

## Lure Coursing Standards

MBDCA's Lure Coursing titles are intended to parallel those of the AKC. For more information about Lure Coursing regulations, consult the *Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials*, published by the American Kennel Club. Or they may be accessed online at [http://www.akc.org/events/lure\\_coursing/index.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/lure_coursing/index.cfm).

### Overview

The MBDCA offers this title to prove a dog's basic coursing instinct or hunting by sight ability. The dogs chase an artificial lure in an open field and are judged on their overall ability, speed, endurance, agility and how well they follow the lure. Since all dogs are judged individually, this is a noncompetitive sport.

Dogs must be at least one year old on the date of the test to run.

**Purpose:** The purpose of lure coursing tests is to offer dog owners a standardized gauge to measure their dog's coursing instinct. These trials preserve, develop and demonstrate the coursing skills inherent in most dogs.

**A live lure is never used.** A continuous loop or drag lure is used, and white plastic bags are attached to it to form the lure.

**Events:** MBDCA members may enter their dogs in lure coursing tests offered either by an MBDCA club or by other organizations which choose to allow mixed breed dogs to participate in their coursing events.

**Eligibility:** Only dogs registered with the Mixed Breed Dog Clubs of America and which are at least one year old on the day of the test are eligible for competition for the titles Mixed Breed - Junior Courser (MB-JC), Mixed Breed - Special Junior Courser (MB-SJC), Mixed Breed - Senior Courser (MB-SC), Mixed Breed - Master Courser (MB-MC), and Mixed Breed - Field Champion (MB-FC) (prefix). A dog which is a Field Champion and a Conformation Champion shall have the prefix MB-DC (Dual Champion).

Dogs shall run courses with dogs of similar size, prior to Best in Field runs; gender is immaterial, as dogs and bitches shall run with each other. Classes shall be as follows:

Class I: Dogs up to 12"

Class II: Dogs 12" up to 18"

Class III: Dogs 18” up to 24”

Class IV: Dogs over 24”

Owners/handlers are responsible for providing their own coursing blankets.

**Dogs may be muzzled. The Field Committee or Judge(s) may require that a dog be muzzled. No penalty or handicap shall apply to a dog for wearing a muzzle.**

**Risk:** The owner or handler entering a dog at a test does so at his own risk and assumes responsibility for any damage to facilities, persons, or other dogs caused by him or his dog.

The judge has the prerogative to exclude any dog from participating, if, in his judgment, the competition could be injurious to the dog. The judge also has the prerogative to require a veterinarian’s certification that the dog can safely course. The cost of such certification is the responsibility of the owner.

### **Lure Coursing Trial Committee**

**Field Committee:** The premium list shall list the names of all officials. In addition, the addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, if available, of the Chairman and Secretary shall be included. The Field Committee shall consist of no less than five individuals who shall fill the positions of:

- Field Chairman
- Field Secretary
- Field Clerk
- Hunt Master
- Lure Operator
- Inspection Committee
- Paddock Master

The Field Committee will ensure the efficient and orderly conduct of the event. The Committee is responsible for compliance with all of these regulations and has the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the running of the event, except for those matters coming under the sole jurisdiction of the judge(s).

The Committee shall be responsible for the duties enumerated in the following headings which may be delegated as appropriate.

Note: All members of the Field Trial Committee involved in any preliminary investigation, and/or official misconduct hearing must be members of the event-giving club.

### **Field Chairman**

(Must be a member of the host club)

1. Provides or secures the grounds for the event.
2. Shall appoint an inspection and measuring committee, which shall inspect all dogs.  
(See Inspection and Measuring Committee.)
3. Ensures that all equipment is in place and functioning correctly, including the proper colors and sizes of blankets.
4. Ensures that all awards are on hand.
5. Provides for cleanup of the grounds before, during and after the event.
6. Must individually approve anyone who is to be allowed in the judging area other than the officials of the event.
7. May at his/her discretion, excuse from the field for the day any dog that exhibits uncontrolled aggressive behavior toward any person or dog on the trial grounds, except dogs competing in the course then in progress. The Field Chairman may levy and collect a penalty fee of \$5.00 from the owner or his duly authorized agent of any dog that is loose on the field and not in competition at the time.
8. Will lay out the course according to the approved course plan.
9. Shall announce the final placements and qualifying scores at the end of the event.

### **Field Secretary**

(Must be a member of the host club)

1. Applies for a date to hold a trial and/or test.
2. Schedules judging assignments. Solicits in writing, and receives in writing, confirmation of those judging assignments prior to submitting the premium list for approval. Copies of these confirmations shall be made available to the Mixed Breed Dog Clubs upon request.
3. Prepares and mails out the premium lists and entry forms, after receiving official approval, and accepts entries.

**Note:** Performing roll call of entrants prior to the published time may be done only if roll call time is listed in the premium and cover letter (if one is used).

**Early acceptance may not begin prior to published trial hours.**

4. Entry fee is as printed in the premium. No deviations permitted.
5. May decline any entries for cause, but in each and every such instance, the club shall file good and sufficient reasons for doing so.
6. Shall decline any late, incomplete, unsigned, unpaid or conditional entries. Each entry must be completed in full and the information given on the form must be that which applies to that entered dog. Entry form must be signed by the owner or agent duly

authorized.

7. Provides the Field Chairman with a list of entered dogs for roll call.
8. Shall have a copy of the Rules and Regulations at the event.
9. Ensures that all completed record sheets and forms are forwarded to the MBDCA Awards Secretary within 10 days of the event.
10. Is responsible for the draw of dogs in competition.

### **Field Clerk**

1. Shall be stationed on the field and shall promptly collect the score sheets from the Judges upon completion of judging of each course.
2. Posts the scores on the record sheets. The Field Clerk(s) shall notify the Judge of a mathematical error and said error shall be corrected and initialed by the Judge. The Field Clerk(s) shall not change any Judge's scores.
3. Posts preliminary scores of each class before finals, final scores before runoffs and Best of Class scores, and Best of Class scores before Best in Field runs.

### **Hunt Master**

1. Will be in complete charge of all dogs and handlers.
2. Shall call up each new course as the previous course is completed.
3. Will ensure that a handler only handles one dog in each course.
4. Is responsible for checking that blankets are tied and secured.
5. Is responsible for checking that slip leads are in the slip position.
6. Must explain release and retrieval procedures, before each preliminary course.
7. Shall stand in close proximity to, but not in front of, the handlers and dogs.
8. The lure must be positioned in front of the dogs and in the direction in which it will travel before the signal is given to start.
9. As the dogs are facing the lure, the dogs shall be placed as follows:  
**YELLOW** on the left,  
**PINK** in the middle or to the right in braces,  
**BLUE** on the right in trios.
10. Shall question, in the following order, the Judges, Lure Operator and handlers saying "Are you ready," and after affirmative answers, the course is begun.
11. Provides a hand signal to the Lure Operator to start the lure.
12. Gives the signal "Tallyho!" to release the dogs and the signal "Retrieve your dogs" when appropriate. Dogs should not be slipped before the sound of the "T" in "Tallyho." Will notify the Judge and handler of any pre-slip at the end of the course. If the Hunt Master fails to notify the Judge of a pre-slip, then for all intents there has been no pre-slip, but the Judge shall have the prerogative to question the Hunt Master if the release seems questionable.
13. Will cause the lure to be stopped in a potentially dangerous situation and signal the handler(s) to retrieve his or her dog(s) when appropriate or when necessary for the

safety of the dogs.

14. Will instruct the owner(s) to retrieve the dog(s) if the dog(s) does not leave the start or returns to the start during the course.
16. Will inspect the lure before each course and replace if needed.
17. Shall notify the Trial Chairman of any dog which appears lame.
18. Shall immediately inform the handlers when a course is called a no-course or a course in which a dog is dismissed or disqualified.
19. Shall inform the Judge(s) of any observed aggressive behavior during the course.

### **Lure Operator**

1. Will make at least one pilot run of the lure before the first course of the day and again upon reversing or changing the course layout.  
**Note:** A single dog may be used to run the course on the pilot run(s).
2. Starts the lure at the signal from the Hunt Master and stops it at least 20 yards before the lure machine reaches the final pulley.
3. After the course begins will attempt to keep the lure 10 to 30 yards in front of the lead dog at all times. In the event a dog becomes unsighted, the lure must continue in the originally planned direction until completion of the course.
4. Will stop the lure on a signal from the Hunt Master or Judge, but shall automatically stop the lure any time a dog becomes entangled in the string or when a potentially dangerous situation may develop.
5. Shall not operate the lure for any stake where any dog which he owns or co-owns or is owned or co-owned by a member of his immediate family or household is entered.
6. The same lure operator shall operate the lure throughout an entire stake.

### **Inspection and Measuring Committee**

1. The Inspection and Measuring Committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, and fitness to compete at roll call.
2. Any entry found to be unfit to compete or lame shall be barred from competition and entry fees shall be returned.
3. A dog may be required to be measured if its height is in question. A member of the Field Committee or a Judge may question a dog's class entry. The procedure for measuring is as follows:
  1. The dog being measured shall be placed on a flat level surface that is not slippery. The handler shall position the dog at the Inspection Committee's discretion. The dog shall be in a naturally alert position, with the head up but not stretched upward, and with its feet well under it and its forelegs vertical as viewed both from the front and side.
  2. A member of the Inspection Committee shall first determine the highest point over the shoulder blades with one hand, and shall then pass the measuring wicket over the dog from the rear with the other hand, and place the wicket

so the cross piece comes down directly on the highest point over the shoulder blades. The wicket should not be placed on the neck in front of the shoulder or on the spinal column behind the shoulder blades. At least two members of the Inspection Committee must agree that a dog is within or outside the height limits of its class.

3. Handlers will be allowed only two minutes to position their dogs in a proper standing position. Dogs that cannot be made to stand in the proper position for measurement within the allotted time will not be allowed to course, and their entry fees will be refunded.

### **Paddock Master**

1. Shall insure proper dogs in the course following the course on the line are in the paddock area or accounted for, and properly blanketed.

### **Field Committee**

1. Field Committees may make additional regulations for the government of their events, as long as these rules do not conflict with any Rules and Regulations of the MBDCA. Such additional regulations shall be printed and distributed with the premium list and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the Rules and Regulations of the MBDCA.
2. The decisions of the Field Committee shall be final, conclusive and binding on all parties, in all matters occurring on the day of the event, except for matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Judge(s). Such Committee decisions must be made in accordance with the general regulations and standard procedures that apply to the event being held.
3. The decisions of the Judges in all matters relating to the course are final.
4. If it becomes necessary to replace an advertised Judge after the opening of the event and no person on the eligible Judges list is available as a replacement, the Field Committee may select a person whose name is not on the eligible Judges list provided such person is in good standing with the MBDCA. The Field Committee must announce and post the name of any substitute Judge before the draw for the stake at which he is to officiate.
5. If a Judge is unable to complete a judging assignment, a replacement may be substituted. The Field Committee shall notify the exhibitors of the substitution. All of the scores of the Judge who was replaced shall stand as recorded.
6. If a Judge is substituted, the owner or handler of a dog entered in that stake has the option of withdrawing the dog before the draw and receiving an entry fee refund. If, after the draw, a Judge must be substituted, no refunds shall be made.
7. In the event that an unadvertised Lure Operator must be used, the Field Committee must select a substitute Lure Operator and must announce the name of that substitute before the draw for the stake at which he is to operate the lure. If an

unadvertised Lure Operator is used, the owner or handler of a dog entered in that stake has the option of withdrawing the dog before the draw and receiving an entry fee refund. If, after the draw, a Lure Operator must be substituted, no refunds shall be made. The advertised Lure Operator shall make every effort to complete his assignment.

8. All official protests on the day of the event shall be handled as specified under Violation Procedures.

## **Judging**

Judges must be approved by the MBDCA to judge MB Lure Coursing events.

**Number of:** Although local lure coursing clubs may require more than one Judge for each event, dogs coursing for titles through MBDCA need be evaluated by only one Judge per event.

**Handling:** No dog owned by a Judge, or a member of the Judge's immediate family, shall be entered in a stake being officiated by the Judge.

**Walking the Course:** All Judges, before beginning their assignments, must walk the course and verify with the Field Chairman that an approved course is properly set up and free from hazards.

**Discussion During Judging:** While on the field during his judging assignment, no Judge shall discuss anything relative to his judging assignment with any handler or agent.

**No-Course:** The Judge has the prerogative to call a No-Course whenever he cannot fairly score the course including the instances when dogs are interfered with or disrupted, a dog catches the lure, the lure operator fails to maintain the 10 to 30 yard limit, or the dogs become unsighted or overrun the lure.

**Scoring:** Scoring is based on these qualities:

Overall Ability . . . . .	10 points
Follow . . . . .	10 points
Speed . . . . .	10 points
Agility . . . . .	10 points
Endurance . . . . .	<u>10 points</u>
Maximum Total . . . . .	50 points

Penalties from 1 to 5 points are assessed for pre-slips or course delays. The pre-slip and/or course delay penalty shall be carried over in the case where a no-course is called on the course in progress; repeated course delay penalties are cumulative.

A dog failing to run receives a score of zero. A dog with a zero score in the preliminary course shall be dropped from the competition for the day and shall not be considered as having been in competition when computing points.

A qualifying score is defined as having earned 50% of the total points possible.

**Excusals:** A Judge may excuse a dog which:

1. Courses other dogs rather than the lure
2. Delays the course
3. Is unfit to compete
4. Has a handler or owner that interferes with the course in progress.

Excused dogs are considered as having been in competition when computing points.

**Dismissals:** Dogs shall be dismissed from the field by a Judge for the day for interfering (aggressively or playfully) with the course of another hound. If two judges are used, only one judge is necessary to excuse or dismiss a dog.

Growling and barking, in and of itself, does not constitute grounds for dismissal.

Dogs dismissed are considered as having been in competition when computing points.

**Disqualifications:** Dogs shall be disqualified, by the Judge, for an aggressive attack toward another dog on the field. Barking and/or growling, in and of itself, does not constitute aggression. If two Judges are being used, they must be in agreement on the disqualification, otherwise the dog is dismissed. A dog should not be disqualified for defending itself when attacked.

Disqualified dogs are considered as having been in competition when computing points.

**Reruns:** If a dog is excused, dismissed or disqualified, the course may be called a no-course. The remaining dog(s) may be run in a remaining course, if one exists, or be given the opportunity to rerun alone and be scored.

Judges may score some dogs in a course and rerun other dogs from the same course. If a Judge feels confident that a dog that has failed to complete a course can be fairly scored, the Judge may score the dog without a rerun.

Judges shall immediately inform the Hunt Master when a course is a no-course or when a dog is excused, dismissed or disqualified. Judges must state on the Judge's Sheet the specific reason for excusal, dismissal or disqualification. When two judges are used, both Judges must agree to disqualify a dog.

After a course has been judged and scored and the marked sheets turned over to the Field Clerk, only a Judge can change his/her final score and only in the case of a mathematical or blanket color error.

The Judge's decisions upon all matters relating to the course and the merits of dogs are final.

### **Course Plans**

Exact layouts including approximate distances between turns, locations of hills, gullies, fences, etc., shall be printed in event notices. No course shall be less than 600 yards.

### **Disqualification and Reinstatement**

#### **Disqualification:**

1. A dog's privilege to compete will be immediately withdrawn upon disqualification.
2. A dog's privilege to compete will be immediately withdrawn if it is dismissed twice within six (6) trials.
3. The MBDCA will inform, in writing, the individual(s) whose dog has had its privilege to compete withdrawn, and cite the reason given.

**Reinstatement:** The privilege to compete may be reinstated upon completion of:

1. A minimum of a calendar month of retraining, as appropriate.
2. Certification in writing by two (2) Judges stating the dog is running cleanly, with other dogs of the same class. The dog in question may not be owned or co-owned by the Judges or their immediate family members.
3. A letter and the certification must be sent by the owner to the MBDCA.
4. The MBDCA has 30 days to reach a decision to reinstate the dog.

A dog disqualified a second time is not eligible for reinstatement.

## Titles

**Mixed Breed – Junior Courser:** A dog running alone which has completed a 600 yard course with a minimum of four turns with enthusiasm and without interruption shall receive a certification from a judge. Upon receipt of a second certification by a different judge, the dog shall be awarded the title of “Mixed Breed – Junior Courser” (MB-JC). The second run need not be on a different date than the first run, but each run must be approved by a different judge.

**Mixed Breed – Special Junior Courser:** This class is open to dogs which do not have their MB-JC and, by reason of handicap, cannot complete the standard course. A dog may course for this title by successfully completing the requirements for the MB-JC, except that the course is 300 yards long and includes 2 turns.

**Mixed Breed – Senior Courser:** A dog which has attained the title MB-JC and which has received qualifying scores in four different lure coursing tests in which it was running with at least one other dog shall be awarded the title “Mixed Breed – Senior Courser” (MB-SC).

**Mixed Breed - Master Courser:** A MB-SC which has earned 25 additional qualifying scores after earning the MB-SC title shall be awarded the title “Mixed Breed – Master Courser” (MB-MC).

**Mixed Breed – Field Champion:** A dog which has obtained 15 Championship points; included in these 15 points must be two first placements with three points or more, under two different Judges or judging panels and at least one point must be earned in competition with a dog of the same class; this dog shall be awarded the prefix “Mixed Breed – Field Champion” (MB-FC).

**Mixed Breed – Dual Champion:** A Field Champion may be designated as a Dual Champion (MB-DC prefix) if it has also been recorded as a Conformation Champion.

## Schedule of Points

### First Place

A dog will score three (3) points for each dog it is running against; *i.e.*, if four (4) dogs are running in a Class, the dog that receives First Place will accrue nine (9) points towards its FC.

**Second** and **Third Place** points will be awarded based on First Place points, as follows:  
Second Place dog earns 2/3 the points of the First Place dog  
Third Place dog earns 1/2 the points of the Second Place dog

For example:

If First Place dog earns	9	6	3
The Second Place dog earns	6	4	1
The Third Place dog earns	3	2	X

**Note:** When point computation results in a fractional score, round up to the next whole number; *i.e.*; if a dog's point value is 1.33, round up to 2.

## Glossary of Terms

**Blanket:** A solid colored cloth worn by each dog during competition. Blankets must be of sufficient size and brightness to be easily seen at a distance. At present, the colors are (all bright) yellow, pink, and blue.

**Course:** Consists of one, two or three dogs pursuing a lure of either mechanical or electrical drive over a selected course pattern. The course begins after the handlers' affirmative response to "Are you ready?" and ends when all the dogs in the course are under the handlers' physical restraint.

**Course Delay:** A course delay shall include delays caused by dogs whose handlers delay the start of the course, dogs that break away from and avoid their handlers prior to the "Are you ready?" signal, and dogs that avoid their handlers after the command "Retrieve your dogs."

**Draw:** A random drawing determining the order in which the dogs will run.

**Household:** Includes those persons that comprise a unit living together in the same shared dwelling.

**Immediate Family:** Includes siblings, parents, and grandparents, spouse and children.

**Overrun:** Failure of the Lure Operator to maintain a 10 to 30 yard distance in front of the lead dog, resulting in the lead dog passing or overtaking the lure.

**Pre-Slip:** Where a dog is slipped from its leash before the "Tallyho!" is sounded by the Hunt Master.

**Qualifying Score:** Fifty percent (50%) of the total possible combined points from the preliminary and final courses.

**Roll Call:** Will begin after the published trial hours and prior to the published roll call time, as per the premium list. Will end for each height class when the draw for that class has begun.

**Runoff:** A competition to determine a final placement.

**Stake:** Separation of entries in class, based on specific qualifications.

**Trial Hours:** From one hour before Roll Call until ribbons are presented for Best In Field.

**Wicket:** A measuring device used to determine class height disqualification.