

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

As promised in last month's Advisor, I am going to use this space to go into detail on a few of the rule changes that will be going into effect on January 1, 2020. Bench show proposals and the remaining nite hunt rule changes that were passed will be featured in this column next month. Please keep in mind that the existing running rules as shown in the Official Coonhound Rulebook and on the back side of the current scorecard are still in place for the duration of 2019.

Let's start out by addressing Proposal 7 that was originally passed, **Treing but not Declared Treed When Judge Arrives**. The proposal stated, "Any dog(s) treing, but not declared treed, when the judge arrives shall be assigned next available tree points. The dog shall be awarded next available tree points and minused both strike and tree if; coon is seen, tree is slick, or off game is seen. In the case of more than one dog; split available tree points."

You may have noticed that this proposal was not published with those others that passed in the Advisor Column last month. After careful consideration and some in depth discussions with the Breed Associations, we have decided to nix this rule change. At the time of the round table discussion, most of the Associations agreed that it was a good idea. Upon the passing of a couple unforeseen rule changes, including the three-minute tree time and a new leash-lock rule, the combination of these three rules together opened a huge can of worms when it comes to the potential of dogs drawing undeserved minus points.

To expound on my statement, here is a scenario that could have very well played out that needed to be avoided. Dogs A, B and C are all struck in. Dog A trees and we head in to score it. While scoring Dog A's tree, Dog B is treed a couple hundred yards right-handed. After scoring Dog A's tree, the handler recasts and the dog hits a scalding track that heads right to Dog B's tree that is now closed. Upon the arrival of the cast, the coon is seen, and Dog A would have been minused 25 tree points for treing on a coon he didn't have a chance to compete on. I think we can all agree that at this point, we are better off leaving this rule alone for now.

Here are some of the rule changes coming for 2020. Any remaining changes will be covered in next month's article.

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 treing 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.

Tree Closed

Change rule to close tree at three (3) minutes after first dog is declared treed.

This was a rule change that was unexpected to say the least. Not only was it passed, but it was passed unanimously. The tree will now be closed after three (3) minutes instead of the traditional five (5) minutes. With shorter hunt times being used, it makes sense to have a shorter tree time. A majority of the Breed Associations seemed confident that this rule, coupled with the tree countdown, would appease their Association members clamoring for stricter rules for late covering dogs.

One thing that needs to be noted here is that the stationary time will remain to be five minutes moving forward. No time changes for the stationary rule.

Squalling at Tree

Eliminate Rule 6(u) and allow squalling during all of shining time.

I believe this one is self-explanatory. With the removal of this rule, handlers are now able to squall, pull vines, tap trees, etc. during the entire duration of shine time, regardless of what other dogs in the cast are doing.

Silent on Track

Eliminate Rule 6(e) {if dog is continuously silent on track}

The often discussed but rarely enforced "silent dog" rule will now be eliminated from the rulebook. Please keep in mind that even when a "silent dog" falls treed, the handler will need to declare the dog struck before it can be declared treed.

Warnings Issued on First Offense

1. Declaring Dog Struck After the Third Bark

For handler declaring dog struck after the third bark. 1.) Judge shall ask for call and dog must be declared struck on the next bark or receive available strike position minused and re-assigned on the scorecard. 2.) Minus available strike position on second offense. If not declared struck on next bark after judge asks for call, dog is scratched. 3.) Scratch dog on third offense.

In this rule change, there is a warning being added before any minusing or scratching goes on. The judge will ask for a call on the first offense now before anyone is minused, whereas it used to be an automatic next available strike minus. Then

the next time it happens, the judge will issue automatic next available strike minus before anyone is scratched, when in the old rules, the dog would automatically be scratched. It won't be until the third offense that the dog is scratched.

2. Calling Wrong Dog

For calling wrong dog. On second offense dog is minused called points available. Dog is scratched on third offense.

Like the rule change above, this rule change will issue a warning before anyone is minused or scratched. On the first offense of calling the wrong dog, the handler will be issued a warning, whereas it used to be automatic strike points minused. On the second offense of calling the wrong dog, the dog will be minused called points, in place of the old rule, that would have scratched the dog. The dog will be scratched the third time the handler calls the wrong dog.

Both of these rule changes are geared towards being more lenient on scratching a handler's dog when possible.

Point Values in Strike and Tree Columns on Scorecard

Change Rule 6(y) to read: {If scorecard lacks point values in the strike or tree column(s) and after seeking additional information the Event Official cannot satisfactorily determine the accurate score, effected dog(s) will be scratched.

This change will do away with automatically scratching a dog when the returned scorecard lacks a value (plus, minus, circle, delete) in the strike and/or tree columns. It will allow for the event official to check with those involved to resolve the missing information. If the official can still not confidently determine the accurate score, only then will the affected dog(s) be scratched.

UKC® Disciplinary Action Committee Report

- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Charlotte L Felner of Nunnely, TN, failed to comply with a UKC investigation and submitted an application/documentation containing false information. DAC Action – Suspended until September 18, 2021.
- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Adrian Coxson of Baltimore, MD, failed to comply with a UKC investigation and submitted an application/documentation containing false information. DAC Action – Suspended until September 18, 2021.
- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Doug McCombs of Rothbury, MI, falsified scorecards. DAC Action – Suspended until October 1, 2021.
- UKC's Disciplinary Action Committee determined that Patrick Colby Lucas of Louisville, MS, falsified event reports. DAC Action – Suspended until October 1, 2021.

Rev. 10/1/19

The UKC Notice of Suspension list can be found at
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.

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