

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

Happy New Year to all the faithful Coonhound Bloodlines readers out there! Here is to hoping it's the best year yet. With this January issue, you should have received the new Official Coonhound Rulebook. I feel like we've been discussing rule and policy changes for the past few months in this column and now, the rulebook is finally out and in effect as of January 1, 2023. If you missed it, be sure to refer back to the last few issues of this magazine for further clarification on rule and procedural changes. Also, if you have some windshield time on tap, Allen and I have discussed all these changes in depth on the UKC Hunting Ops Podcast. You can find these discussions in Episode 22, Episode 24, and Episode 27. If you have questions about any changes, feel free to reach out to us by phone at 269-343-9020 or by email at ukcdogs.com.

Full Elimination Format

For the past few years and especially since the induction of the YouTube Live Shows, dead casts and the problems they create for future rounds has continued to be a thorn in our side. When you pile money, time, and resources into events that are reliant on advancing dogs through an elimination style format, it doesn't take many dead casts to throw things off schedule. This issue arose again at the World Finals this year. After the completion of the Quarterfinals, we were down to five semifinalists instead of the seven we anticipated. And while the hunting in Dyersburg that time of year is usually great, a record drought had made for dry conditions which in turn made tracking tough. This is especially true when considering it was well past midnight at the time. We vowed then that it would be changed in the next rulebook, and this is the result of those discussions. So, let's talk details.

What is considered a Full Elimination event? The big events that we put on each year, once we get past qualifying stages, are considered full elimination. This includes events like the Coonhound World Finals, the UKC Tournament of Champion Finals, and the Grand Sixteen at Autumn Oaks. The Super Slams that we are currently working on would be considered full elimination as well. Some of the events you may be curious about are more than likely not considered to be full elimination. Events that are not considered full elimination would be standard slams, World Zones, TOC Regions, Autumn Oaks (outside of Grand Sixteen), Winter Classic, Grand American, and any standard UKC licensed event. Basically, if it isn't notated in the event ad or details, you can bank that it isn't a Full Elimination Format event.

There will be a full section of the new rulebook dedicated to these events. I would make it a point to familiarize myself with that section before attending any

of these style events to avoid any surprises. I don't think I can explain it any better than the rulebook does, so I am going to share that section with you right here:

FULL ELIMINATION EVENT POLICY

1. *Clubs must have pre-approval from UKC to host a full elimination format event. Other than those noted here or that apply to regular events, rules for a particular event may be considered, based on UKC's discretion and approval. Refer to the specific event ad for the hunt you are attending for any such details.*
2. *Hunt time periods for each round are determined by the host club and noted in the event details. Using hunting or non-hunting judges is the decision of the host club. The club may choose to use a Master of Hounds or a Hunt Director format.*
3. *All dogs, regardless of category, are drawn out together and hunt under UKC Nite Hunt rules as they apply to Nite or Grand Nite Champions.*
4. *If at any point only one dog remains in the cast, the hunt is considered over, and the remaining dog is the cast winner.*
5. *A total score of plus points is not required for a dog to be considered the cast winner and eligible to advance to the next round.*
 - a. *If no dogs finish with a total score of plus points; then the dog with the best total score, even if it is zero or less, is considered the cast winner. However, a dog with any amount of plus or circled tree points shall be considered over dog without plus or circled tree points.*
 - b. *Refer to Rule 13 (a-e) to break any ties. If after Rule 13 (e) and there is still a tie; the dogs involved shall continue to compete in overtime (see c below). Otherwise, if those handlers involved agree, the winner may be determined via a coin flip.*
 - c. *In the event of an overtime, the dogs will continue to compete at the conclusion of regulation without interruption (shall not be handled). There is no time period established for the overtime. Instead, the first dog to score during the overtime period determines the cast winner. The deadline to return to headquarters may not be adjusted even if there was an overtime.*
 - d. *A dog that has been withdrawn or scratched from the cast is not eligible to be named the cast winner. If all dogs in a cast are withdrawn or scratched, that cast will not advance any dog to the next round.*
6. *It is mandatory that the final cast compete, and awards distributed accordingly unless pre-approved and noted otherwise in the event details.*
7. *Placements in the final cast are determined by final scores or by order of elimination in that cast. If multiple dogs are scratched simultaneously, the scores of those dogs at that time determines placement in the cast. Any unscored (pending) strike and or tree points held by the*

dog at the time are deleted.

- In the case the event has individual placements beyond those in the final cast, they shall be determined by non-cast-win scores in the previous round. Dogs finishing second-in-cast shall place over those finishing third-in-cast. Dogs finishing third-in-cast shall place over those finishing last in cast. Other than the final cast, dogs withdrawn or scratched, in any round, are considered as finishing last in that cast. If there are any four-dog casts in that round, those dogs withdrawn or scratched shall be considered as finishing fourth even if they happened to be in a three-dog cast. This method is used for all placements regardless of how many that may be.
- Cast winners will receive a win towards their Championship degree in each round.

Panel Fee Increase

One subtle change you will see in the new rulebook, is a panel fee increase from \$10 to \$20. The thought process here is with Hunt Directors participating in events, we really need to cut down on the silly questions. If you have a legitimate question, you will put up your \$20 and if the panel rules in your favor you will get your money back. We hope that this increase makes it easier on clubs utilizing the Hunt Director format, and makes for smoother casts with less unfounded, uneducated questions that can easily be sorted out by simply flipping over the scorecard.

YEP Cards

One term that has been omitted from the new rulebook, is YEP Card. What was once a requirement to be able to participate in a youth event, is in the process of being replaced by the advancement of the Junior Handler Enrollment Form and database in UKC's system. The cards that participating youth are receiving for enrolling as a junior handler will take place of the YEP Card and we see no need to require both. It will still be a requirement for any club hosting a YEP Event to have a YEP class and take the opportunity, while you have a group of youngsters in front of you, to teach them a lesson that hopefully sticks with them. For more information on the Youth Education Program and suggestions for topics to discuss at your YEP event, be sure to check out the website at ukcdogs.com/yep.

Overshot/Undershot

There has been no change to any breed standards in the updated rulebook. A dog that has a bite that is overshot or undershot is still a disqualifying fault in all seven breed standards. We did think that it was important to add some definition as to what is considered overshot/undershot. With these clarifications in our rulebook, we are now consistent with the breed standards in the All-Breed Department which becomes more and more important as the crossover between the two becomes more popular.

In the rulebook, you will find these extra clarifications under Bench Show Rules, #24. It now reads, *dogs will be disqualified if overshot or undershot.* **Undershot:** The front

teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed. **Overshot:** The incisors of the upper jaw projecting beyond the incisors of the lower jaw, thus resulting in a space between the respective inner and outer surfaces. If this does nothing else, at least it will add some extra clarifying which is always a good thing for handlers and judges alike.

Secondary Handlers for Bench Show

Starting in January of 2023, if you are physically unable to gait your dog due to physical limitations, you have the choice to request the use of a secondary handler. This request must be submitted by letter to the Hunting Ops Department by mail, email, or fax. This letter should provide your contact information and outline the physical limitations you are dealing with. Upon receiving the request, it will be reviewed and the one submitting the request will receive a letter which will inform them whether the request has been approved or denied.

This letter is very important. In order to use a secondary handler in a show, the letter from UKC, on official UKC letterhead, will need to be presented to the entry taker/Bench Show Judge at the time of entry. If you do not have the letter, the Bench Show Judge is not to approve a secondary handler.

In the Rulebook, you will find clarification on this in two different spots. The first will be under Bench Show Rules, #26. That reads, *one handler per dog. A handler that is unable to properly gait the dog due to physical limitations may request in writing to UKC, for approval to use a second handler for gaing purposes. Upon receiving the request, UKC will review and if approved, send an official letter that is to be shown to judge upon entry into the show.* Then in the next section under Bench Show Judges Authority and Responsibilities, #20 reads, *a judge shall only allow one handler per dog, unless proper notation is provided from the handler when entering, with official letter from UKC stating otherwise.*

How does this work in the ring? The secondary handler will bring the dog into the ring and gait the dog to the judge while the primary handler takes their place at their bench to take over duties for stacking and showing. We would recommend that the secondary handler remains ready at ringside just in case the judge requires additional gaing to be done on the ground before the final decision is made.

ATTENTION!

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

Justin Crockett • Senatobia, MS

May 1, 2024

Violations to these privileges should be reported to the United Kennel Club.



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