

ECSCA FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE MISSION
(Revised 11/20/2014)

OVERVIEW

The Field Trial Committee is a working committee of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.; it reflects the mission of this Club and is made up of members of the ECSCA. The Field Trials Committee has the ability to recommend to the ECSCA Board various approvals or revisions to matters concerning English Cocker Spaniel field trials. **The committee represents the interests of ECSCA club members and ECSCA clubs that are involved in field trials with their English Cocker Spaniels. The Club supports activities for all pure-bred, AKC registered, English Cocker Spaniels.**

The objectives of the ECSCA club shall be:

To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred English Cocker Spaniels and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;

To define precisely the true type of the breed, and to urge members and breeders to accept that standard of the breed as approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which English Cocker Spaniels shall be judged;

To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to promote educational activities pertaining to the English Cocker Spaniel;

To encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, field events, obedience trials, hunting tests and tracking tests;

To conduct sanctioned matches and specialty shows, field events, obedience trials, hunting tests, tracking tests, and other performance events under the rules of The American Kennel Club; and

To encourage the organization of independent local English Cocker Spaniel Specialty Clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of The American Kennel Club.

Reprinted from Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the ECSCA, Inc.

ECSCA FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

To foster and promote the English Cocker Spaniel working in the field through providing guidance and assistance in (a) running field trials, and associated educational functions (judging, gunning, and training seminars or workshops), and (b) promoting the merits and advantages of the English Cocker Spaniel as a companion hunting dog.

To foster and promote English Cocker Spaniel Field Trial competition for English Cocker Spaniels (and Cocker Spaniels) at local levels with the various AKC stakes and other stakes described by the sponsoring club as approved by the American Kennel Club.

To foster, promote, and assist in the organization of an annual ECSCA National Cocker Championship Field Trial (NCC FT).

To review proposals to hold the annual ECSCA NCC FT and select the proposal to be presented/recommended to the ECSCA Board for approval.

To monitor and maintain the method for selection of judges for the annual ECSCA NCC FT.

To assist in the selection and approval for the courses to be used at the annual ECSCA NCC FT .

To produce a report on the ECSCA NCC FT shortly after its end for the ECSCA Board of Directors to be published in various venues.

To provide guidance and direction to other AKC clubs which hold, or which are seeking to hold field trials for English Cocker Spaniels.

To regulate and approve the calendar for English Cocker Spaniel (/Cocker Spaniel) Field Trials (for non-AKC member clubs) and associated events so as to assist in promoting a strong level of competition and entries.

To issue the parent club approval letter for the non-AKC member club's field trial dates for licensed English Cocker Spaniel (/Cocker Spaniel) field trials as required by the AKC.

To develop and support a regionalization system for both FTC committee members and for English Cocker Spaniel field trials.

To develop and promote educational programs pertaining to field training, judging, and gunning safety for those persons and clubs sponsoring English Cocker Spaniel field trials.

To assist in identifying individuals who will serve as lecturers and/or mentors to provide training advice and guidance concerning field work with English Cocker Spaniels.

Develop programs to educate and inform the club and the public about the qualities of the English Cocker Spaniel as a personal hunting companion.

To produce an annual report concerning all field activities of English Cocker Spaniels, noting the numbers of various field titles, number of events run, and other items of interest for publication in various club publications.

To develop criteria for the qualification of field trial judges for AKC approved English Cocker Spaniel (/Cocker Spaniel) field trials.

To publicize field trials in ECSCA publications and periodically recommend the revision of ECSCA publications and web site concerning field trials.

To designate a FTC committee member each year to serve as liaison between the FTC and the ECSCA NCC FT for each year.

To conduct an annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the annual ECSCA NCC FT.

To maintain communication on a regular basis with the ECSCA Board of Directors.

ECSCA FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The committee members are appointed by the ECSCA Board of Directors upon recommendation of the FTC Chairperson or other members of the ECSCA Board of Directors. It is a committee of a total of seven (7) persons, three (3) regional representatives and four (4) at large representatives. The Chairperson shall be selected from the committee members.

Regionalization will be very difficult, as the population of active members with field trial interest is not well distributed. The FTC decided that a review of the regions and membership should take place in 2 years to decide if additional modifications are necessary.

East Region: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia

Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee

West Region: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Texas, Kansas, California, Oklahoma

Anyone meeting the criteria set forth later in this paper should be free to indicate their willingness to work on this committee. Each region will ask for nominations, these nominations will be sent to the Field Trial Chairperson. The nomination shall include the name of an ECSCA Member in good standing and meeting the criteria for being a member of the FTC along with a brief Bio. A consensus with the rest of the FTC will determine if the nominee meets the requirements for appearing on the ballot for Regional Representative. A vote shall take place by region; the person receiving the most votes will represent his region for the next two years. Members at large will be nominated in the same fashion as the Regional Representatives but on the opposite year.

Persons moving or changing to a different residence in a different FTC geographical region shall be considered living in that new region when an address change is posted with the ECSCA Secretary or Treasurer. This address change must be received by the ECSCA Secretary or Treasurer within 45 days of new permanent residency.

Persons having more than one residence will vote in the region of the address that is recorded with their ECSCA membership.

The length of continuous appointment for the FTC committee membership should be two years with a reappointment of an additional two years (a maximum of 4 continuous years). A person may be reappointed after a year off the committee. The Regional Representatives should be changed/reappointed on the even years and the At Large Representatives on the odd years. The Chairperson has traditionally been a FTC Member that has been in office for at least 1 year and is appointed/reappointed for 1 year by the Board at the January ECSCA Board Meeting.

The Chairperson will be responsible to notify the ECSCA President and Corresponding Secretary of the list of potential committee persons prior to the January Board Meeting.

The ECSCA Corresponding Secretary will serve an ex-official member of the committee; 1) Official signature for the ECSCA Field Trials, 2) Retain and maintain AKC/ECSCA field trial results and titles, 3) Handle official ECSCA correspondence as requested by the FTC.

CRITERIA FOR ECSCA FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The person shall desire to serve for the betterment of the breed (English Cocker Spaniel) and the growth of the field trial activities for the breed (English Cocker Spaniel).

Any ECSCA member that is (or has been) working, training, or handling an English Cocker Spaniel for field trials can be on the committee.

Regional Representatives must live in the region they are to represent. At Large Representatives can be from any area of the country.

The person shall have at least five (5) years experience in field trial training or hunting with an English Cocker Spaniel. The person shall have experience in organizing/running English Cocker Spaniel field trials.

The person shall be comfortable with use of e-mail and conference calls as the basic committee correspondence and communication vehicle.

Regional Representatives who move from one region to another:

- a) shall be considered as resigning/vacating their position,
- b) the position will remain vacant until the next election period if less than 4 months remain in the Representative's term or until the next election period,
- c) a special election to fill the position will be conducted, if more than 4 months remain in the vacated position term.