

# COONHOUND ADVISOR

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Hello everybody! Another great month of events has come and gone, including our inaugural UKC Tournament of Champions. This issue is going to be full of information and results from that event, so I won't dwell on it too long, but thank you all so much for your support and interest in that program. We learned a lot from this first year and I think it has the opportunity to grow into an even bigger and better hunt moving forward. Congratulations to everyone for their successes in that hunt and good luck getting qualified for next year.

At this time, our focus has shifted on the upcoming events for the year, including Youth Nationals, Autumn Oaks, and the World Championship. Details for those events will trickle out over the next few weeks but at this time, everything looks to be back to as close to normal as can be expected. It's hard to believe that a year ago at this time, the hunts were pretty much shut down and the uncertainty of all the major events was looming over everyone. It is reassuring to know that if Autumn Oaks were to happen this weekend, it wouldn't have to be the scaled back version that we saw last year.

## Deadlines Clarified

**Q:** Using 8 p.m. as the deadline to enter the event; what is considered late? So long as you are entered prior to 8:01 p.m., would it be considered in time?

**A:** Using 8 p.m. as the deadline, when the official clock strikes 8 the event official should immediately announce that entries are closed. At that point, any participant who is in line to enter is good. Busting through the clubhouse door at the time while the official is making the announcement is not considered being in line. And to clarify further, 8:00:01 is technically late and considered as such.

The same philosophy applies for the deadline to return scorecards. The rules are such that the scorecard must be returned to the official by such and such a time. It is the responsibility of the official to note on the scorecard the time it was received. Did you ever notice most official's very first move when a scorecard is returned? That's right; they check the official time and record it on your scorecard. Then they may ask if there are any questions etc. etc.

It is important, however, for the participants to know that the official has the official time and will go by such. Simply because my cell phone shows a minute different from the official clock isn't enough to even think about raising an argument. To avoid any time issues, the participant should always allow themselves plenty of time to get there. The participant should never rely on their personal time piece to be exactly in sync with the official time at the club.

I realize some are of the opinion that UKC is too strict

when it comes to deadlines but why have deadlines when you don't enforce them? Deadlines were implemented for good reasons. I've personally had to turn away participants at our own UKC administered events for missing the deadlines. I hate having to do it as much as any official at the local club level but, guess what, late is late. When the deadlines up; it's time to proceed forward!

## Help Yourself

Everyone has instances every so often where they feel they are getting wronged on a cast. It's inevitable if you are in enough competitions. Luckily, there are procedures and guidelines in place to help you out in those situations. No matter how many times those procedures have been combed over in this column and on the web, it's common place for people to try to bend them, disregard them or just flat out not know them. So, let's take a minute to hash them out.

**Step 1:** If you disagree with a call made by the hunting judge, immediately question the call, and ask for a cast vote. This step **MUST** be done and **EVERYONE** on the cast must vote. A handler refusing to vote will be scratched per Rule 14(b)3. It takes a majority to overturn a hunting judge's call.

**Step 2:** If you are not satisfied with the result of the cast vote (or a non-hunting judge's ruling), request a question mark be placed on the card to be presented to the Master of Hounds or Hunt Director. Rule 14(b)4 is key, stating Situations not questioned and notated at the time judge's decision is made, will not be considered.

**Step 3(Only for MOH format):** Attempt to resolve the question in a calm, respectful manner with the Master of Hounds, handler who requested the question, the judge, and the remainder of the cast. The Master of Hounds will make a decision based on the information provided. Keep in mind that no complaints will be considered by the Master of Hounds after a period of thirty(30) minutes has elapsed from the time that the scorecard has been turned in.

**Step 4:** If the question cannot be resolved by the Master of Hounds, the handler may request a panel be formed. If Hunt Director format is used, you skip Step 3 straight to Step 4. A \$10 Panel Fee must accompany the request. The Master of Hounds or Hunt Director will assemble a three-person panel comprised of responsible, impartial, and knowledgeable individuals. The panel will hear all sides and make their ruling. If the panel rules with the handler, the fee will be refunded. If the panel rules against the handler, the fee will be retained by the Host Club. The panel meeting must be within one hour after the deadline for the return of the scorecards.

**Step 5:** If the handler does not agree with the panel's decision, the next step is to fill out an UKC Appeal Form while the panel is still assembled. The form must be filled out by the handlers on the cast, members of the panel and the MOH/HD. A fee of \$20 must accompany the ap-

peal that is mailed to UKC with the report. Additionally, the panel **MUST** complete the Panel Meeting Results Form when an Appeal to UKC is filed and include it with the report that is submitted to UKC.

**Step 6:** UKC will investigate the matter and make a final ruling. If UKC supports the individual filing the appeal, the fee will be refunded. A written statement reflecting the final ruling will be mailed to those involved. UKC reserves unto itself, in its sole judgement and discretion, the right to make corrections it deems necessary.

All these procedures and guidelines are found in the rulebook. Just as handlers and event officials are bound by the rules, so is UKC. There are no shortcuts in getting resolutions to these issues. Make sure you are familiar with the process before you attend a hunt.

### **Youth Hunts**

Starting this year and moving forward, clubs will have the option to decide whether their YEP! events have 60-minute or 90-minute casts. With most youth events happening in the heat of the summer months, it makes sense to give clubs the leeway to make the decision that works best for them. Make sure when you are confirming your club's events, take into consideration the time of year and the estimated weather for that period of time.