Chairperson will separate the entries received into their respective categories: Mantrailer (MT), Mantrailer Intermediate (MTI), Mantrailer Excellent (MTX), and Event Entry Certification Test (EEC: if offered).

When all entries have been separated into their respective categories, the Trailing Event Chairperson and the Event Secretary will determine if there are any excess entries for a specific category. If there are more entries than available trails, the Event Secretary will conduct a lottery for the available trails. Those entries left after all trails in the level have been assigned will become alternates and eligible, in lottery order, for a trail should one of the selected entries cancel, withdraw, or fail to appear at the time of the event. No more than three alternates will be drawn for each trailing level.

The Event Secretary will notify all entrants of their standing (confirmed entry vs. alternate status). All entries over and above confirmed and alternate status will be returned to those persons submitting the entries, after the trial.

Section 10: Preparing and Distributing Event Judging Schedules

Any group granted permission to hold a sanctioned event must prepare, after the entries have closed, an event judging schedule showing the time scheduled for judging each trail. The Event Secretary will mail/email a copy of this schedule to the owner/handler of each entered hound and to each judge prior to the event date. The schedule will also be printed in the event catalog. The trailing event judging schedule will be based on each judge's judging of no more than four miles of trails per event day. No judge will be scheduled to exceed this daily total.

Section 11: Preparing to Stage Trailing Trial Events

11.1 Risk and Hold-Harmless Agreements
Owners, agents, handlers, event staff and event participants or observers who enter, judge, or otherwise participate in any sanctioned trailing trial event do so at their own personal risk. Such participation will require the signing of an agreement to abide by all rules and regulations of the event and all rules and regulations pertaining to trailing trial events.

11.2 Trail Conditions
Trails used in this event will conform to these rules and regulations and will not contain known hazards or dangerous obstacles that could endanger any hound, handler, runner, observer, or assigned judge. Dangerous obstacles include, but are not limited to, busy roadways, unstable surfaces, electric fences, and ground that has been treated with any pesticide or related chemicals.

11.3 Runners
Trail runners are selected by the sponsoring group. Runners must follow the specific direction of the primary judge assigned to the same trail. Runners may alter a trail only with the primary judge's explicit permission. Runners are not allowed to give any information or instructions to any handler, owner, or spectator. Handlers will not be given any information about runners or cross-runners for the assigned trails.

Runners will be responsible for obtaining, wearing, and packaging their scent articles. The runner will be given two "Ziploc" bags. The scent article will be placed in one "Ziploc" bag; then, that bag will be placed inside the second bag (see Section 11.5).

11.4 Marking and Mapping Trails
Each trail will be assigned two markers, stakes, stationary objects, or flags: one to be placed at the start of the trail and the other at the finish. Trail markers must be clearly visible from a short distance away (10-20 feet); markers will not be placed under debris, ground cover, or other cover. Maps will be plotted clearly, indicating the entire path of the trail from start to finish.

11.5 Scent Articles
Scent articles for a trailing trial event will be of a consistent for all trails offered. The specific scent article choice will be one of the following:

☐ a sterile gauze pad, 4" x 4", worn by the runner, next to the skin, for at least one hour; OR
☐ a sheet of clean cotton cloth, 4" x 4", worn by the runner, next to the skin, for at least one hour.

The primary judge will be responsible for marking each outer bag with number of the trail to which it corresponds. Bagged scent articles will not be tampered with in any manner. The Trailing Event Chairperson will be responsible for securing the articles until they are given to the trail judge(s) for a specific trail. Judges will give handlers their scent articles at the starting time for the specific trail.

Section 12: Staging Trailing Trial Events

12.1 Un-entered Hounds Prohibited in the Field
No un-entered hounds will be permitted in the field at the event site; they must be confined to a crate or vehicle for the duration of the event. Un-entered bitches in season will not be permitted on the grounds until the trial has ended.

12.2 Confining Entered Hounds
Handlers, event staff, and observers are required to confine their hounds at all times to a vehicle, crate, building, or other structure, except during the running of their assigned trails. No hound will be tied to a fixed object, structure, or vehicle. At no time may anyone permit a hound off lead for any reason until the event has ended. When exercised, all hounds will be on lead and under the direct control of the owner, handler, or designated person.

12.3 Bitches in Season
Bitches in season are not permitted to begin a trail until the other entered hounds have finished running their trails and the last trail of the event. The handler of a bitch in season will confine the bitch away from the event grounds until 15 minutes before the scheduled trail's start time.

12.4 Other Disturbances, Abuses, or Interference
In collaboration with the Trailing Event Chairperson, judges must disqualify from competition any hound whose handler cannot control the hound, any handler who abuses a hound, or any handler who interferes with any entered hound or any trail. Excused hounds will be removed from the event area immediately. In all such instances, entry fees will not be refunded. (See Chapter 2 for additional information.)

12.5 Catalog Order
Hounds will be judged in catalog order within a particular level to the extent that it is practical. An handler may request a later starting time, providing that the requested start time is within the time allotted for the type of test scheduled. Such a request to delay a starting time must be made in writing, and such a request must be received by the Trailing Event Chairperson at least thirty minutes prior to the opening of the trial. A judge will not hesitate to disqualify any hound that does not appear within ten minutes of the expiration of the designated time for that level of testing.

In the event of a no-show, disqualification, excused hound, or withdrawal on an entry, the entry fees will be forfeited without recourse, and the judging form for that test will be marked accordingly.

12.6 Disqualifications
A hound will be disqualified from a trailing trial event if:

a. The person(s) listed as the owner(s) of any hound is not the person(s) who actually owns the hound at the time of the trial and is not listed as agent(s) for the owner.
b. A hound is run on a trail for which the hound was not entered.
c. The entry form is deemed invalid by the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson due to inaccurate or incorrect information.

d. A hound is judged at any trailing level by a person who bred, owns, co-owns, or who, at any time, owned or co-owned the hound.
e. A hound is disqualified or failed by the judges during their trail.

In all such instances, entry fees will not be refunded.

12.7 Ineligibility / Inability to Compete
A hound that is lame, limps, or appears injured at the time of the assigned trail may not be permitted to compete. Before the start of a trail, it is the assigned judges' responsibility, in collaboration with the Trailing Event Chairperson, to determine if a hound is lame. A veterinarian's evaluation is not required. If, in the judges' and chairperson's opinion, the hound is lame and unable to start or complete the trial, they will mark the judges' report as "Hound unable to compete due to lameness / injury."

If, in the process of working the assigned trail, a hound becomes injured or lame and is unable to complete or should be prevented from completing the assigned trail, the judges will stop the trail, and after noting the time the trail was stopped, mark the judges' form to indicate the reason the hound was not permitted to continue.

No bloodhound will be permitted to attempt an assigned trail if it is taped, bandaged in any way, or is wearing any device for medical or corrective purposes. In all such instances, entry fees will not be refunded.

12.8 Decisions
Decisions of the judge(s) are final in any matter affecting how a hound is worked by the handler. The Trailing Trial Event Committee will adjudicate other matters arising at the event, including protests regarding trail assignment and interference of hounds and handlers, subject to the regulations governing the trailing events. The Trailing Event Chairperson will preside over any hearings and will make the final decision on issues that arise (see Chapter 2).

CHAPTER 2

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS / COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS, AND APPEALS

Section 1: Disciplinary Proceedings for Conduct Prejudicial to the Sport

1.1 Conduct Prejudicial to the Sport
Persons conducting themselves a manner that is prejudicial to the sport must be dealt with promptly, preferably before the event closes. Conduct considered prejudicial includes, but is not limited to, abuse of a hound, severe punishment of a hound, subjecting a hound to a life-threatening situation, drilling of any hound whether entered or not, an handler who is under the influence of illicit or illegal drugs or alcohol, or an handler who has been charged with falsifying written protests, complaints, or entry information.

1.2 Eligibility to File Complaints
Any ABC member in good standing, participant, judge, or observer attending a trailing trial event may file a complaint with the Trailing Event Chairperson concerning conduct prejudicial to the interests of bloodhounds and trailing trial events. All complaints must be in writing, must be signed by the person making the complaint, and must be received by the Trailing Event Chairperson before the close of the event. The Trailing Event Chairperson is required to accept a written complaint or protest submitted prior to the close of the event; any complaint received after the close of the event will be rejected.

1.3 Complaint Investigation Required
The Trailing Event Chairperson and designated event staff will form a Hearing Committee to investigate complaints fully and actively. Such investigation will include written statements obtained from the complainant, witnesses, and the owner/handler. In addition, evidence such as photographs, videotape, drawings, or other items may be collected to assist in investigating the report. When statements and

evidence have been gathered, a hearing will be scheduled to take place at the end of judging and before the event closes.

1.4 Procedure for Disciplinary Hearings
Hearings will be closed to all persons except the Hearing Committee, persons lodging complaints, persons against whom complaints have been lodged, and witnesses. When the hearing has been convened and all required persons are present, the charge(s) will be read aloud. Persons lodging complaints will then present any evidence and explain the situation. Next, other statements, evidence or information will be presented. Persons charged with complaints will then present their own statements, witnesses, and evidence.

After all statements and evidence have been presented, the Hearing Committee will adjourn to a private area to deliberate. During deliberations, the hearing will be closed to all except those members of the Hearing Committee, who will determine if the subject of the complaint has or has not committed a violation. Findings will be based solely on the information and evidence presented.

1.5 Hearing Committee Decisions
If persons charged with violations are found innocent, the Hearing Committee will immediately notify the accused in writing of such a decision. A written copy of the entire complaint, statements, evidence, and detailed notes regarding the evidence and decision process will be sent, within 72 hours of the hearing, to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson for review. The ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson will forward a copy of the proceedings to the ABC Board of Directors. (See Section 3 of this chapter for disciplinary sanctions in cases involving findings of guilt.)

Section 2: Lodging Protests / Appeals of Trails

2.1 Grounds For Protests or Appeals
Persons filing protests or appeals of a trail or other activity directly related to a trailing trial event will be limited to the following grounds for filing:
a. A person who judged the trail was not eligible to judge.
b. The runner was not at the end of the trail, as designated by the judges.
c. The crossing runner was not at the end of the MTI or MTX level trail.
d. The trail was aged more than the level permits.

2.2 Eligibility to File Protests / Appeals
Persons may file protests or appeals if they believe that grounds exist for such protests / appeals as described in Section 2.1. Protests or appeals must be in writing and must be delivered to the Trailing Event Chairperson for action before the event has closed.

2.3 Protest / Appeal Investigations Required
In the event of a protest or appeal initiated by an handler, the Trailing Event Chairperson will obtain a written statement, before the close of the event, from the handler filing the protest or appeal. In addition, the Trailing Event Chairperson will contact any witnesses, judges, or other persons involved and inform them that a hearing will take place. The Trailing Event Chairperson will collect evidence, if any, as presented by either side and also will convene a Hearing Committee, comprised of the Trailing Event Chairperson, the Event Secretary, one judge not involved in the dispute, and one handler not involved in the dispute.

2.4 Procedure for Protest / Appeal Hearings
Hearings will be open only to those persons directly involved in the dispute (handler, judge, witness, etc.) and will be closed to all other persons. The Trailing Event Chairperson will designate one person to take detailed notes throughout the proceedings. The Trailing Event Chairperson will then present the issue of protest or appeal, and information from both sides will be heard. After all statements and evidence have been presented, the Hearing Committee will adjourn to a private area to deliberate.

When the Hearing Committee has reached a decision, involved parties will be instructed to return, and the decision of the Hearing Committee will be announced. The decision of the Hearing Committee will be final; no further appeals are available.

Section 3: Disciplinary Sanctions / Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Should a person be found guilty of an incident, the Hearing Committee will consider appropriate the following sanctions to recommend to the ABC Trailing Trial Committee Chairperson:

a. written letter of reprimand;
b. disqualification of the hound entered by the person and forfeiture of title or prize won;
c. suspension of eligibility to participate in all trailing trial events for a specific period of time;
d. permanent suspension of eligibility for participation in trailing events.

A complete written account of the hearing, including copies of all statements, judging forms, maps, or other evidence in the issue, is required as part of the final event report.

Any handler who continues to grieve, either verbally or in writing, the results of any hearing may be charged with unsportsmanlike conduct. A hearing to consider the charge of unsportsmanlike conduct may be convened at any time within 30 days of the close of the event. If found guilty, the handler will be suspended from further participation for a period of one year. A handler found to have committed unsportsmanlike conduct two times will be suspended from trailing event participation for a period of no fewer than three years; a handler found to have committed unsportsmanlike conduct three times will be suspended permanently from trailing event competition.

American Bloodhound Club

Trailing Trial Application

Application Date: _____

Name of Sponsoring Group or Organization: _____

_____

Address, City, State, Postal Code: _____

_____

Event Logistical Information

Event Chair, Address, City, State, Postal Code: _____

_____

Phone, E-mail: _____

Alternate Contact, Phone, E-mail: _____

Date of Event: _____ Alternate Date: _____

Site Name/Location: _____

Alternate Site/Location: _____

Event Entry Information

of EECT to be Offered: _____ # of MT's to be offered: _____

# of MTI's to be Offered: _____ # of MTX's to be offered: _____

Minimum # of Judges Required: _____ Avr #/Distance of Trails per Judge: _____

Entry Fee: EECT, MT, MTI, MTX: _____

Trophies/Prizes to be offered: _____

Clinic(s) or Seminars to be Offered: _____

Speaker(s)/Presenter(s): _____

Trial Site Information

Site owned by: _____

Contact Person: _____

Fees: _____

Terrain Features/Size: _____

[ ] open grass area [ ] water crossings [ ] creek [ ] river [ ] paths

[ ] cross country area for open trails [ ] rolling hills [ ] light brush

[ ] light woods [ ] established trails [ ] flat and open [ ] medium brush

[ ] medium woods [ ] mountains [ ] dense brush [ ] dense woods

[ ] game trails

Road Crossings: [ ] paved [ ] dirt [ ] gravel

Site Bordered by: [ ] roads [ ] private property [ ] water

Access Information: [ ] can be closed to all others during the trailing trial

[ ] public property heavily used during trial dates

[ ] private property with limited use during trial dates

[ ] public property with limited use during trial dates

Expected Conditions: daytime temperature_____ nighttime temperature _____
precipitation _____

Ground: [ ] dry/dusty [ ] damp [ ] wet [ ] soaked

Ground Cover: [ ] grass [ ] dirt [ ] mud [ ] pine neddles
[ ] foxtails [ ] moss [ ] rocks/gravel

Animal Contact: [ ] no wildlife [ ] limited wildlife [ ] moderate wildlife
[ ] heavy wildlife [ ] domestic animals [ ] other_____

Maps: attached where applicable

Amenities: [ ] restrooms [ ] shelter/meeting rooms [ ] medical available
[ ] parking, _____ # of spaces [ ] exercise area for dogs

Access Information: [ ] clear, easy to follow directions
[ ] within 30 minutes of show site (if applicable),
distance_____ and actual driving time_____
[ ] accessible prior to trial
[ ] maps from show site to trial (if applicable)

Type of area: Specify: national, state, county, municipal park:_____
Specify: state, private school:_____
Specify: urban, residential, rural_____ private/public access:_____

Limitations: Please specify in detail:_____

Site selection committee and date visited:_____

Judges Information

Signed judges agreements MUST accompany trial application

Judges Name | Address, city, state, postal code | phone, e-mail

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Judges compensation, please be specific: _____

Budget Information

Please attached a detailed projected profit/(loss) including but not limited to:

Site expense, postage, telephone, printing, transportation, lodging, scent articles, trophies, hospitality, food, beverages.

A preliminary premium list or information sheet with an entry form must also be included.

Completed applications must be submitted no later than six months (180 days) from the date of the trial to the National Trailing Chair.

AMERICAN BLOODHOUND CLUB
TRAILING TRIAL JUDGE'S AGREEMENT

JUDGES NAME		LEVELS APPROVED TO JUDGE	
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
HOME PHONE	ALTERNATE PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	

I, _____, hereby certify that I have been asked to judge at a Trailing Trial Event on (date)_____ , and I hereby agree to judge. I certify that I have been approved to judge the levels that I am assigned. I understand that all Trailing Events where I judge must adhere to the current American Bloodhound Club Trailing Trial Standard.

I understand that I must complete all required judges' sheets, maps, and related forms for each trail that I judge. I further understand that I am required to sign all official forms relating to the trails I judge, determine whether each bloodhound that I judge passes or fails the trail, map the path of the runner and dog on the trail map, and turn in all official paperwork before leaving the grounds of the event on the day I judge.

I further understand that the Trailing Standard requires:

a. that I might have to arrive at the trailing site 24 hours in advance;
b. that either my assigned judging partner or I must walk each trail with the runner and plot the trail on a map to be used;
c. that I ensure that each trail, exhibitor, and runner adhere to the requirements of the standard;
d. that I ensure that each exhibitor receives the proper trail briefing before the trail begins;
e. that I will not talk to the handler during the trail unless a) the dog gets more than 180 degrees off course, at which time I will direct the handler to stop and the handler may return to the original starting point once to try again or quit the trail and receive a fail; b) the dog has ended the trail correctly; c) the dog encounters a dangerous obstacle or situation; d) the dog becomes disqualified for any reason;
f. I must remain at least 25 feet behind the handler when at all possible;
g. I shall not assist the handler in any way other than to stop the trail due to disqualification, the dog is off trail by 180 degrees for the second time, or the time has elapsed.

Signature	Date

American Bloodhound Club
Income & Expense form (sample)

Income:		# trails	$ per trail	Total	
	EECT	4	$25.00	$100.00	
	MT	4	$65.00	$260.00	
	MTI	4	$75.00	$300.00	
	MTX	4	$100.00	$400.00	
					$1,060.00
	Banquet, lunches, breakfast				$650.00
	Auction				$500.00
	Donations				$200.00
			Total Income		$2,410.00
Expenses:					
	Judges travel				$400.00
	Judges accomodations				$800.00
	gauze, paper, pens				$50.00
	postage, telephone				$25.00
	Banquet, lunches, breakfast				$600.00
			Total Expenses		$1,875.00
					$535.00