

FULL CIRCLE

ALLEN GINGERICH

2021 Double Header Hunt Time Update Notice

Under the new format, effective January 1, 2020, UKC's original announcement suggested that any Double Header Events (two in one day) would all be mandatory one-hour hunts. In other words, a 90-minute hunt would not be an option. Since then we've had clubs suggest that 90-minute hunts would not be an issue and they would like the option to make that decision.

UKC has retracted that mandatory policy and will leave all hunt time periods as a decision made by the host club. This is effective January 1, 2020. The amount of daylight hours changes throughout the year so clubs will need to beware and decide accordingly. The only exception to clubs deciding on their hunt time periods is WQE only events. Double Headers or not, WQE only events are mandatory 90-minute hunts.

Double Headers, Two Entry Deadlines, and Hunt Times

Q: Our club has a couple questions with regards to the format changes coming in 2021 as follows.

1. If we schedule a Double Header, may we have two separate entry deadlines for each of the two hunts or is that an option only for a regular event?
2. At a Double Header, do the hunt times need to be the same for both hunts?
3. If we schedule a hunt with two entry deadlines, do the hunt times for both A and B need to be the same?

1. A: Yes, clubs may schedule a Double Header with each hunt having two separate entry deadlines (A and B). For identification and recording purposes, a Double Header will be named Hunt 1 and Hunt 2. The club would also have the option to have Hunt 1 with two entry deadlines but Hunt 2 with only one entry deadline if they so choose. The club would need to determine this at the time the event is confirmed, and these specifics would show up on the Events Calendar so participants will know before they go to the event. See a refresher course on multiple Entry Deadline Events in the next topic below in this article.
2. Hunt times may be the same, but they don't have to be for each hunt of a Double Header. Hunt 1 could have a 90-minute hunt and Hunt 2 could have a 60-minute hunt time, and or vice versa.
3. Yes, it's imperative that both A and B hunt the same amount of time. It's imperative because B is simply a continuation of A and all casts are competing for the top three placements in the same event even though the hunt is split, so to speak. Remember, placements will be determined by the scores of both categories (Registered and Champs/Grands). Placements may not mean much other than owner bragging rights or awards the club may offer for their top three event placements. All other cast winners would simply be noted on the report, in no specific order, as Cast Winners and their CW will go towards the dogs' degree all the same.

Equally imperative is clubs having thought out all the logistics of their numerous options before they confirm or advertise their event details. For instance, the amount of daylight in December is significantly less than say May or June. A little thought and planning will go a long way. Options are good, choose them wisely.

Hunt Entry Deadlines (A&B) Refresher Course

Clubs have the option of having one or two entry deadlines for their hunts. In the case of two separate entry deadlines scheduled, the first entry deadline will be referred to as the A entry deadline and the second entry deadline as B. Participants may enter their dog in A or B, regardless of category. The same dog may not be entered in both. All open registered dogs entered in A will be drawn out together and all Champs/Grands entered in A will be drawn out together. The same policy applies for the B portion of the same hunt. Clubs will continue to have the option to have just one entry time deadline, in which case all dogs entered will draw out in their respective categories and go to the field simultaneously.

Allowing both categories to compete in two separate entry timelines of a hunt, if so scheduled by the club, will allow the potential for a larger total entry. It will also allow a participant to handle more than one dog in the same category in the same hunt. If the club schedules a Double Header with two separate entry times, the potential for people to travel further and participate increases greatly.

Calling Dogs on Yips or Squeaks

Q: - My dog "squeaks and yips" a few times before it opens on track. Am I required to strike my dog when it "squeaks and yips" or can I wait for it to open honestly?

A: The rulebook says you have to strike your dog on or before the third "bark." Therefore, I would say you do not have to strike your dog on a "squeak or a yip." However, this is somewhat of a touchy situation. If you do not strike your dog on a squeak or a yip at the beginning of the hunt, you cannot strike your dog on one at the end of a hunt. If you don't strike your dog on a squeak or a yip, you cannot expect to get a recovery on one.

It is the handlers' duty to know their dogs voice and nature and to tell the Judge of any peculiarities of your dog before the hunt begins. If you have a dog that squeaks or yips before opening, you need to inform the Judge how you intend to strike the dog, all day. It is very important to be consistent throughout your entire cast.

The above was taken from the archives and does not go into a lot of depth, but it does make it clear that the handler must advise the judge of such a peculiarity before the hunt starts and if the handler suggests they won't call on a squeak or a yip, that MUST apply for the duration of the hunt. There is a lot that could be debated on this topic and will likely always be the case unless we add something to the rules.

The rules do not state what happens if a handler chose to not call their dog on a squeak, before the start of the hunt, but then attempts to call the dog on a squeak at some point in the hunt. Some may suggest that the handler should be scratched if they do so. Where do you find that in section 5? You don't. The logical or rational action for the judge is to not accept the call, if the handler does in fact call on a squeak or a yip at any point during the hunt. If the handler gets to the point of being unreasonable with it, refer to Rule 5(r) and get rid of the handler that is stirring up trouble.

