



# UKC TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

## OFFICIAL RULES

### PURPOSE

An incentive to boost nite hunt entries at UKC licensed events, targeting dogs finished to Grand Nite Champion and those who prefer monetary awards. It's also an opportunity that affords the average competition hunter to participate for the largest event purse in UKC history.

### PRIZE PAYOUT SCHEDULE

96-DOG FINAL	
TOTAL PURSE .....	\$250,000
1ST .....	\$50,000
2ND .....	\$30,000
3RD .....	\$20,000
ROUND 3 NON-WINNERS (3) .....	\$5,000
ROUND 2 NON-WINNERS (18) .....	\$3,500
ROUND 1 NON-WINNERS (72) .....	\$1,000

Awards payouts are made with a check and mailed within three weeks of the completion of the UKC Tournament of Champions Finals Event. Payouts are subject to any applicable IRS reporting and withholding requirements. An IRS Form 1099 will be issued to all prize winners.

To be eligible to receive a prize payout, the first registered owner must complete and submit a completed IRS Form W-9 before UKC (the Company) may issue the check. Prize payouts will be made entirely to the first registered owner of the dog.

If the qualified dog is owned by a minor, a parent or guardian of any participant who is a minor must sign a release on behalf of the minor to be eligible to receive a prize, but the Company reserves the right to refuse to award a prize to or on behalf of any minor.

### ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for each qualified dog that enters the 2026 UKC Tournament of Champions is \$150.00.

### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any UKC registered coonhound accumulating at least five cast wins in the calendar year is qualified for the UKC Tournament of Champions. Those

cast wins must be wins that are officially recorded towards the dogs' championship record on file at the UKC office. The calendar year runs from January 1 through December 31 each year.

### ENTRY INFORMATION

A UKC Tournament of Champions Invitation is mailed to the first named owner of a dog who has earned five cast wins during the same calendar year, prior to entries opening. The Invitation will include all necessary information for the dog to be entered into the UKC Tournament of Champions. Advanced entries only are accepted. The Invitation will note the deadline entry date for the event.

To enter the 2026 UKC Tournament of Champions, the entrant for each qualified coonhound must:

- Submit their entry as instructed on invitation
- Pay the entry fee
- Be in good standing with UKC
- Be a resident of the United States

Entry fees are non-refundable with the following exceptions: a written statement received by UKC from the owner on or before the Region Event date, reporting: 1) a deceased dog; 2) injured dog (must include vet statement); or 3) a female in season.

### REGIONAL EVENT FORMAT

The first leg of the UKC Tournament of Champions is to compete in one of the strategically placed Regional Events. These hunts will be held on Friday and Saturday nights, with one round on each night. Hunt time period for each night is two hours, utilizing hunting judges.

All UKC Licensed Nite Hunt Honor Rules are in effect for the UKC Tournament of Champions as applicable for the year the event is being held, unless noted otherwise. Owners have the option to enter their eligible dog in any one of the regional events. A dog scratched or withdrawn on any night at the regions is also disqualified from any further competition and is not eligible to advance to the Finals.

A total of 96 dogs will advance from the Regionals to the Finals. The number of dogs advancing from each region is pro-rated, based on the

number of entries in the region and the total entries entered in all regions. After advanced entries close and all entries have been processed by UKC, the number of dogs advancing from each Region to the Finals will be determined and announced.

## FINALS EVENT FORMAT

All dogs advancing to the Finals will be eligible for a portion of the \$250,000 purse (see Payout Schedule). The Finals will feature four rounds of competition operating under the Full Elimination Format, as outlined in the Official Coonhound Rulebook. Any revisions to those rules will be announced and posted at the event.

Round 1 will be held on Thursday; Rounds 2 & 3 on Friday; and Round 4 (Final Cast) on Saturday. Up to two hours must be used in Rounds 1, 2 and 4, with the exception only as outlined in the Full Elimination rules when only one dog remains. Round 3 is a heads-up (two dogs) competition; a 90-minute hunt unless a dog concedes to the winner prior to that period. Hunting judges may be used in Round 1, otherwise, non-hunting judges will be used in all remaining rounds at the Finals.

In the Finals only, a cast winner will be determined for advancement, regardless of score. As also further outlined in Full Elimination rules: to be considered a cast winner, without a total score of plus points, the dog must have legitimate tree points on the scorecard (circle tree or plus points).

## CHAMPIONSHIP WINS AWARDED

Cast winners on each night at the Regions receive a win towards their degree. Additionally, cast winners in Rounds 1, 2 and 4 at the Finals receive a win towards their degree. Cast winners in Round 3 at the Finals—where fewer than three dogs are competing—are not credited with a win towards their degree.

Regional events are generally held in late March to early April, with the Finals being a week or two later. Refer to UKC's website and the Tournament of Champions page for dates, locations, and more specific details for these events. Locations and dates are subject to change without notice at the sole discretion of UKC.

## SCORING QUESTIONS, RULINGS AND APPEALS

UKC Field Representatives will serve as Master of Hounds for the Regionals and Finals. All handlers are held to the procedures and timelines, as outlined in the UKC Coonhound Rulebook, when questioning a judge's call or a call that was not made. The portion of that procedure which states: {Situations not questioned and notated at the time the Judge's decision is made, will not be considered}, will be enforced with no exceptions. If deemed necessary, the official has the authority to contact UKC's management to discuss a scoring question brought to them before rendering a ruling. Otherwise, any scoring question will be resolved on the same night and the ruling made by the Master of Hounds will be considered final, with no further appeal applicable. By entering the UKC Tournament

of Champions, you agree to abide by these rules and decisions of any ruling made by the Master of Hounds, which will be determined in UKC's sole discretion. Failure to comply with any published rule is grounds for immediate disqualification.

## NITE HUNT RECORDING FEES BENEFIT GUARANTEED PURSE

While UKC guarantees, and is solely responsible for, the total purse as advertised, the UKC tournament of Champions was implemented by hunters, for hunters. The larger portion of UKC Licensed Nite Hunt recording fees, charged per entry, benefit the payout for the Tournament of Champions. This recording fee does not apply to Regional Qualifying Events (RQE) and Youth Nite Hunts. The Slam Event Payout Schedule has been pre-adjusted and includes applicable recording fees, with no maximum amount applicable. Per-dog recording fees for UKC Licensed Field Trials, Water Races, and Bench Shows remain as advertised and applicable for the current year.

The UKC Tournament of Champions is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited, taxed, or restricted by law. The UKC reserves the right to reject entries from countries, states and jurisdictions where such sweepstakes are prohibited or restricted. The UKC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to refuse, disqualify or withdraw any entry at any time. The UKC will not be responsible for any injury, damage or loss of any kind arising out of your participation in the UKC Tournament of Champions.

YOU AGREE TO RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND HOLD HARMLESS UKC, ITS AFFILIATES, SUBSIDIARIES, EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AGENTS AND ASSIGNS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LOSSES, INJURIES, OR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE UKC TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS.

Except where prohibited by law, UKC Tournament of Champions participants grant UKC a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free license to use winner and his/her dog's name, photograph, voice, and/or likeness without any further authorization, compensation, or remuneration of any kind for promotion and other publicity purposes in any and all media, now or hereafter known throughout the world.

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