

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.

AKC FIELD TRIALS, AKC HUNT TESTS, ECSCA WORKING CERTIFICATE TESTS HOST CLUB CRITERIA

In order to encourage and foster the continued involvement of the English Cocker Spaniel in American Kennel Club (AKC) Field Trials, AKC Flushing Spaniel Hunt Tests, and ECSCA Working Certificate Tests, and in the spirit of the Objects of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.:... *“to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection, ,and to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed...”* The ECSCA calls on its field-oriented fanciers and members to sponsor field events under its name.

The ECSCA is willing to assist new clubs and groups of members who are not yet (or may not be able to be) AKC field trial/hunt test sanctioned clubs to organize and run hunt events. In the effort to maintain quality events, the ECSCA has established the following criteria for any field event which will be approved as an ECSCA event.

All rules and regulations of the AKC pertaining to Spaniel Field Trials (Cocker/English Cocker) and/or Flushing Spaniel Hunt Tests must adhered to. For running ECSCA Working Certificate Tests, all ECSCA rules and regulations must be followed.

1. Any field trial or hunt test held under the name of the ECSCA must be applied for with the AKC Performance Events Department **over the signature of an ECSCA officer**. All pertinent information for a field trial must thus be submitted to the ECSCA Field Trial Committee chairperson for approval well in advance (four to five months) of any submissions to AKC. The FTC will send the approved application to the ECSCA Secretary for “ECSCA officer” signature and forwarding to AKC. Applications for ECSCA Hunt Tests and ECSCA Working Tests are sent directly to the ECSCA Secretary for “ECSCA officer” signature and further processing.
 - a) Working Tests may be held by any club or group, either for all flushing spaniels or for English Cocker only. ECSCA permission/sanction must be granted for Working Tests held by clubs or groups other than the EVSVA in order for competing English Cocker to earn the ECSCA WD or WDX titles. A letter of request should be sent to the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary well in advance of the event (four to five months) so that approval may be granted and judging forms sent out. (If the ECSCA Working Test judging form is not used, no working titles will be granted by the ECSCA.)
 - b) Other flushing breed parent clubs will need to be contacted for their approvals, rules/regulations, and judging forms.
2. Depending on the date of the field trial or hunt test, there may, or may not be, a fee (\$15 for field trials, though for AKC member clubs, the first trial of each year has no a fee; \$25 for the first Hunt Test, \$15 for each additional HT). This fee shall be the responsibility of the host club/group and a check for the correct amount, payable to AKC, should accompany the applications sent to the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary for the “ECSCA officer” signature, etc. A club which has held a field trial or field trials in any one year shall have first right to claim the corresponding date (see AKC corresponding date table) for its trial or event to be held the following year.
3. The hosting club/group must appoint a Trial/Test Secretary whose name will be submitted to AKC and/or the ECSCA. The Trial Secretary does not need to be a member of the ECSCA, but a Hunt Test Secretary does need to be a member of ECSCA. The Trial/Test Secretary shall contact the ECSCA Treasurer or Corresponding Secretary for an insurance rider for the field event property owners, and shall also contact the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary for the ECSCA’s chronological

date number (i.e. 25th, 26th, etc.) to be included on the premium list and in the catalog (Field Trials and Hunt Tests only).

4. The Trial/Test Committee shall be comprised of at least **FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ECSCA** and may include the Trial/Test Secretary if he/she is an ECSCA member. All members of the committee must agree to be at the event throughout its posted hours.
5. All judges must have completed the *Judges Affirmation Form* (AKC Directive 5/1/96) Judges should be aware of all AKC rules pertaining to Spaniel Field Trials or Hunt Tests, as well as information contained the ECSCA *Guide to Conduct and Judging of Cocker Spaniel Field Trials* (the “green book”). If judging a Working Test, judges must have read the ECSCA Guidelines for Working Tests on the reverse of the ECSCA Working Test Judging Form.
6. Gun Captains for AKC Field Trials must have graduated from the ESSFTA course or be approved according to the ECSCA program on Field Trail Gunning. All members of the gun team must have viewed the AKC video on “Gun Safety at Field Events”.
7. The Club/Group asking to host an ECSCA Field Event will agree in writing to the following conditions concerning the trial grounds, facilities and birds:
 - a) the field event will be held on suitable grounds that best demonstrate the cockers’ natural abilities and especially their willingness to enter cover;
 - b) areas will not be acceptable if they are accessible only to four-wheel drive vehicles;
 - c) the hosting club/group will provide (or contract to provide) lunch for all handlers, judges, workers and spectators;
 - d) adequate sanitary facilities are required, either access to a bathroom facility (i.e. clubhouse or lodge) or portable toilets shall be provided;
 - e) birds will be provided that are appropriate to the breed, with preference to pheasants; chukar or Hungarian partridge may be substituted; pigeons may be used for Hunt Tests or Working Tests only;
 - f) humane care must provided for live birds, there must be quick dispatching of injured birds, and proper disposal of dead birds.
8. A complete financial statement shall be maintained and submitted to the ECSCA Treasurer within ten (10) days of the end of the event, along with a check for the remaining funds to be maintained in a special account to be used to pay for the insurance for ECSCA field events and other field expenses.
9. The official logo of the ECSCA must be used on all documents involved with the event, i.e. the cover (or first) page of the premium list, the front cover and title pages of the catalog. (A ‘slick’ of camera-ready art of the logo in various sizes is available from the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary). ECSCA field trials and Hunt Tests are not identified as “Licensed by the American Kennel Club”; they are listed as “AKC Member Club”. No catalog is required for an ECSCA Working Test.
10. At the time copies of the premium list are sent to AKC, at least one copy must be sent to the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary for the ECSCA archives.
11. After the event, it is the responsibility of the Trail/Test Secretary to complete the required AKC materials in a timely fashion (seven days). A host club/group will pay any fines incurred for late submission. The completed originals of the ECSCA Working Test forms **MUST** be sent to the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary within seven days. A marked catalog of the Field Trial or Hunt Test **MUST** be sent to the ECSCA Corresponding Secretary for the archives.

We thank you for your interest and support of the English Cocker Spaniel in the field.