

FULL CIRCLE

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This month's article reflects some big changes coming in 2021 for the UKC Hunting Beagle Program. It's imperative that club officers, officials, and participants are all informed of these changes coming. The following changes, related to the UKC Hunting Beagle Program, are effective January 1, 2021 as it pertains to hunts only. There are no changes for bench shows or any other UKC Beagle Programs.

Registered and Champion Category

Dogs that have not earned a Champion degree are drawn out and will compete against all other registered dogs in the category. Hunting Beagle Champions and Grand Hunting Beagle Champions will draw out together and compete in one category. This category will further be referred to as the Champion Category. Exceptions are noted below.

Note: Any portion of the World Championship (includes WQE's), Slam, and Youth Events will have all dogs drawn out together, regardless of category. The only events where all three categories will be drawn out separately (Registered, Champions, and Grand Champions) are the UKC Hunting Beagle Nationals, NHBA Days, and the McVay Memorial.

Double Header Hunts

Clubs have the option to schedule two separate hunts on the same day, referred to as a Double Header. Club will schedule two separate entry deadlines and complete two separate Event Reports. The license fee for a Double Header is \$35, that covers both hunts. Regular recording fees apply for each hunt. All Double Header events come with a mandatory one-hour hunt time. 90-minute hunts are not an option.

Hunt Entry Deadlines (A&B)

Clubs have the option of having one or two entry deadlines for their hunts. In the case of two separate entry deadlines scheduled, the first entry deadline will be referred to as the A deadline and the second deadline as B. Participants may enter their dog in A or B, regardless of category. The same dog may not be entered in both. All open registered dogs entered in A will be drawn out together and all Champs/Grands entered in A will be drawn out together. The same policy applies for the B portion of the same hunt. Clubs will continue to have the option to have just one entry time deadline, in which case all dogs entered will draw out in their respective categories and go to the field simultaneously.

Limited Club Event Dates Per Year

Clubs will be limited to a maximum of five regular event dates during the calendar year. Clubs hosting World Qualifiers

will not be counted as one of those five. Reducing the number of events per year will hopefully allow for better entries, especially, if the club is willing to put in the effort and take advantage of the opportunities available to them. It will also help to open up more preferred date options in some cases.

Placing Dogs in Events

Each event will place up to three dogs, (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) based on highest cast-win scores of both categories (Registered and Champion). Any additional cast winners will be noted on the Event Report as a Cast Winner, in no specific order. For further recognition and award purposes, clubs may choose to place more than three dogs, but is not required to reflect on the Official Hunt Report Form for processing purposes related to championship wins. Dog must have a total score of plus points to be considered a cast winner and receive a Championship win, unless noted otherwise.

In pre-approved elimination events, be it semi or full elimination, the Event Report shall reflect the overall top ten placements, followed by all additional unlisted first-round cast winners. In a semi-elimination event, the top four placements shall be noted on the Event Report followed by any additional unlisted first-round cast winners. NHBA Days and some State Championships are an example of a semi elimination event where they take the top four scores and put those dogs in a Winner's Pack type cast for overall placement and awards purposes.

DEGREES OF EXCELLENCE AS ISSUED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED KENNEL CLUB

The following championship win structure for earning degrees is effective January 1, 2021.

(a) UKC HUNTING BEAGLE CHAMPION (HBCH)

To be declared an official Hunting Beagle Champion, a dog must have earned five cast wins in UKC Licensed Hunting Beagle Hunts recorded on the records in the UKC Championship Office. A dog must hunt designated hunt time and have a total score of plus points and be a cast winner before they can receive Championship wins, unless noted otherwise for the event.

(b) GRAND HUNTING BEAGLE CHAMPION (GRHBCH)

Other than UKC Hunting Beagle Nationals, NHBA Days, and the McVay Memorial; Hunting Beagle Champions and Hunting Beagle Grand Champions are drawn out and compete in the same category. GRHBCH degree is earned by winning eight (8) Champion Category casts at a UKC Licensed Hunting Beagle Hunt. A dog must hunt designated hunt time and have a total score of plus points and be a cast winner before they can receive Championship wins, unless noted otherwise for the event.

(c) GRAND HUNTING BEAGLE CHAMPION MULTIPLIER DEGREES

Additional multiplier and UKC Hall of Fame degrees are earned and awarded to Grand Hunting Beagle Champions as follows. A dog must hunt designated hunt time and have a total score of plus points and be a cast winner before they can receive Championship wins, unless noted otherwise for the event.

8 cast wins (GRHBCH2)

16 cast wins (GRHBCH3)

24 cast wins (GRHBCH4)

32 cast wins (GRHBCH5)

37 cast wins (GRHBCHHOF)

Transitioning Hunt History Records Information

The new format will require UKC to update their dogs event history. This cannot take place until after all 2020 hunt reports are processed. After all reports are processed, new programming will be implemented and change the records of all active dogs from placements to cast wins. In other words, current event history records show the dogs' event placement, be it first through tenth for Registered dogs and any first through fifth places for Champions. The only event history on record for Grands are First Place wins. After the new programming kicks in, all of these placements or wins will turn into cast wins.

In doing so, UKC will only go back so far in history. As done in the other formats, dogs that might be considered as still actively competing are those whose event hunt history will be affected by this change. When it comes to Hunting Beagles, UKC will go back to dogs born in 2010 and after only. Dogs born prior to 2010 will retain their original hunt history showing all their event placements and or wins.

This means that some registered dogs that did not have a Champion degree may in fact now be awarded that degree.

Example 1: Gingerich's Barney was born in 2010 and has three second place wins and three third place wins for a grand total of six placements. Barney's six placements now transition to six cast wins under the new format and will in fact make him a Hunting Beagle Champion. It will also generate a Champion Degree that is mailed out to the owner.

Example 2: Gingerich's Ginger, born in 2012, has one first place win, two fifth place wins, and one seventh place win. Ginger has a grand total of 90 Championship points. Her four placements will turn into four cast wins. Under the new format she will need one more cast win to finish to Champion.

Example 3: HBCH Gingerich's Smokey, born in 2017, has four Champion wins and needs only one more win to finish to GRHBCH under the current format. These four wins will turn into four cast wins in 2021. Knowing this, it may be in my best interest, as the owner, to give Smokey every opportunity to get that last win in 2020 before the new format kicks in. Otherwise, Smokey will need four more cast wins to finish to GRHBCH.

Example 4: GRHBCH Gingerich's Sally, born in 2015, has five Grand wins on her hunt record. Under the new format she will need three more cast wins to earn the degree of GRHBCH2.

Example 5: GRHBCH Gingerich's TJ, born in 2010, has a grand total of 31 Grand wins on his record. When the new format kicks in, he will be a GRHBCH4. One more cast win will earn him the degree of GRHBCH5. The owner will also receive three separate degrees for TJ, a GRHBCH2, 3 and 4 Degree Certificates.

Example 6: GRHBCH Gingerich's Solid As A Rock, born in 2010, was a winning fool and accumulated a grand total of 41 GRHBCH wins on his record. Rock is, although he hasn't competed in a hunt since 2018, he is now a UKC GRHBCHHOF as he should be! Matter of fact, he earned his HOF degree the hard way because he got zero credit for those 15 cast wins where his score was not enough for a Grand win. His owner will receive five separate GRHBCH Degree Certificates including the ultimate HOF Degree.

Example 7: GRHBCH Gingerich's Bonnie, born in 2009, has 15 Grand wins on her hunt record. Her record will forever reflect her Registered category placements, her Champion wins

and the 15 Grand wins because she was born prior to 2010. Her record was excellent and reflects that of the good hounds in her era.

Summary

A cast win type format was implemented in 2019 for other UKC hunting formats, opening doors for more options and opportunities for clubs and participants alike. Creating more options for clubs, that work best for them in their area, is one of the goals behind these changes. More importantly, this format is proving to work out very well. For one, it levels the playing field when it comes to preferred hunting spots and high scores. It's a simple format where you beat what you draw and not as much emphasis on beating the scores of another cast that may be competing in a better spot. Champions and Grands not having a first-place score, under the previous championship points structure, will now receive credit for every first round plus-point cast win to go towards their championship degree.

Under this format, a Winner's Pack in the Registered Category or Full Elimination style events for regular club events is eliminated. Semi or Full Elimination style events will be considered for major events only and will need to be pre-approved by UKC.

Separating non-titled dogs from titled dogs allows for a starter type class if you will. Not requiring a First-Place criteria may make it easier for some dogs to earn a Champion degree, even though it will take more cast wins now than the minimum it may have taken under the previous format. However, combining Champions and Grands into one category may up the ante when it comes to achieving UKC's ultimate degrees, including the new Multipliers and Hall of Fame.

Allowing both categories to compete in two separate timelines of a hunt, if so scheduled by the club, will allow the potential for a larger total entry. It will also allow a participant to handle more than one dog in the same category in the same hunt. If the club schedules a Double Header with two separate entry times, the potential for people to travel further and participate increases greatly.

It may be imperative that owners pay attention to the examples shown above as it may pertain to the current hunt record status of their dogs. Especially when it comes to their registered or champion dogs that are close to reaching their next degree because it may be in their best interest to try and finish them before the end of 2020 before the new championship format kicks in. Secondly, owners that have changed address since 2009 should make sure they update their addresses for any of their dogs, even though the dog may longer be actively competing, This to be sure any new degrees their dogs are eligible for will be mailed to their current address.

Lastly, there will not be a new rulebook published for 2021, noting these changes. However, considering that 2022 will be the next scheduled rulebook update, it gives us a full year under these changes and to tweak anything necessary when that time comes.

