

1 January 2025 Dogs Australia Lure Coursing Rules Revision

Summary

This Summary has been put together to assist officials and triallers to note key changes made to the Lure Coursing Rule Book and to provide advice about transitional arrangements. Minor editorial amendments for clarity that do not change the meaning of the provisions are not covered in this Summary.

This document is for information and education purposes only. The official Lure Coursing Rule Book prevails in the event of any dispute.

All officials and triallers should read the new Lure Coursing Rule Book completely and carefully. Some restructuring of the Rule Book has occurred. This means that a provision may still be in the rules, but in a different place than it was previously. If you have questions that are not covered in this document, please approach your state/territory representative on the Dogs Australia Lure Coursing Committee.

Section 1 - Introduction

Editorial only

Section 2 – Decisions

Editorial only

Section 3 – Purpose, Field, Course Design and Equipment

- The course length is now to be recorded by the judge on a nationally consistent form, which is contained at Appendix D.
- There are a number of changes to requirements for the lure. These include the removal of the stipulation that the lure must be white, the addition of a requirement that the judge must approve the lure colours, and some technical requirements for the placement/spacing of the lures.

Section 4 – Eligibility for Dogs

- This section of the rules now contains information setting out the two streams (Sighthounds and Coursing Ability) and the classes offered within those streams. It also makes clearer the requirements for a dog to qualify for its Junior Courser title.
- A new provision has been inserted to provide that imported dogs who have a Field Champion award from a recognised affiliate such as the American Kennel Club or the FCI do not need to obtain the Junior Courser title before competing in Open.
- The Cirneco d'ell Etna has been added to the list of Sighthound Breeds
- The rules now provide that dogs can only compete in one class in an event. The exception to this provision is that a dog can run in a Qualifying Course as well as its class at an event.

Section 5 – Lure Coursing Sanctioned Event Requirements

This section is a merge of the old sections 4 and 6. There are a number of new and updated requirements, and triallers and officials should read this section of the rules carefully.

In summary:

- A new section has been included requiring that the protection and welfare of dogs be observed including that the health and safety of dogs must guide all officials and participants.
- Effective 1 January 2026 all Sighthounds competing in Open or Field Champion Classes must wear a muzzle. The rules also now require the affiliate to check that muzzles and blankets are correctly fitted.
- Any dog can now be required to wear a muzzle if it has a history of interfering with field equipment.
- Provisions for acceptable restraint (leashes etc) to get a dog onto the field have been updated. This section should be read carefully by all participants as there are now minimum requirements for items of restraint, the option of using two items, the option of having assistance to get a dog onto the field and a prohibition on using leashes to mimic other forms of restraint.
- A minimum score of 40 per run has been inserted in order for a dog to qualify in the scored classes.
- Only classes provided for in the national rules can be offered on a Sanctioned Event schedule
- Reasonable and necessary modifications are to be made for disabled competitors
- A prohibition on mobile phones being used on the field for purposes not related to the running of the Sanctioned Event has been included
- A requirement that all dogs entered in a Sanctioned Event run once before a second run is completed has been included
- Rules for how to assess qualifications if a Sanctioned Event is cancelled have been included
- Rules for recalls and handlers keeping dogs under control in the trial precinct have been included
- New requirements for handlers have been included including a minimum age of 16.

Section 6 – Excusals, Dismissals and Disqualifications

- New provisions have been inserted to provide that a dog being entangled in the lead at the slip and dogs running with any item of restraint on them will result in an excusal.

Section 7 – Lure Coursing Titles and Awards

- Clarifying amendments have been made to the QC provisions. A new provision has been inserted to provide that dogs who have a Field Champion award from a recognised affiliate such as the American Kennel Club or the FCI do not need to pass a Qualifying Course before competing in Open.
- The Veteran classes and their associated titles will no longer be offered after 1 January 2025. This amendment does not prevent any dog from competing in lure coursing and all dogs 15 months and over can still participate providing they are fit and completely sound. This amendment removes incentives to run dogs beyond the point at which they should be retired.

What happens to unused points that have been acquired in the Veteran stream?

The rules have been amended to remove the provision that prevented you from moving unused points back into the Open stream. You can apply unused points to further Open titles using the Open criteria OR you can use the qualification certificates as passes towards a Singles title. You cannot do this if the qualifications have already been used for a title application.

Section 9 – Officials

New provisions have been inserted as follows:

- The Huntmaster to familiarise themselves with the course prior to the event commencing
- The Huntmaster to stand in certain positions at the release
- The lure only to be driven by a recognised Lure Operator or trainee Lure Operator under supervision, and Member Body to publish lists of recognised Lure Operators
- The test dog to be a Sighthound or large fast coursing ability dog to ensure that the flow of the course is appropriately tested.

Section 9 – Conduct of the Sanctioned Event

- A new detailed provision setting out the steps to run a course has been included.
- Judges are now to have the option to attend the blanket draw and must be consulted about whether they wish to attend it.
- Sighthounds to run in braces as a default, and only to run in a trio to complete an odd numbered entry.
- Scoring to move to the FCI model where all 5 criteria are worth 20 points each.
- The lure not to be used to recall dogs outside the catching area.
- Judges with vision impairments can make reasonable colour changes to blankets (NOT draw changes).

Section 11– Glossary

New definitions for “Application for Title”, “Draw”, “Field”, “Fouling” and “Under Control” have been added.

Transitional Advice

There should be no requirements for any additional transitional provisions apart from those already inserted in the rules for qualifications received in the Veteran Classes.

Questions?

Ask your Representative on the Lure Coursing Committee. To get contact details for your Representative, contact your Member Body during business hours.