

COONHOUND ADVISOR

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Double Header Return Deadlines

UKC is getting a lot of positive feedback on the Double Headers from both clubs and hunters. Some clubs are benefiting nicely. As predicted, those clubs who have ample local guides available are the ones that are seeing the best results. If hunters have to drive a significant distance, they will likely not support those clubs as well. One of the things that will take some time, through trial and error if you will, is for clubs to get a good feel for the sweet spot for their second entry deadline. Some may be too early while others have set them later than necessary and have had hunters sitting around and waiting too long to go back out. Nonetheless, it's new for most clubs and they'll get it figured out with a little experience behind them.

Along with those good reports, there's also been a couple concerns that have come along. Specifically, where some clubs are setting their deadlines too early for casts to return. Example: A club has a one-hour Double Header hunt. The deadline to enter is 8:00 p.m. By the time casts are called out, and they are leaving the grounds, it's 8:30. The return deadline for all casts to return is 10:30, which is also the entry deadline for the second hunt. One cast is driving 30 minutes to their hunting spot. Let's do the math.

A total of 60 minutes will be used to drive to and from the woods. so now we have 60 minutes left for the hunt. Wait! What? Is our math off? We're leaving at 8:30. We have a total of 60 minutes driving time, that makes it 9:30. We need to hunt for 60 minutes. That makes it exactly 10:30 to the T, and we haven't even gotten to the *what if's* yet! What if time out is called during the hunt? How much time is allowed for a cast member to return with their dog in hand before they rest of the cast may continue on hunting? **Rule 6** says they **must** allow one hour. These four handlers don't have a fighting chance and may as well have thrown their \$20 down the drain. This is obviously on the side of extreme but, according to one account it did in fact happen.

First, return deadlines should always be based on how far the furthest casts will have to travel. It's the club official's responsibility to be on the right page with *all* their guides on this matter. Secondly, all casts need to be given a little grace period for any incidentals, such as the time needed to move to subsequent spots, if necessary. And thirdly, don't forget Rule 6 and the one hour that is allowed for delaying the cast after time out is called during the hunt. It's Rule 6 that is often times overlooked. When it comes into play, it can quickly become a game-changer when it comes to a cast making it back to the clubhouse by the return deadline or not.

The better return deadline for the example given above would have been midnight or after. With clubs now having the option for Double Headers on the same night, we understand they may want to get the hunters back in as soon as possible in order to get them back out again for the second hunt. But we need to make sure we also give the hunters enough time to get their hunt time in. Just because the second hunt (Double Head-

er) entry deadline is set at a certain time doesn't mean the return deadline for the first hunt has to match the entry deadline for the second hunt. It can be later, if necessary. Again, the return deadline should be based on the cast that is traveling the farthest. Clubs should allow hunters to enter the second hunt at the same time they enter the first one. And if the return deadline for the first hunt is later than the entry deadline for the second hunt, the club should wait to call out casts for the second hunt until all casts have returned from the first hunt. This doesn't mean the entry deadline for the second hunt can be extended. It must stay as advertised.

That said, the hunters also need to do their part and not waste time when there's no time to be dinking around. If everyone from officials to guides and hunters all communicate properly, determining a reasonable return deadline should not be an issue.

WANTED! Master of Hounds and Bench Show Judges

So, you want to become a Master of Hounds or a Bench Show Judge. If you are an experienced handler in either field, and you feel like you would do a good job as an official, do your local club a favor and apply.

The first thing you need is to contact UKC to request an application be mailed to you. But before you do that, you should be advised that UKC requires no less than three years of active experience as a handler. This is true for both nite hunts and bench shows.

After you receive the application/test from UKC, you'll see that you need to be recommended by your club. The reason for this is so UKC does not license anyone who has no business being an official. One such individual may be one who does not have a respectable reputation. When a handler brings a question back from the woods, the last thing they want is to have a shady character making a ruling for them. In other words, it's imperative that a Master of Hounds always be unbiased regardless of who posted the question or what the outcome might be if you rule in their favor or don't rule in their favor. Your main objective should be to get it right in accordance with the rules.

The same is the true in bench shows. Those handlers will quickly learn to stay away from entering shows where you are judging if it becomes apparent you're using your status to help your buddies get their dogs titled, or pick another judge's dog so he or she will be sure to return the favor to you next week at their show. There will always be spectators judging every dog from the sidelines. They will be quick to judge your judging, as well. But if you always remain unbiased and select the best dogs in front of you, the only person you really need to please is yourself. You do that by having a solid understanding of *all* the breed standards and make your selections according to that alone.

How many times have you heard a judge say, "I picked this dog because this is the type of dog I like?" If that is you, you should probably not waste your time any further and move on to the next page. Because here's the point. It shouldn't matter what type of dog a judge likes. What matters is that they judge every breed by the standard as outlined for that specific breed. Otherwise, there really wouldn't be much need for breed standards.

Discouraged? I sure hope not. Those are just some things we do not want in an official. If you have the best interest at heart, you should most definitely apply for the job. There seems to always be a shortage in licensed officials available to clubs, and we need all the good help we can get. Besides, it can also be very gratifying knowing you're doing the sport a service if you are able to give your time and expertise in this manner. I hope you're interested, and you read on when it comes to the three-event apprenticeship process.

Bench Show Judge and Master of Hounds Apprenticeship Information

The purpose of the apprenticeship program is not to learn the hunt rules or the coonhound breed standards. The individual should already be experienced and well versed in that department. Rather, to learn the proper procedures of conducting a hunt or show, fill out Event Reports properly, how to conduct a licensed event properly, proper procedures to draw casts, and things of that nature.

Personal experience suggests that when serving under three different officials, an apprentice will find they learned more from one than they did another, and that they don't all do things the same exact way. That's okay so long as everything is done within the rules. The apprentice may even learn certain things not to do. The important thing is for to learn everything they can from each one of the three different officials they serve under to better serve the apprentice as an event official.

Master of Hounds Apprenticeship

The following pertains to an individual serving as an apprentice at a UKC Licensed Nite Hunt.

- The rules for an apprentice are the same as they apply to the Master of Hounds.
- The apprentice must remain at the club headquarters at all times.
- A dog owned by the apprentice may not be entered in the hunt.
- Any decision made regarding questions that come back is made by the Master of Hounds and not the apprentice.
- Even though the individual passed their Master of Hounds Test, they are subjected to the approval of the three licensed officials whom they served their apprenticeship under.

Bench Show Judge Apprentice

The following pertains to an individual serving as an apprentice at a UKC Licensed Bench Show.

- Their dogs may not be entered in the show. Their dogs may not be entered by a handler.
- A dog owned or handled by their immediate family may not be entered. Immediate family is defined as: husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter. Reference of this definition can be found in the section of the rulebook under Responsibilities of the Bench Show Judge.
- While the apprentice should be involved in a hands-on manner, they shall not be called upon to make any final decisions when it comes to selecting the winner of any class. The licensed judge does that.
- Even though the individual passed their bench show judges test, they are subjected to the approval of the three licensed judges whom they served their apprenticeship under.

Apprenticeship Forms

At the conclusion of the event, the apprentice fills out their portion of the apprenticeship form (name, address etc.), and hands it to the licensed judge. The licensed judge fills out their portion, including comments, concerns, and approval or not. The event official is responsible for mailing the form to UKC. The official should not give the completed form back to the apprentice. This policy allows the licensed official to report an honest evaluation of the apprentice that is kept confidential. In other words, it's a private matter between the official and the UKC to assure the individual is qualified before issuing a license.



UKC® Disciplinary Action Committee Report

- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Anthony Tyler of Shelby, Montana, failed to comply with a UKC investigation, was in violation of the UKC family-friendly event policy, and was intoxicated at an event . DAC Action - Suspended until March 13, 2021.
- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Colton Saylor of Nicklesville, Virginia, falsified a scorecard. DAC Action - Suspended until March 20, 2021.
- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Matt Miller, Jr., of Church Hill, Tennessee, falsified a scorecard. DAC Action - Suspended until March 20, 2021. Rev. 3/27/19

The UKC Notice of Suspension list can be found at www.ukcdogs.com/suspension

Attention!

The following person's Nite Hunt Director and Nite Hunt Judging privileges have been suspended until the date listed.

Timmy Murrell • Booneville, Kentucky

Indefinite

Violations to these privileges should be reported to the United Kennel Club. Rev. 6/4/18