

Westward Gundog Society Covid Statement

General

Each individual entering has the primary responsibility for his or her own health and wellbeing and any risk factors relating to age or health, or health of close contacts, should be considered before entering an event.

Government guidelines on social distancing, in force at the time, must be adhered to whilst at the trial.

- All attendees must provide their own face mask and hand sanitiser to use at appropriate times
- The Society will keep a register of all attendees at each Field Trial for key contact information purposes
- Spectators and other non-essential attendees will not be allowed to attend WGS Field Trials this season, unless express permission has been obtained from the Field Trial Secretary in advance
- Our Covid Safety Officer will be Martin Ford and/or appointed Steward at each trial. Confirmation will be on each running card.
- No one may attend a Field Trial if they reside in an area covered by a local lockdown imposed by the Government/local authority
- 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 always be required, 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 immediately
- Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure there is enough space around parked vehicles to maintain social distancing
- WGS will endeavour to ensure that attendees at Field Trials are able to travel around the shoot either on foot or in their own vehicles. However, this may not be possible at some Field Trials. Where it is necessary to use transport provided by the host, announcements will be made on the day as to the necessary arrangements and precautions to be taken
- All attendees are asked to provide their own refreshments

Competitors

- The preferred entry will be via email sent to the Field Trial Secretary. Payment of the entry fee must be made in advance direct to the WGS bank account by the date advertised on the Field Trial Schedule/draw result. Postal entries will be accepted please post early to allow quarantine of post.
- If a competitor has more than one dog running, an appointed individual, ideally from their own household must be willing to hold their additional dog. Other competitors 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. If a second dog is given a run on the day, the dog will be held by the steward with their own sanitised lead.

- Competitors will not be required to wear a mask whilst handling a dog, but they should remain considerate when standing near 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 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
- Judges' books and copies of the current KC J Regulations must be provided by the judge and only handled by them. If requested in advance, the Field Trial Secretary can have a prepared quarantined book and copy of the KC J Regulations available.
- Each judge must provide their own stationery (pencils etc) which should not be shared with 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 judges' evaluation form, via the Kennel Club website. Hard copy evaluation forms will not be provided to judges

Officials and Helpers

- All equipment used (such as game bags, notebooks/clipboard, pencils etc) must be provided by the individual. If this is not possible equipment must be thoroughly wiped down with 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 may be worn but would need to be changed and safely discarded following the passing of each bird to ensure no cross contamination
- Radios allocated to helpers will have been thoroughly cleaned using antibacterial wipes and quarantined prior to the Field Trial. Radios should not be swapped between users without being sanitised. Earpieces must not be worn unless they 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 line when shooting. They must follow the Steward of the Beat's safety instructions