

Houndsmen Kennel Club

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HEAD TO HEAD COON RULES

General Rules

- a) The draw must be done in public. If there are more than 1 dog entered in the hunt by same owner, they should be split into separate casts when possible
- b) No alcohol, illegal drugs or firearms are allowed at any HKC hunts
- c) HKC is not responsible for any thefts, accidents or losses incurred at any HKC hunt
- d) All handlers must be registered with HKC to compete in hunt
- e) All handlers under 13 years old must be accompanied by an adult
- f) All deadlines are to be strictly enforced
- g) No entries will be accepted after the listed time
- h) No scorecards will be accepted after the listed time
- i) HKC has the right to refuse any membership on entry into a hunt
- j) **To receive cast win towards titling dog, the win must be with plus points. EXCEPTION Every club has the option to advertise hunt as amended to advance circle and minus point cast winners following these rules 1) Must advertise hunt as H.K.C. hunt rules modified to allow minus and circle point cast winners. 2) The circle point and minus point cast winners will not receive cast win towards titling dog(also has to be advertised)**

1) Point System

- a) **Strike points** none in the head to head hunts
- b) **Tree points** are 125 points for first tree, 75 points for second tree. Any dogs declared treed at the same time the tree points shall be divided if on the same tree. **After 2 mins dogs can only be treed for 25 points and after 3 mins the tree is dead**

2) Points will be plus

- a) When dogs strike and tree a coon and coon is seen by majority of cast or by a non-hunting judge
- b) If the dog catches the coon on the ground and is declared treed will receive plus points on strike and circle points on tree

3) Points will be minus

- a) If dog is declared treed, after three minutes no additional dog can be treed on that tree. Any dog that is treeing on that tree that was not declared treed before the three minutes they will receive minus tree points if coon is seen
- b) When dog is declared treed and the majority of the cast or non-hunting judge can plainly see that there is no coon tree point will be minus

- c) Once a dog is declared tree at least one of the treed dogs must bark at least once every two minutes until the cast arrives at the tree. If the two is put on the treed dog(s) and they don't bark those dogs shall receive minus points on the tree and the tree will be reopened
- d) **Youth casts and Ladies casts only(must be a ladies only cast or a youth only cast)** Any dog that trees off game or is seen running off game shall be misused, except at the world hunt or state hunt where they will be scratched.
- e) If dog comes into tree after judge arrives and coon is seen the dog will receive next available tree points and then minused

4) Circle points

- a) when dog strikes and trees on a tree or hole in the ground where there could be a coon, but the judge does not see it
- b) if there is a split on the cast on whether to plus or circle a tree

6) Deleted points

- a) if half the cast votes to circle and half the cast votes to minus the tree the points will be deleted
- b) if dogs are still trailing when time expires the points will be deleted
- c) if time out is called by judge because dogs are in danger points shall be deleted

7) Dogs will be scratched

- a) for fighting or attempting to fight during any point of the hunt
- b) handling your dog without the judge's permission
- c)for failing to hunt for 15 consecutive minutes
- d)any female dog smelling strong enough to attract other dogs, or any dog that is bad about bothering other dogs
- e) for running livestock includes poultry
- f) anyone that fights or attempts to start a fight while on cast or at hunt. Shall be scratched and report sent to HKC to take further action
- g) if a handler physically abuses their dog
- h) for toning or shocking dog during hunt
- i)any dog or handler delaying the cast for 1 hour
- j)**For running or treeing off game, except ladies and youth (see rule 3 d.)**

8) Judges

- a) all judges shall be picked by the hosting club or HKC. Club has the option to have non hunting judges

- b) Judge shall keep the cast informed of the scores and times during the hunt
- c) judge will keep a pace that can be handled by all members of the cast
- d) the judge will be the first to the tree

9) Recasting dogs

- a) when dogs are pulled from a scored tree, they must be walked a maximum of one minute at which time the handler has the option of recasting their dog, if they choose so they must do it immediately. If not, they can't recast their dog until the next tree is scored
- b) the judge will tell you when to cast your dogs
- c) any handler cutting dog that goes hunting before the judge says shall be scratched
- d) if there are dogs declared treed but not barking the 2 min rule shall be applied and if the dogs have left the tree all dogs must be recast

10) Handlers

- A) all owners and handlers must be registered with HKC
- b) lights are to be used for walking only, except when specified by the judge
- c) the handler must be on the grounds when the casts are drawn or will be scratched
- d) all handlers shall know the rules and follow them
- e) handler shall only call their dog
- f) handler shall control their dog while on leash
- g) handler will listen to judge and follow their instructions on when to handle and cast dogs
- h) handler will be scratched for attempting to take a coon

11) Electronic devices

- a) thermals and infrared devices can be used but the coon must be seen with naked eye to be scored
- b) to be called struck or treed the dog must be heard by the majority of the cast or the non-hunting judge, they cannot be struck or treed solely by an electronic device
- c) handhelds or locating devices for tracking only may be carried during the hunt
- d) collars that can be used to tone or shock may be on the dog during the hunt, but the transmitter must be left in the truck

12) Scorecards

- a) scorecards must be completed in the woods, unless a question arises in which case a MOH/HD can change the scorecard at the club
- b) handlers signature verifies the hunting time, and scores are correct, and must be signed before bringing back to the club

14) Complaints or Questioning a judge

- a) handler must first file a complaint with the judge in the field, the call can be voted on by the cast, the majority of the cast vote will overturn the judges call. If the handler still isn't happy with the call a question will be put on the card and the question/complaint will go before the MOH/panel or hunt director. If the handler with the question is wrong there is a \$50.00 fee, if the handler wins the question there is no fee (\$25.00 for the club and \$25.00 to H.K.C.)

call or go get the master of hounds and request a rival judge. The fee for this is \$100.00. If the coon is seen the handler is to pay nothing and the other handlers are to pay \$100.00 each and are scratched from the hunt. If the handler is wrong they are to pay the \$100.00 and are scratched from the hunt. After 3 times of being scratched for this offence the handler is suspended for 6 months. (\$50.00 goes to the rival judge and \$50.00 to H.K.C.)

THESE RULES ARE FINAL AND WILL NOT BE CHANGED FOR THE 2022 YEAR. ANY CHANGES WILL BE ADDRESSED AND VOTED ON AT THE 2022 WORLD HUNT AND WILL GO INTO AFFECT ON JANUARY 01,2023

