



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**DEADLINES:** Only those dogs that qualified via a Regional Qualifying Event (RQE) and were entered by the advanced deadline of Monday, September 7, 2026 (or late entries submitted on or before September 14, 2026 for an additional \$100 fee) are eligible to hunt in the World Championship. The deadline to confirm an entry at all Zone locations is 5:00 p.m. local time on both Friday and Saturday nights. The deadline to return scorecards will be determined and announced at the event.

**CONFIRMING YOUR ENTRY:** Your entry must be confirmed at the event location on both Friday *and* Saturday night prior to the posted deadline. The UKC Field Rep (MOH) will not take personal phone calls to confirm an entry as conditional for a handler who may be running late. In that case, the entry would need to be confirmed by someone else and the handler would need to be present when their cast is called out, or the dog will be scratched.

**VETERAN CASTS:** There will not be any Veteran Casts at any Zone events.

**SPECTATORS:** Spectators are not allowed on any cast at the Zones. See *Backup Handlers below*.

**BACKUP HANDLERS:** Each handler is allowed to have a backup handler. The handler shall advise the entry taker who their backup handler is, and it should be noted on the scorecard. If the backup handler has not been noted, the judge should simply write their name on the scorecard at the start of the hunt. A backup handler may not become involved in any part of scoring procedures, and they will not have a voice in voting procedures. A backup handler is not required to go to the woods, he or she may stay at the vehicle. Allowing backup handlers to shine trees is a decision made by the cast at the beginning of the hunt, per rule 10(b).

**JUDGES:** Hunting Judges will be used at the Zones. Only qualified Hunting Judges are to be used. All judges will be pre-selected and approved by the event official. The Hunting Judge must be at least 18 years of age and possess the experience, knowledge, and integrity to perform the duties required. The event official will, at their discretion, have the authority to assign a Non-Hunting Judge to any cast deemed necessary. Non-Hunting Judges will be used throughout the remainder of the World Championship Finals.

**HUNT TIME PERIODS:** All casts at the Zones will hunt for two hours. At the Finals, dogs will also hunt for two hours in each of the four possible rounds.

**POSTING ZONE SCORES:** Friday night scores will be posted at the event and on the UKC website. Saturday night scores will not be posted at the event or on the UKC website until all casts have returned or the deadline to return scorecards has expired.

**APPEALS:** The Appeal procedure is not in effect for any part of a Zone event. The Master of Hounds (UKC Field Rep) decision will be final in all situations. The Master of Hounds may, at their discretion, contact UKC's Director of Hunting Operations or Hunting Operations Field Manager to discuss the situation prior to rendering a decision. The Master of Hounds is not required to contact UKC per handler request in the event the Field Rep deems it unnecessary.

**PLACEMENTS:** All dogs must hunt two hours on both Friday and Saturday night to be considered for placement at the Zones. If a dog is scratched, minuses out of the hunt, or withdrawn for any reason on Friday night, it will not be eligible to hunt on Saturday night at the Zones. If a dog is withdrawn or scratches on Saturday night, it is not eligible for placement or advancement to the Finals. The number of dogs advancing from each Zone will be announced prior to the calling of casts at each Zone by the Master of Hounds. Any two-night cast winners will place according to combined highest scores, followed by high scores from single-cast wins.

**CHAMPIONSHIP CAST WINS AWARDED:** Any dog winning its cast with a total score of plus points on Friday and/or Saturday night at the Zones will receive a cast win toward their degree. At the Finals, all advancing dogs in Rounds 1 through 4 will receive a win toward their degree.

**AWARDS AT THE ZONES:** All Zone Placement Awards and giveaways will be presented to the owner or handler on Thursday at the World Championship Finals when they confirm their entry. The deadline to confirm an entry at the Finals is 5:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at the Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland, Indiana. Handler shall have dog in hand when they confirm their entry at the Finals.