

The Utility Gundog Society Herts, Beds and Bucks Branch

Covid-19 Measures
Field Trial Season 2020 / 2021



The Utility Gundog Society, Herts, Beds and Bucks Branch (UGS HBB) hopes to hold Retriever Field Trials in the forthcoming season. In light of the Kennel Club's 'Operational Plan for the Resumption of Field Trials' and the relevant Government guidelines, the Committee has agreed to implement the measures set out below at all UGS HBB Field Trials.

These measures are not exhaustive. The Committee may at any point adapt these measures following the completion of a Field Trial specific risk assessment or as necessary to meet updated Kennel Club advice and/ or Government guidelines. Any such changes will be communicated in advance of the next Field Trial.

The Committee will be producing a Risk Assessment specific to each Field Trial, which will be displayed with The UGS HBB's public liability insurance documents.

General

- All attendees must provide their own face mask and hand sanitiser to use at appropriate times.
- The UGS HBB will keep a register of all attendees at its Field Trials ("Attendee Register"). The Attendee Register will contain key contact information reasonably required.
- Spectators and other non-essential attendees will not be allowed to attend The UGS HBB Field Trials this season, unless express permission has been obtained from the Field Trial Secretary in advance.
- A Covid Officer will be appointed by the Committee for each Field Trial. This person will be named on the card. It is anticipated that the Covid Officer will be the Chief Steward.
- Nobody may attend a Field Trial if they reside in an area covered by a local lockdown imposed by the Government.
- Everyone attending a Field Trial 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 Field Trial and should self-isolate in line with Government advice.
- There will be no physical contact between anyone attending a Field Trial. Appropriate social distancing will be required at all times, including during any announcements, in the gallery and when in line.
- Any individual not following Government guidelines, or who is deemed to be putting the wellbeing of others at risk by the appointed Covid Officer, will be asked to leave the Field Trial immediately.

- Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure there is enough space around parked vehicles to maintain social distancing.
- The UGS HBB will endeavour to ensure that attendees at Field Trials will be able to travel around the shoot either on foot or in their own vehicles. However, this will not be possible at some Field Trials, where it is necessary to use transport provided by the Host. In such circumstances, announcements will be made on the day as to the necessary arrangements and precautions to be taken.
- The UGS HBB will not provide any refreshments. All attendees are asked to provide their own refreshments.

Competitors

- The UGS HBB will only accept entries via FTMS or via email if a scanned entry form is sent to the relevant Field Trial Secretary. Payment of the entry fee (as applicable) must be made in advance by FTMS, by payment directly to The UGS HBB's bank account by BACS. The UGS HBB encourage members to sign up to FTMS and would like to note that its creator has very kindly agreed to allow all new members free membership for this season.
- If a competitor is handling more than one dog, an individual from their own household or 'bubble' must attend to hold their additional dog. Other competitors or helpers should not be used for this purpose. Competitors are required to notify the Field Trial Secretary, electronically in advance, of the appointed person's name, address and contact number for the Attendee Register.
- Competitors will not be required to wear a mask whilst handling a dog, but they should remain considerate when standing in close proximity to others.
- Competitors will be required to provide their own number for identification purposes. This does not need to be an armband but must be clearly visible to the judge when the competitor joins the line.
- Competitors should be aware that all communication, including the results of the draw and Field Trial card, will be undertaken electronically.
- Competitors will not receive a printed card on the day. The Field Trial Secretary will send an electronic copy of the card to each handler in advance of the Field Trial. Others attending the Field Trial may request an electronic copy from the Field Trial Secretary no later than 24 hours in advance. Updated cards will not be sent and it will be for each attendee to mark their own card with any changes announced on the day.
- Certificates will be sent by email to any award winners by the Field Trial Secretary. It will be for each award winner to notify the Field Trial Secretary of their correct email address at the conclusion of the Field Trial.

Judges

- Judge's books and copies of the current J Regulations must be provided by the judge and only handled by them. If requested in advance, the Field Trial Secretary can post a prepared book and copy of J Regulations to the judge. Any such request must be made in time to allow for time for preparation, posting and an appropriate quarantine period before opening.
- Each judge must provide their own stationery (pencils etc), which should not be shared with their co-judges.
- In accordance with the Kennel Club's Operational Plan, 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 of the trial.
- 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 and the judge's steward and/or game carrier and should be undertaken at the maximum distance possible. Hands must be sanitised between passing each bird. Gloves may be worn but would need to be changed and safely discarded following the passing of each bird to ensure no cross contamination.
- The Kennel Club are encouraging judges to submit online judge's evaluation forms, via the Kennel Club website. Hard copy evaluation forms will not be provided.

Officials and Helpers

- All equipment used (such as game bags, note books/ clipboard, pencils etc) must be provided by the individual. If this is not possible, gloves must be worn and equipment must be thoroughly wiped down with provided antibacterial wipes before and after use.
- When handling game passed from a competitor, a face mask should be worn by the judge and the judge's steward and/or game carrier and should be undertaken at the 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 the passing of each bird to ensure no cross contamination.
- Radios must be handled when wearing gloves and thoroughly cleaned using antibacterial wipes at the start and the conclusion of the Field Trial. Radios should not be swapped between users without being sanitised/ Earpieces must not be worn unless these are the individual's own.

Guns

- Shotguns must be handled by the owner only and cartridges must not be transferred between individuals.
- Guns must be mindful of the location of the gallery and the others in the line when shooting. They must follow the Steward of the Beat's safety instructions.