

Hunt Specifics for UKC Tournament of Champions Finals

Hunt Time Periods - Round 1 on Thursday and Round 2 on Friday will be two-hour casts. Round 3 on Friday will be a 90-minute heads up cast. Round 4 (Final Cast) on Saturday will be a two-hour cast.

Guides/Judges - Hunting guides and hunting judges may be used in Round 1. Non-hunting guides and non-hunting judges will be used in subsequent rounds.

Questions – A three-man panel made up of UKC Field Reps will be used in each round in the case that a question were to arise. The panel's decision will be final in all situations. The panel may contact or include UKC's Hunting Operations director and manager to discuss the situation prior to rendering a decision. **Only questions pertaining to dogs being scratched from the hunt should be brought back before the conclusion of the cast.**

Advancement – This event is being held using the Full Elimination Format. If at any point only one dog remains in the cast, the hunt is considered over, and the remaining dog is the cast winner. 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. For full details on Full Elimination Format Events, see pages 87-88 of the 2023 Official Coonhound Rulebook.

Unbreakable Ties – Refer to Rule 13 (a-e) to break any ties. If after Rule 13(e) and there is still a tie; the dog's involved shall continue to compete in overtime. Otherwise, if those handlers involved agree, the winner may be determined via a coin flip.

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 overtime. Instead, the first dog to score during the overtime period determines the cast winner.

Backup Handlers – No spectators are allowed during any Round of the Finals. Each handler is allowed to have one backup handler. Backup handlers have the choice to either walk along or stay at the truck during the Thursday night casts, and the Round 2 casts on Friday night. All backup handlers will be required to remain at the truck during the 3rd Round heads up casts on Friday and the Final Cast on Saturday night. Allowing backup handlers to shine trees is a decision made by the cast at the beginning of the hunt per Rule 10(b).

Championship Cast Wins Awarded - Any dog that earns a cast win to advance in this hunt during Rounds 1, 2, & 4 will have that win count toward their degree.

Thank You – Thank you all for competing in UKC's 6th Annual Tournament of Champions and congratulations on making it to the Finals. Participants are asked to adhere to all rules, act reasonably, and uphold good sportsmanship at all times. Your cooperation will help make this event successful. Good luck this weekend!

