

FULL CIRCLE

ALLEN GINGERICH

With the Hunting Beagle Program format changes, effective January 1, 2021, it will take a little getting used to the options that are available to clubs and participants. Well-established clubs with a solid membership (help) should benefit greatly when taking advantage of some of the following options. The following information is compiled to help clarify some of the questions related to the options available effective in 2021.

A. REGULAR HUNT (A)

This option has one entry deadline, considered as an A deadline only, where both classes (registered and champions) are drawn out separately but go out to the field at the same time.

B. SPLIT ENTRY HUNT (A and B)

This option has two separate entry deadlines in the same hunt. The first entry deadline (A) is in the morning where both classes may be entered and are drawn out and go out to the field (registered and champions) at the same time in the morning. This same hunt also offers a B deadline, that is scheduled later in the morning, where both classes may be entered and are drawn out and go out to the field (registered and champions) at the same time. A typical A and B entry deadline may be 7 am and 10 or 11 am.

With this option, a participant may now enter and handle two of his dogs in the same hunt. One dog would be entered and hunted in A and the other dog would be entered and hunted in B. A dog hunting in the A deadline time may not be re-entered in the B deadline portion because it is still the same hunt.

The same handler can now handle two dogs in the same hunt, even if both dogs are hunting in the same class be it in the registered or the champion's class. This option has the potential to draw more dogs for the club simply because of that reason. It may also be a good reason for participants to consider driving greater distances to compete in a hunt that gives them the opportunity to enter and handle multiple dogs.

C. DOUBLE HEADER

A double header is two separate hunts on the same day. For clarification purposes, the first hunt is called Hunt 1 and the second one Hunt 2. There is one entry deadline (A) for each hunt. The same dog may be entered in both hunts and is eligible to earn a cast win in each of the two hunts. The club submits two hunt reports with the results of each hunt. One report reflects the results of Hunt 1 and the other report reflects the results of Hunt 2.

D. DOUBLE HEADER (A, B & A)

This option has two separate hunts. In Hunt 1, there are two entry deadlines, an A entry deadline and a B entry deadline. Participants may enter and handle two different dogs in Hunt 1. One would be entered in the A deadline and the other in the B entry deadline. The same dog may not be entered in both entry deadlines because it is still the same hunt.

In Hunt 2 of the Double Header, there is only one entry deadline (A) where all dogs are drawn out in their respective class, but they all go to the field at the same time. This may be a popular option for clubs trying to attract as many entries as possible but still have plenty of time to conduct both hunts in the same day.

Clubs hosting World Qualifiers may find this to be a very popular option for their participants. All dogs, regardless of class, are drawn out together in one class in a WQE. Participants would aspire to get at least one of their two dogs qualified in Hunt 1 and then hunt the other dog in Hunt 2. Or if they happened to get both dogs qualified in Hunt 1, they could break out a third dog for Hunt 2, or simply call it a good day and go home early. Clubs shall be reminded that all WQE events are 90-minute hunts, 60-minutes is not an option.

E. DOUBLE HEADER (A, B & A, B)

This option would no-doubt be an all-day affair with an A and a B entry deadline for each of the two separate hunts. Participants may enter two different dogs in each of the two hunts, one dog in the A entry deadline and their second dog in the B entry deadline. The same dog may not be entered in both A and B.

The same dog(s) entered in Hunt 1 may be entered in Hunt 2 because it is a separate hunt. Clubs would want to make sure there is enough daylight to conduct this type of option. With the option for 60-minute hunts, a mega Double Header would certainly be possible with some good planning and organization by the club.

