

Houndsmen Kennel Club

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General Rules:

A) The draw must be done in public. If there is more than 1 dog entered in the hunt by the same owner, they should be split into separate casts when possible. The Judges for each cast should remain in the club house to receive the scorecard with handlers getting their hounds ready to hunt.

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 dogs must be registered with HKC to compete in a hunt.

E) All Handlers 13 years old and under 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. Unreadable, illegible incomplete score cards will not be accepted and can result in the entire cast being scratched. The only exception to incomplete, unsigned cards will be if there are questions being brought back to the Master of Hounds.

I) HKC has the right to refuse any membership for entry into a hunt.

J) All two dog casts must have a Non-Hunting Judge.

K) All cast wins are plus points only. (If a money hunt it is the club's discretion on how to pay the money out, not limited to plus point only pay outs)

L) Youth hunts will be broken into three age groups.

1) 5 years through 10 years age group will have Non-Hunting Judge. The child's parent, Judge, Guide and or adult accompanying them will be allowed to help them call their dogs and teach them the rules.

2) 11 years through 14 years age group the Judge and/or Guide will only be allowed to

help them if they don't understand the rules, etc. Judge should be non-hunting if available.

3) 15 years to 17 years age group will hunt under normal HKC rules.

M) Shine time for tree is 5 minutes. No Handler will shine the tree until directed by Hunt Judge to do so.

N) Dogs are not to be handled at the tree until directed by Hunt Judge has directed them to do so.

O) All HKC hunts are to be advertised a minimum of 2 weeks prior to hunt. Any non-advertised hunts may be disqualified from hunt and points being accepted by HKC.

P) Clubs may not limit the number of participants in the hunts. Each Handler can only handle one dog per hunt.

Q) Cast should always remain together at all times. In the case of a split tree, the cast will go to the first dog treed.

R) The cast is to return to the club all together after the hunt is over. Leaving a Handler in the woods alone will result in the entire cast being scratched. Members of the cast should call the Master of Hounds or Hunt Director to make the decision on how the cast should be proceed with returning the scorecard to the clubhouse before leaving the woods if all cast members cannot retrieve their dogs and return to the clubhouse before the deadline.

1. Point System:

a) Strike Points:

b) 100 points for first strike

c) 75 points for second strike

d) 50 points for third strike

e) 25 points for fourth strike

A) After the first minute dog must be struck in, on or before the third bark.

i) First offense: after not declaring dog struck, Judge will issue a warning and dog must be struck on the next bark. If not struck on the next bark dog will be minused the next available strike position.

ii) Second offense: Dog will be minused the next available strike points, and dog must be struck on the next bark or be scratched.

iii) Third offense: Dog will be scratched

2. Tree Points:

- a) 125 points for first tree
- b) 75 points for second tree
- c) 50 points for third tree
- d) 25 points for fourth tree
- e) Any dogs declared treed at the same time the tree points shall be divided if on the same tree. After 2 minutes dogs can only be treed for 25 points and after 3 minutes the tree is dead.

3. Points will be plus:

- a) When dogs strike and tree a raccoon and the raccoon is seen by majority of cast or by a Non-Hunting Judge.
- b) If the dog catches the raccoon on the ground and is declared treed and will receive plus points on the strike and circle points on the tree.

4. Points will be minus:

- a) If a 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 strike points if raccoon is seen.
- b) When a dog is declared treed and the majority of the cast or Non-Hunting Judge can plainly see that there is no raccoon both strike and tree point will be minus.
- c) Once a dog is declared treed 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 minute 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 ladies only cast, or a youth only cast) Any dog that trees off game or is seen running off game shall be minused points. With the exception being at the World Hunt or State Hunt where they will be scratched.
- e) Babbling: Dogs that are struck and determined to be babbling will be minused strike points. Dogs that are struck inside the first minute must carry out the track that they

were on. If not points will be minus points (Judge's discretion)

f) If dog comes into tree after judge arrives and the raccoon is seen the dog will receive next available tree points and then minused.

g) If dogs struck don't continue to bark, the six can be put on them and if they don't bark within the six minutes, they will be minused.

h) If dog is treed (Judge's discretion) to put the six on them. If dog is not treed in the six minutes and found to be treed will be minused strike and first available tree points.

5. Circle Points:

a) When a dog strikes and trees on a tree or hole in the ground where there could be a raccoon, 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 points. 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 the Judge because the dogs are in danger, points will 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 a cast or at a hunt. The Handler will be scratched, and a report sent to HKC to take further action.

g) Any Owner or Handler that physically abuses their dog.

h) For toning or shocking their dog during the hunt.

i) Any Handler found to be using tracking equipment for calling their dog at any point in the hunt. Dog will be scratched, and Handler may be barred for future hunts.

j) Any dog or Handler delaying the cast for 1 hour.

k) For running or treeing off game, except ladies and youth hunters. (See Rule 4.d.)

8. Judges:

a) All Judges shall be picked by the hosting club or HKC. Club has the option to have NonHunting Judges

b) The Judge shall keep the cast informed of the scores and times during the hunt.

c) The 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.

e) Final 4 of World Hunt will have 3 Non-Hunting Judges. There will be a main Judge and 2 back-up judges. Their decision on hunt will be final. Judges shall not have a dog or handler in the hunt and should be impartial to all handlers.

f) Final 4 of World Hunt will have the option of splitting the purse for the World Hunt. If all handlers agree then purse can be split, and the final hunt will be for placement.

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 to do so they must do it immediately. If not, they cannot recast their dog until the next tree is scored. If the other dogs in the cast cannot be heard, a six will be put on these dogs before recasting can be done.

b) Any Handler that says they are not casting their dog in the one-minute time limit will not have the option of changing their mind. Dogs can then be cast after next tree is scored and all dogs are then recast when Judge directs cast to do so

c) The Judge will tell you when to cast your dogs.

d) Any Handler cutting their dog that goes hunting before the Judge says to cast their dogs will be scratched immediately.

e) If there are dogs declared treed but not barking, the 2-minute rule shall be applied. If all dogs have left the tree, all dogs must be recast.

10. Handlers:

a) Lights are to be used for walking only, except when specified by the Judge.

b) The Handler must be on the grounds when the casts are drawn or will be scratched.

- c) All Handlers shall know the rules and follow them.
- d) The Handler shall only call their dog.
- e) The Handler shall control their dog on the leash.
- f) The Handler will listen to the Judge and follow their instructions on when to handle and cast their dog.
- g) The Handler will be scratched for attempting to take a raccoon.

11. Electronic Devices:

- a) Thermals and infrared devices can be used but the raccoon must be seen with the 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 NonHunting Judge, they cannot be struck or treed solely by an electronic device.
- c) 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. Handlers will be scratched if found to be toning or shocking their dog and may be barred from HKC.

12. Score Cards:

- 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. The Handler's signature verifies the hunting time, and scores are correct, the scorecard must be signed before bringing the scorecard back to the clubhouse.
- c. Unreadable, illegible, incomplete score cards will not be accepted and can result in the entire cast being scratched. The only exception to incomplete, unsigned cards will be if there are questions being brought back to the Master of Hounds.

13. Ties are to be broken by:

- a) Least number of minus points
- b) Most plus tree points
- c) Most plus strike point.
- d) Most circle tree points
- e) Most circle strike points
- f) If there is no time to go back to the woods and hunt it off, and all Handlers agree, the tie can

be resolved by a coin toss.

14. Complaints or Questioning a Judge:

- a) The Handler must first file a complaint with the Judge in the field.
- b) The call can be voted on by the cast
- c) Majority of the cast vote will overturn the Judge's call.
- d) If the Handler still isn't happy with the call a question will be put on the card. The question/complaint will go before the Master of Hounds, Panel, Or Hunt Director.
- e) First Offense: If the Handler with a question is wrong, there is a \$50 fee. (\$25 to the Club - \$25 to HKC)
- f) Second Offense: If the same Handler with a question is wrong there will be a \$100 fee. (\$50 to the club - \$50 to HKC)
- g) Third Offense: If the same Handler with a question is wrong there will be a \$150 fee. (\$75 to the club - \$75 to HKC)
- h) After the third offense the Handler will be scratched from the hunt. After 3 times of being scratched in these circumstances, in one calendar year (January 01 to December 31) Handler is suspended from hunts for 6 months)
- i) If the Handler wins the question, there is no fee.

1) World Hunt:

- a). Dogs must be hunted in 4 hunts throughout the year to qualify for the World Hunt.
- b). Dogs that have been scratched from a hunt for any reason will not be able to use the scratched hunt to qualify for the World Hunt.
- c). Substitution of dogs will not be permitted. The only exception being dog being substituted in must have 4 HKC hunts throughout the qualifying year. The dog being substituted in must be registered to the same owner as the dog taken out of the hunt. This substitution can only be done on Wednesday at the registration for the hunt. The request must be presented to the Master of Hounds or Hunt Director to be approved. MOH/HD will have final say.
- d). World Hunt will be in the fall.
- e). Pre-Registration for the World Hunt is \$100 and needs to be mailed in by September 15 of the hunt year. Registration after that date will cost \$200. The reason for this is that the Host Club

for the World Hunt can have Judges hired to go out with the cast. Extra \$100 paid after the deadline is so extra Judges can be hired if necessary.

2. Complaints or Questioning the Judges in the Final Four:

- a. The Handler must first file a complaint with the Master of Hounds in the field.
- b. The MOH will call for a vote of all Judges and Cast Members.
- c. The majority vote will be final.
- d. If the handler with the question is wrong, then a fee of \$100 will be assessed and will be scratched from the hunt. If the handler is correct, then there will be no fee assessed and he will continue with the hunt. The fee will be divided \$50 to the club and \$50 to HKC.

All Clubs holding HKC hunts will strictly enforce these rules. There will be no exceptions. Any club found to be in violation of these rules may be barred from holding future hunts.

These rules are final and will not be altered until after the years HKC World Hunt.

Amended from HKC Hunt rules 2023

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