

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

Hello again from Michigan! I hope this article finds your spirits as high as the current temperatures are in most of the country. Even with the summer heat bearing down on us, it seems like most of the folks I see on the social media platforms are enjoying their free time with their dogs. Whether they are enjoying the influx of summer events that are available this year, or just enjoying time with their hounds, I'm seeing a lot of smiles and that is something refreshing in the doom and gloom days that 2020 has provided us with.

I know that by the time most of you read this, I will be riding high from my trip to Youth Nationals in Flatwoods, WV in late July. Not only am I sick and tired of sitting in the house, but Youth Nationals is always a blast to attend. Seeing and hearing the love and admiration that those kids have for their hound is enough to make the trip worthwhile.

I do not have any new topics to cover as far as rules questions go this month. As always, I welcome all questions and comments to be emailed to me at twade@ukcdogs.com. This is especially true to all Master of Hounds or Hunt Directors who get to hear questions more often than even I do. Reach out to me and let me know if there are any rules that folks are struggling with or if there are any common misconceptions that you are routinely hearing.

With that being said, we will reach back into the archives and pull a few topics back up for a bit of a refresher course. Keep in mind that I may have to tweak these a little bit here or there to make them fit with the current running rules as some information may be outdated.

April 2016

Dog Does Not Move Up as Result of Another Dog Leaving Tree

Q: I was on a hunt recently where we had this scenario. Dogs A and B were declared treed, in that order. When we arrived at the tree, Dog A was seen off the tree about 30 yards just standing there looking at us. The judge minused Dog A 125 but then moved Dog B up to first tree. Was this correct?

A: The only time you move dogs up on tree (tree positions) is if, or when, it becomes obvious you have a split tree situation. Keep in mind that, unless the tree is closed, a judge should never award split tree points unless, or not until, it is obvious, to the judge, 1) at the time the call was taken or 2) when it becomes obvious or evident. That was not the case here. Dog A is considered to have left the tree but it doesn't change the fact that Dog A had first tree, on the tree being scored. Therefore, Dog B cannot be given credit for a first tree. Had Dog A been split treed nearby you would have moved Dog B up to first tree, but not under the scenario described. Dog B should have remained on the scorecard with 75 tree points and scored accordingly. The only way Dog B would have been eligible for first tree is if Dog A would have been minused for leaving before Dog B was declared treed.

November 2017

Don't Assume Judge Noted a "?" on the Card

Q: The other night I drew out in a cast where the club official assigned a non-hunting judge to our cast. During the course of the hunt the judge made a call that I did not think was correct so I questioned him about it. He turned the card over and read the rule that he thought applied. We all talked about it and everyone else agreed with him but that doesn't matter because there is no voting with a non-hunting judge. At the end of the hunt, I brought

up the situation we had earlier and that we needed to all go back to the Master of Hounds for a ruling. The judge said he didn't realize that I wanted to question his ruling and didn't put a question on the scorecard. The other handlers said the same thing so I told them to forget about it. My point is; I questioned the judges call and he should have put a question on the card. It would have made a difference in winning or losing the cast. Please advise on how this should have been handled.

A: You're right, there is no voting on anything when you have a non-hunting judge. That doesn't mean you can't question a non-hunting judge's call, talk about it, and try to resolve it in that manner first. You mentioned that the judge turned the card over and read the rule he thought applied to your situation. That right there tells me that he attempted to resolve your question by first reading the rule that he thought applied and addressing it. That's the way it should be handled by the judge.

Simply telling the judge you want to question a call doesn't automatically constitute a question mark going on the scorecard. Did you give it any thought that he was only responding to you asking the question and him trying to resolve it by reading the rule he was applying? It should because that is the best way to address any question. After that, if you still think the wrong call was made, you have every right to ask for a question mark be noted on the scorecard. And make it clear. In other words, it is your responsibility to make sure there is no question about it. The judge cannot deny you asking for a question to be placed on the card. If they refuse then you should make every effort that it is clear to all that your question is being refused because it is THE only way a Master of Hounds should even consider hearing your question at the clubhouse is if there's an actual question mark on the card or it's clear that you were refused that right.

January 2013

Scoring Trees / Sending Handlers to Tie Dogs at Split Trees

This topic never gets old so let's spend just a moment with a discussion of scoring trees. There are a couple important things to remember when scoring trees. First, in order to score plus or minus, it takes a majority of the cast decision to do so. A Judge's vote holds no more weight than anyone else when it comes to voting on how trees should be scored in a hunting Judge situation. Sure, in a non-hunting Judge situation, it's solely the Judge's decision. But in a hunting Judge situation, trees are scored by a vote of the cast members, and each cast member has equal say. It takes three people on a four-dog cast to plus or minus a tree. Can you believe this question still gets called into the office almost every week?

Also, it is mandatory that all cast members go to each tree to participate in the scoring. In split tree situations, it is NOT permissible to send two handlers to one tree to score it while the remaining two handlers score the other tree. Even in the essence of saving time, this is not acceptable. The rules say points will be plus when coon is seen by a majority of the cast when hunting a Judge is used. This is much different than saying, "by a majority of the cast members present at that tree." All cast members must vote on how to score each tree, and those votes must be made in good faith after having searched the tree in question for the allotted time.

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