

# COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

With the new year bearing down on us, the last Coonhound Advisor of 2019 seems like a good time to finish going through the rule changes that have yet to be discussed in this column. At this point, all the updated rules have been implemented into the rulebook and those are now available for your study and review. Also listed below, you will find updated rules pertaining to UKC licensed Bench Show, Water Race and Field Trial Events. If you happened to miss last month's issue, it would be beneficial to find a copy and read over the previously discussed rules. The Advisor Columns are available on the UKC website. Please keep in mind that our current running rules are still in place for the duration of 2019.

First, I want to address an issue from last month's advisor column. In the section regarding the new tree countdown, there was an error in the example that was provided. This has since been revised in the online version, but the printed issues of Coonhound Bloodlines are incorrect. Please see the bolded sentence in the updated section below for the correct interpretation of this scenario.

## Tree Countdown

**Tree Countdown** Any dog that is declared treed two minutes after first dog was declared treed; will be assigned 25 points on the tree. The tree countdown that is to be implemented in 2020 is pretty straightforward. Both second (75) and third (50) tree positions are available provided they are taken within the first two minutes of the first dog being declared treed. After two minutes, the only position available for any dog declared treed will be (25).

This countdown will influence another rule as well. The terminology, next available position will be converted to 25 points in the rule below. Rule 4(j) currently reads, {Dogs treeing but not declared treed, when Judge arrives, will be minused on tree points on "off" game (in registered, scratched if champion cast) or slick tree. Points will be determined by next available position in the case of one dog, or split available tree points in the case of two or more dogs. Dogs shut-out on strike on slick tree or "off" game (in registered, scratched if champion cast) will receive minus tree points only.} The rule will be changed to show 25 tree points issued and minused in place of the bolded portion of the rule as shown above. I would also like to make it clear that awarding dog's points that we "think" it should get when scoring them is not correct. An example would be: Dog A is blowing the top out of a tree in front of us. Dog B comes in and covers the tree 30 seconds into tree time. Handler of Dog B chooses not to tree his dog, for whatever reason, and they head into the tree. **Upon arrival, both dogs are handled, and the tree is declared slick or, in a registered cast, off-game is spotted.** Dog B will be awarded 25 tree points to be minused instead of a possible 75 points, even though some are pretty sure he was there before the two minutes were up.

## Babbling

If a question arises pertaining to a dog babbling when declared struck; a vote shall determine the scoring of strike points as follows:

- If majority of the cast agrees the dog was babbling, strike points shall be minused.
- If the vote results in a tie, strike points shall be deleted.
- If majority of cast agrees the dog was babbling, strike points shall remain assigned as called.

The only change to this rule is if there is any question pertaining to a dog babbling, when a hunting judge is used, there must be a cast vote immediately. A tied vote will now result in deleted strike points, vs the old rule where it took a majority vote to overrule the judge's call. Otherwise, a majority rules. Again, this only applies if there is a question and a cast member ask for a vote.

## Leash-Locked

Eliminate leash-lock altogether, unless all dogs are declared treed and cast decides to move to a new location after all trees have been scored. If cast decides to move, hunt time shall be stopped while walking to trees with dog(s) on leash. Hunt time shall be called back in during shining time only.

With hunt times getting shorter, it only makes sense to have the dogs in the cast competing as often as possible. With this alteration of the leash-lock rule, there will be very few times where a dog is bound to a leash in the cast.

One rule that will remain unchanged is, if dog(s) in the cast are struck or treed in, after pulling your dog off a scored treed, you must wait for one of those dogs to open to be recast. However, if no dogs are struck or treed in, your hound will be immediately eligible for recasting upon pulling it off the scored tree.

A rule that is going to be slightly altered is the option to recast. After pulling your hound off a scored tree, if any or all dog(s) in the cast are declared treed, you have the option to recast. This will be true even if all other dogs are treed in. You will also have the option to keep your dog on the leash until the next available opportunity arises for you to recast. Your next opportunity would be after the scoring of the next tree or if a dog leaves their tree. Please keep in mind that if no other dog(s) in the cast are declared treed, your dog will not have the option to remain on the leash. Recasting is mandatory at that point.

The one caveat to this rule, that will help casts remain in optimal hunting terrain, is the option to call time out and move locations when all dogs in the cast are treed in. After the scoring of the first tree, when all other dogs are declared treed, if the cast needs to move locations, at that point they could call time out while the scored dog is on the leash and head to the next dogs' tree. Hunt time would only be running, after that decision is made, during shine time. If a dog leaves its tree while cast is in route with dogs in hand, time would need to be called back in and all leashed dogs would be released.

For that reason, the only time dogs can be scored out of order or in the most convenient order, is when all dogs are declared treed, handled and the cast needs to move to a new location. Notice the terminology, treed AND handled. I want to make it clear that for trees to be scored out of order, all dogs need to be handled on their tree. Here is the situation we must avoid: Dogs A, B, C and D are all declared treed, all split, in that order. After scoring Dog A's tree the cast decides it needs to move to a new location. Time out is called and the cast heads to Dog D's tree that is the closest but would be last in succession in most cases. After Dog D's tree is scored, the cast heads to Dog B. On the way to Dog B's tree, Dog C leaves and time is called in and Dog A and D are cut loose. Dog B, who should be scored by this point, now has lost valuable hunt time due to the trees being scored out of order. To avoid this situation happening, for dogs to be scored out of order, all handlers would need to handle their dogs before the scoring begins.

**Running, Treeing or Molesting Off Game**

Change rules to state dogs must be SEEN running, treeing, or molesting off game.

The only addition to the current rule here is the word, seen, that has been added. In the past, a Judge could decide that your dog's track was sounding a little too good and minus or even scratch your dog for running off game without visual evidence to validate it. With the alteration of this rule, the non-hunting Judge, or majority of cast with hunting Judge, must see the deer, fox, etc. to award your hound minus points or to scratch your dog in the Champion Division.

**Scratched for Fighting**

Change rule to scratch dogs for fighting or attempting to fight during hunt time only and shall further include while dogs are off leash and during any time out periods during the hunt.

This rule will prevent dogs from being scratched while in the dog box or on the leash. It is important to take note that any dog fight happening during time outs, or after the hunt is over, before dogs are leashed, may still result in the dog(s) involved being scratched.

To further explain my point, imagine you are walking to a tree that was declared before time out was called, or hunt time was over. Two dogs are treeing away when a dog fight breaks out. Even though hunt time isn't currently running, the dogs are off the leash and will be held liable for their actions.

**Open Registered Championship Class Points**

Puppy, Junior and Senior Age Class – 5 points

Breed Class – 10 points

Best of Show – 15 points

Note: Two (2) different judges and at least one Best in Show requirements stay the same.

Many felt as though the old point distribution model didn't make sense, and frankly, they were right. Under the new format, dogs' winning Best of Show will be awarded the most available points. Class wins have been reduced to five (5) points and a breed class win has been reduced to ten (10) points; however, winning Best of Show has increased to 15 points. Secondly, many felt that it was too easy to finish a dog to Champion under the previous points system where a dog could finish in three shows. Now it will take a minimum of four shows to finish to Champion.

**Champion Class**

Requires a total of eight (8) wins for Grand Champion Degree.

Note: Three (3) different judges requirement remains the same.

**Grand Champion Class**

After 8 class wins, dog to receive GRCH2 degree.

After 16 class wins, dog to receive GRCH3 degree.

After 24 class wins, dog to receive GRCH4 degree.

After 32 class wins, dog to receive GRCH5 degree.

After 40 class wins, dog to receive GRCHHOF degree.

Note: Each tier requires three (3) different judges. The judges you have shown under will reset once you move on to the next tier, meaning, you can show with the judges you have previously showed under to count towards this requirement.

Finally, multipliers for the bench show participants! The goal was to make this change as simple and uniform as possible, while protecting the integrity of the bench show titles. Eight (8) CH wins will now be required to attain the GRCH title. After making a dog a GRCH, every eight (8) GRCH wins you earn will

move you up to the next rank. After 40 Grand Champion class wins, the dog will earn the coveted Hall of Fame degree.

**Water Race and Field Trial**

To maintain uniform throughout, it will now take 8 FCH/WCH wins to finish a dog to GRFCH/GRWCH. You will still need to have one Grand Line AND Grand Tree Final win to become a Grand Field or Water Champion.

Much like the other coonhound events, the water race and field trials will now use a title multiplier format. The multiplier will be set up as follows:

After 8 wins as a GRFCH or GRWCH, dog to receive GRFCH2/GRWCH2 degree.

After 16 wins as a GRFCH2 or GRWCH2, dog to receive GRFCH3/GRWCH3 degree.

After 24 wins as a GRFCH3 or GRWCH3, dog to receive GRFCH4/GRWCH4 degree.

After 32 wins as a GRFCH4 or GRWCH4, dog to receive GRFCH5/GRWCH5 degree.

After 40 wins as a GRFCH5 or GRWCH5, dog to receive GRFCHHOF/GRWCHHOF degree.

In both events, you will need to win a Grand Final line AND tree at least once to move onto the next degree. Otherwise, all Grand Final line OR tree wins will count towards your next title.

Note: Champions and Grand Champions compete in the same class.

**Club Memo**

With wins being as important as ever for multipliers and qualification purposes, we must do better about getting event reports sent in, in a timely manner. Leniency on late fees is going to be a thing of the past. 10 days to get your reports sent in should be plenty of time. There are multiple options to use when sending in your event reports, which can have you free and clear by the Monday afternoon following your event.

Scan the white copy of the reports and email it to [fieldoperations@ukcdogs.com](mailto:fieldoperations@ukcdogs.com).

Fax the white copy of the reports to Fax Number: 269-343-7037.

Mail the white copy of the event reports to the office ASAP.

Note: Please keep your club copy for one year just in case the report does not make it to the office.

Also, I want to reaffirm that cancelling published events will not

## UKC® Disciplinary Action Committee Report

- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Trevor Kendrick Jr of Baton Rouge, LA, failed to comply with a UKC investigation. DAC Action – Suspended until October 16, 2021.

Rev. 10/16/19

*The UKC Notice of Suspension list can be found at  
[www.ukcdogs.com/suspension](http://www.ukcdogs.com/suspension)*

**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

become a regular occurrence. In the very rare instances that it is allowed, there must be extreme conditions or circumstances that can't be avoided. There are many people out there, including me, who will look in the magazine or online, see a date and put it in their calendar to be there without checking back. Then come Saturday night, they drive 1.5 hours to the club, just to find out no one is there. When Monday morning rolls around, Allen and I get to take a good chewing, and rightfully so. When clubs are insistent on cancelling published event dates, we will do so, but we will not be confirming dates for that club moving forward. We are going to be consistent on this.

Beginning January 1, 2020, the UKC Plott Hound breed standard will reflect a change that no longer disqualifies a Plott Hound that is solid colored.

The revised UKC Plott Hound breed standard regarding color will state:

### **COLOR**

*Any shade of brindle (a fine streaked or striped pattern of dark hair imposed on a lighter background or light streaks or stripes on a dark background); Brindle with black saddle, Black with brindle trim, solid buckskin and solid black. Some white on chest and feet is permissible, as is a greying effect around the jaws and muzzle. All things being equal, brindle is preferred.*

*Disqualifications: Albinism. Any color or combination of colors other than described.*

United Kennel Club is proud to protect and promote the qualities that define the UKC registered Plott Hound.

