

COONHOUND ADVISOR

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Hello everyone! On the day I submit this writing, we will have a month of events in the books with some major events coming up on the schedule. Hopefully everyone is adjusting to the rule changes well. I know in the phone calls I have fielded; the indications have seemed to be much more positive than negative. Of course, there have been some questions, which was expected. The YouTube video that UKC released of Allen and I going in depth into each rule change has been a very helpful tool when talking to many folks. If you have access to a computer and haven't seen it yet, it is well worth taking 20 minutes out of your day and giving it a listen. You can find it by going to youtube.com and searching ukcdogs in the search bar. There you will find a full library of videos, with the one I'm describing being titled "2020 Coonhound Program Rule Changes."

With the positive feedback we have received from this video, I envision more of this happening in the future. I think we can all agree that in some cases it is easier to hear something than to read and try to interpret it. It is not uncommon for two people to read the same exact sentence and draw two totally different interpretations from it. That is what makes the advisor column and the video discussed above such valuable tools.

Treeing but Not Declared Treed

One rule that seems to be causing questions, is the treeing but not declared treed rule. Possibly the biggest reason for the confusion, is the fact that a change regarding this rule was passed but was shortly thereafter nixed by UKC and the breed associations, after the passing of some additional rule changes caused unforeseen issues that all parties wanted to avoid if at all possible.

In the *2020 Official Coonhound Rulebook*, you will find this under Rule 4(h). The rule reads, *Dogs treeing but not declared treed, when Judge arrives, will be assigned and minused 25 tree points on off game or slick tree. Dogs shut-out* on strike on slick tree or off game will receive minus tree points only. Refer to Rule 6(f) for Champion Division casts and off game.*

This rule is largely unchanged from the previous running rules. The only slight change from the last edition is where a dog is found to be treeing but not declared treed and the tree is determined to be slick or off game (in a registered cast) is found, will now receive 25 tree points instead of next available tree points to be minused. This change comes from the newly implemented tree countdown, which would indicate that next available is always 25 points in this situation.

So, let's get to the real root of the issue and address how to score a dog treeing but not declared treed, when the Judge arrives with a few different scenarios.

Scenario 1: Dog A and Dog B are declared split treed in that order. After scoring Dog A's tree, he is recast and covers Dog B's tree, which was closed. This happens before the Judge and cast arrive. Dog A is considered treeing but not declared treed. The coon is found, and Dog B is

plussed. How do you score Dog A? **A:** In this situation, Dog A is shut out on strike so the strike points are deleted, and it would NOT receive 25 tree points as a coon was seen.

Scenario 2: Two dog cast, Dog A is struck for 100 followed by Dog B for 75. Dog A is declared treed. When the Judge and cast arrive, Dog B is found to be at the tree, treeing but not declared treed. The coon is found, and Dog A is plussed. How do you score Dog B? **A:** In this situation, Dog B is on the hook for 75 strike points which will be minused per Rule 4(d) which reads *If dog declared treed; after three minutes has elapsed no additional dog can be declared treed at that particular tree. Dog(s) treeing but not declared treed when Judge arrives receives minus strike points if coon is seen.* So, with the coon being seen, Dog B will NOT receive 25 tree points to be minused.

Scenario 3: Dog A and Dog B are declared split treed in that order. After scoring Dog A's tree, he is recast and covers Dog B's tree, which was closed. This happens before the Judge and cast arrive. Dog A is considered treeing but not declared treed. The tree is determined to be slick (or off game in registered cast), and Dog B is minused. How do you score Dog A? **A:** In this situation, Dog A is shut out on strike, so the strike points are deleted. With the tree being determined to be slick, Dog A would be assigned 25 tree points and they would be minused.

Scenario 4: Two dog cast, Dog A is struck for 100 followed by Dog B for 75. Dog A is declared treed. When the Judge and cast arrive, Dog B is found to be at the tree, treeing but not declared treed. The tree is determined to be slick (or off game in registered cast), and Dog A is minused. How do you score Dog B? **A:** In this situation, Dog B is on the hook for 75 strike points which will be minused and with the tree being declared slick (or off game), Dog B will receive 25 tree points to be minused.

To avoid flooding this column with a ton of scenarios, I just want to point out two more things that you should keep in mind when dealing with dogs treeing but not declared treed when the judge arrives. 1.) In a Champion Division cast, when off game is seen, the dog will be scratched if treeing but not declared when Judge arrives. 2.) If the tree is circled, strike points will be circled, nothing else.

Slam Events

With slam events becoming popular with more clubs, I'm going to use this space to answer a few frequently asked questions pertaining to the slam events. Keep in mind that pages 89-90 in our Official Coonhound Rulebook holds a lot of the information I will be sharing here. It's a simplified 1.5 page read that could reduce the amount of confusion regarding slam hunts.

Q: Do all dogs draw out together? **A:** No, they do not. In slam hunts, like the UKC standard hunts, there are two separate categories. The first category will be the Registered Division for registered dogs. The second category will be the Champion Division for the NITECH and GRNI-TECH dogs.

Q: In a single round Slam Event, how many votes does it

take to forego the final cast and split the purse? **A:** It takes the majority of the cast to decide to split the prize money. Meaning, if you have three plus point cast winners, two of them would have to vote to split in order to avoid the hunt off. If you have four plus point cast winners, three handlers would have to vote to split in order to split the prize money and forego the final cast.

Q: What are the entry fees for slams? **A:** With the changes that happened this year, slams are now being offered for \$25 and \$35 entry fees. For higher dollar slam events (ex. \$50, \$100, etc.), a club officer would have to call and speak to Allen or me to discuss what you're planning. We are willing to work with clubs with a specialized hunt in mind, it would just need to be approved.

Q: What does the club get per dog at a Slam Event? **A:** Another new change that we made this year is to the slam payouts. The club and the winners now split the income 50/50. Meaning 50% of the income is paid to the plus

point cast winners and the other 50% goes to the club. All fees would be paid from the club's portion AFTER the split.

Q: What happens if there are no plus point cast winners in the first round? **A:** At that point, the money would be divided equally between all hounds who participated in that round.

Q: What happens if there is no plus point cast winner in the final round? **A:** Dogs in the final cast will be placed according to total score, including up to 400 minus. Placements will be awarded according to the scores of this cast, even if there is not a total score of plus points. If all dogs in Final Cast scratch, purse will be divided equally among all members of the cast.

Q: What are the license fees for the slams? **A:** The license fees are the same for a slam as they are for a standard UKC event, \$25. If a club has a double header slam, the license fees for both rounds will be \$35. Essentially \$10 for the second round.

