

FULL CIRCLE

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This month's article reflects frequently asked questions as they relate to the format changes in UKC's Hunting Beagle Program, that go into effect January 1, 2021.

PLACEMENTS NOT CARRIED OVER TO CAST WINS

Q: On one of my open registered dogs, his win record still shows the four second-place wins and two third-place wins that he had at the end of 2020. I thought those six placements were supposed to change to six cast wins and make him a champion under the new format starting in 2021?

A: UKC must first make sure all 2020 hunt reports are processed and any report issues are resolved before they can switch the programming over to reflect the new cast-win format. After that has been accomplished, UKC's programming system will switch over to the new format system. Once switched those six registered category wins will in fact update to six cast wins and will generate a Champion Degree for your dog. This could take four to six weeks into 2021 before the program update occurs.

Until then, you'll be good to enter the dog in the Champion category. You'll just need to tell the entry takers that you've not yet received the dogs champion degree and new Easy Entry Card.

NOT ENOUGH GUIDES TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL ENTRIES UNDER NEW FORMAT

Q: With the change where clubs schedule their hunts with an A and a B entry time, and dogs may be entered in either entry time regardless of their category (Registered or Champion/Grand Champion), our club is concerned that we may not have enough guides to accommodate the additional entries we may end up with. Does the club have the option to designate registered dogs to run in A and Champs and Grands to run in B?

A: These format changes do in fact come with giving the club a lot of options. More options should be a good thing and allows clubs to choose what works best for them. However, designating registered dogs to run in A and Champs and Grands to run in B is not an option for regular club events.

Allowing dogs to enter in either A or B was designed to allow the potential for more entries, which it should do. A good example of that is; let's say I don't have any registered dogs to enter but I have more than one Champion or Grand. Of course, I can only handle one dog at a time. So, under the old format, your club would have only got one of my entries while under the new format you may now very well get two of my entries. There may very well be other participants that take advantage of this and ultimately bring more entries to your event. It's the exact thing we were trying to accomplish; the potential for clubs to draw more entries!

That said, it's funny how you hear "entries are down and what can we do"? On the flip side, we have a few clubs that are concerned they may not be able to handle it. We could go on and make a topic of this, but we'll leave that for another article. For clubs that might be concerned, remember; you have options. One option is to not schedule a B entry deadline and just have one (an A), where all entries go out at the same time. This will certainly eliminate those extra entries you may have received otherwise.

The main reason we had the option for two deadlines, under the previous format, had everything to do with having a more level playing field for each category where they would compete under the same type of conditions during that time period of the day for that whole class. We all know conditions may and do change as you get later into the day. Sometimes for the better and sometimes the opposite. When a class was competing for overall scores this was more important. Under the new format, dogs are only competing against the dogs they draw and not for high scores, therefore, considering conditions during different times of the day are not as important anymore.

DOUBLE HEADERS ARE AN OPTION FOR ALL CLUB EVENTS

Q: Are double headers (two hunts on the same day) an option for World Qualifying Events only?

A: Not only are double headers and option for World Qualifying Events, clubs also have the option to make any one or all of their regular event dates double headers. This club option was designed to also give the participant a better reason to travel further when they can enter their dog(s) in more than one hunt on the same day. Again, potentially even more entries for the club.

60 OR 90-MINUTE HUNTS FOR DOUBLE HEADERS

Q: Do clubs holding a double header have the option to set their hunt times at 60 or 90-minute hunts, or are they all mandatory 60-minute hunts?

A: When we first announced the advent of double headers, UKC stated they would all be mandatory 60-minute hunts. Since then, there's been more discussion on this topic and UKC has retracted that statement to allow clubs to decide. Therefore, double header may be 60 or 90-minute hunts.

A AND B ENTRY DEADLINE OPTIONS FOR DOUBLE HEADERS

Q: May clubs schedule A and B entry times for double headers?

A: Yes! Depending on the time of year when daylight hours are shorter, it may be tough to have enough daylight hours to have an A and B entry deadlines while other times of the year it may not be an issue at all. 60 and 90-minute hunts would also be a factor to consider. For clarification purposes, double headers are individually referred to as Hunt 1 and Hunt 2. Something to consider may be the option to have Hunt 1 with an A and a B entry deadlines for Hunt 1 but only schedule one entry deadline (A) for Hunt 2. Options.

