

COVID-19 Protocols for 2021 Working Tests & Events

Due to the current health climate we are advised that stringent rules need to be put in place to enable us to run competitions and other events.

Whilst accepting that the list below is onerous, please be assured that these rules are designed to promote a safe environment for people to compete in and are done with our members continued good health and wellbeing at the forefront of our mind.

These measures may be reviewed and amended as required.

- There will be a COVID-19 briefing by the Working Test Secretary or Event Organiser at the beginning of the day for everyone attending.
- The health & safety of everyone attending our Working Tests and other events is of paramount importance. The Club will use it's best endeavour's to make sure that events are as safe as possible for everyone involved. Your attendance, in whatever capacity is entirely at your own risk. You should consider risk factors relating to age and general health for yourself and your close contacts.
- It is important that you use your "social conscience" when attending our Working Tests or other events. Many of our helpers and other competitors may be at heightened risk or might live with someone who is, so please be considerate of them.
- Social distancing in line with prevailing Government guidelines must be practised at all times – this means no form of physical contact between anyone.
- Entry to our Working Tests will only be accepted either by FTMS or email. This is to negate the need to quarantine postal entries and any unnecessary contact with forms
- Payment to accompany entries must be by PayPal through FTMS or bacs transfer to the Club account at least 14 days before the date of the competition.
- There will be no acceptance of late entries under any circumstances.
- Attendees need to be kept to a minimum. Please only attend if you are competing, helping run the day or judging.
- The only exception to the above will be if you are running more than one dog in which case you should bring another person from your household to hold your additional dog. Please do not compromise either a Steward or another competitors safety by asking them to do this.
- If you are experiencing ANY symptoms of COVID-19 whatsoever please stay at home.
- If you have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19 please stay at home – please remember that many of our helpers may be in the "heightened risk" category and are helping so that others might compete.
- The Club cannot safely allow anyone to compete who has come into contact with anyone returning from a high COVID-19 risk country or from a region that is currently under special measures.
- Please be aware that should anyone develop symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days after the competition that you should advise the Working Test Secretary or Event Organiser. We will be obliged to inform NHS Track & Trace with the relevant contact details.
- You will only be allowed to compete, help or judge or take part if you have completed and signed a Health Declaration Form which will include family or household contact details for use in an emergency.

- Please bring your own lunch / refreshments. Regrettably we envisage that there will be no pre or post competition refreshments or raffles this year. This negates any handling of crockery, cutlery, food, drink or money on the day.
- Pre-prepared refreshment bags will be made available on the day only for Judges and helpers.
- Judges may provide their own pens and scoring books if they so wish.
- Pre-sanitized radio's, pens, scoring books, clipboards, pistols and shot will be available for the relevant people. These are not to be shared, handled or used by anyone else at all.
- To avoid paper distribution there will be no running cards – please print off your own copy should you require one.
- When competing, Judge's will explain the Test to you from a distance of at least 1 - 2 metres. There will be at least 2 metres distance between competitors in walked up situations. Judges will stand off of competitors to concur with Social Distancing protocols.
- You are welcome to wear a face mask and disposable gloves if you wish although it will not be mandatory. Government directives may change this.
- It is generally accepted that Dummies used in Working Test's and Training Days may have bacteria on them anyway by virtue of where they may have landed and also through being in a dog's mouth. Judges and helpers will be supplied with disposable gloves for handling of multiple dummies during the day from a COVID-19 perspective.
- Trophies, Rosettes and Certificates for Awards will have been pre-sanitised prior to the event.
- **For the safety and continued support of our Landowners without whom these days could not happen it is imperative that you clean up after your own dog and take your waste home with you without fail.**

Finally – if you attend one of our events this implies acceptance of the above. Please do not ask anyone to compromise on the safety rules and regulations. They have been put in place as much for our safety as they have been for yours. Asking for a favour relating to the above puts people in an awkward position if they are obliged to refuse.

Thank you for your understanding.

Ian Hamilton

Working Test Secretary

Utility Gundog Society Surrey, West Sussex & Hampshire

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