

# OFFICIAL UKC® HUNTING BEAGLE HONOR RULES

Revised January 1, 2025

In addition to the following Honor Rules and the Official UKC Hunting Beagle Rulebook, any related articles published or posted by UKC contain additional applicable rules, statements of policies, and interpretations of UKC rules pertaining to the conducting of UKC events. All event activities, rules, policy applications and interpretations are subject to the final decision by UKC and its sole judgment and discretion.

## 1. POINT SYSTEM:

- a. STRIKE POINTS: One set of strike points. 100 points for dog that opens and is declared struck first, 75 points second, 50 points third, 50 points fourth.
- b. LINE POINTS: After rabbit has been completely circled and seen by a cast member or non-hunting Judge, the first dog to trail through the line to receive 100 points, 85 second, 70 third, 55 fourth.
- c. CHECK AND RECOVERY POINTS: Dog(s) to be minused 20 points at each check, unless all dogs in the cast are declared struck, then no dog is to be minused at a check. The first dog to recover the check to be awarded 20+ points.
- d. DEAD TRACK: Unless it is determined that the track ended in a place of refuge, those dogs declared struck to be minused. If majority of the cast is not declared struck, those dogs receive their strike position minus. If majority of cast is declared struck, those dogs to each receive 50 minus points.
- e. SWITCHING SPLIT TRACKS: Dog(s) found to have switched tracks and joined a split track shall be minused 50 points. Unless their strike points have already been secured, those points shall be deleted and dog shall be declared struck for next available position.

## 2. PLUS POINTS:

- a. On strike for all dog's declared struck, after judge has determined rabbit is produced. Produced is defined as; 1) when the dogs have circled back and 2) at the point where the judge approves that a line may be marked as soon as the rabbit is seen.
- b. On recovery after dogs were in a check, the first dog to open honestly resulting in reasonable forward progress to be awarded 20+ points.
- c. On speed and drive, when non-hunting judge, or majority of cast if Hunting Judge is used, are present as Judge scores dogs on line at point where rabbit was seen by a Judge or cast member after completion of circle.
- d. On strike and recovery only if dog(s) catch rabbit.
- e. On strike, when rabbit is jumped and seen by nonhunting judge or majority of cast if hunting Judge is used but goes to a hole or place of refuge before completion of circle. Hole or place of refuge must be verified.
- f. On strike, if dogs are trailing a rabbit that has been seen by the majority of cast or the non-hunting judge when time runs out.

## 3. MINUS POINTS:

- a. If reasonable forward progress is not made within any three-minute period. Reasonable forward progress is defined as a track that is runnable by the majority of the pack or when it is obvious to the majority of the cast members that a dog or dogs have recovered the track to a runnable state.
- b. When it is visually evident by the majority of the cast or a non-hunting judge that dog(s) quits a trail that is being worked, he will be minused. Or, if none of the declared struck dogs open for a period of three minutes, the track will be considered lost and minused. However, if dog(s) goes back on the track, he will get the next available position. Once a position has been minused, it becomes available again. However, a dog cannot be "struck in" over a dog's position that is being held. If all positions are taken, dog will receive 50 points for going back, but these points will be minused every time he comes out. Dog is not to be tied or encouraged to go back.

- c. Each dog declared struck to be minused 20 points at each "check", unless all dogs in cast are declared struck. If all dogs are declared struck, check minuses are not issued to any dog. If check loss occurs without a recovery, delete any check points and score in accordance with 3(d).
- d. When majority of dogs are struck in on a track, and all dogs on a particular track are minused simultaneously in accordance with rule 3(a) or 3(b), draw a line through the original strike points and minus each in accordance with Rule 1(d).
- e. When handler strikes another handler's dog, they are to receive the called position minus. After minus, position becomes available. For second offense see rule 5(o).
- f. After the first three minutes of hunt, dog must be declared struck on or before the third bark. Dog not declared struck on or before third bark will receive the available strike position minused, then awarded that same strike position. For second offense see Rule 5(n).
- g. After the first three minutes of the hunt, any dog(s) failing to hunt for any continuous three-minute period will receive 100 minus points. Dog(s) are not to be moved or encouraged to hunt while on the clock. See Rule 5(b) for dog(s) failing to hunt for any continuous five-minute period.
- h. Dog(s) leaving their track to join a split track receive 50 minus points, and any unscored strike points shall be deleted.
- i. Dog(s) leaving their track to join a split track, if majority of cast is not declared struck, receive their strike position points minused, and any unscored strike points shall be deleted. If strike points are already secured (via produced rabbit), dog shall receive 50 minus points and is not eligible for a new set of strike points on split track.

## 4. CIRCLED POINTS:

Circle points will count neither for, nor against, dog except when ties are to be broken.

- a. In case of running into a hole or place of refuge, a rabbit that has not been seen by the majority of cast or the non-hunting judge's (cast must locate hole or place of refuge).
- b. If dog(s) are trailing when hunt time expires.
- c. If Judge has to call time out because of nearness to livestock, buildings, danger, etc.

## 5. SCRATCHING OFFENSES:

### Dog Related Offense:

- a. Fighting or attempting to fight during the authority of the Judge. Dog's name, UKC registration number, and registrant's name will be reported to UKC on the Official Hunt Report form. No handler will be allowed to scratch their dog to avoid being scratched for fighting. When the aggressive dog is known, scratch the aggressor only. If not known, scratch dogs involved. (Attempting to fight is defined as follows: when dog(s) are interfering with other dog(s) during the authority of the Judge by aggressive behavior.)
- b. After the first three minutes of the hunt, for failing to make any attempt to hunt within any continuous five minutes of the hunt. Cast will not move with dog(s) on clock.
- c. For running or molesting stock.
- d. Bitches smelling strong enough to attract dogs, or a dog that is just bad to bother bitches, or any other dogs, while other dogs pay them no attention.
- e. If dog is continuously silent on trail.
- f. For delaying completion of cast for 30 minutes after time out is called in accordance with Rule 6.
- g. For running game other than rabbit, even if time is out. Off game does not have to be seen.
- h. After the first three minutes of the hunt, any dog that leaves the handler two times babbling. Babbling is defined as when a dog opens three times, or has been struck, where no track is evident.
- i. For backtracking on second offense.

- j. On second offense, for “rough-running,” “cutting,” or “slashing” on track. This rule to be rigidly enforced.
- k. On second offense, when dog(s) quits a trail that is being worked, provided remaining dog(s) circles and scores its rabbit.
- l. If dog accumulates 300 minus points regardless of how many plus points the dog has.
- m. If dog fails to pack (shall only apply at the point it has become disruptive and detrimental to the hunt).

**Handler Related Offense:**

- n. On second offense, if handler fails to declare dog struck on or before the third bark. This rule is to be rigidly enforced.
- o. On second offense, if handler calls another handler’s dog.
- p. If handler hollers at or physically abuses the dog.
- q. If handler handles dog without judge’s permission.
- r. If handler is drinking or seems to want to stir up trouble.
- s. Hunting over or under designated hunting times.

**6. TIME OUTS:**

Judge, or majority of cast if hunting Judge is used, may call time out and circle any un-scored strike points in accordance with the following:

- a. When dogs are getting on road, trail onto posted land or trail into a place where there is danger to dogs or hunters.
- b. When other hunters get too close. If dogs get with another group of dogs.
- c. If new ground must be found to finish cast (no dog(s) to be called off trail without awarding minus points).
- d. In case of accident or sickness.
- e. If cast becomes lost.
- f. When dog(s) are trailing and out of hearing distance in different directions.
- g. If judge instructs all dogs to be leashed simultaneously.

**7. TIES:**

- a. All ties to be broken for UKC points. Dog will win out over other dog; dog that has the least number of minus points;
- b. if still a tie, dog that has the most plus strike points;
- c. if still a tie, dog that has the most plus speed/drive points;
- d. if still a tie, dog that has the most recovery points;
- e. if still a tie, dog that has the most circled strike points;
- f. if still a tie, dog that has the most deleted strike points;
- g. if still a tie; dogs involved only will hunt in one 15-minute overtime. Overtime scoring to determine tie breaker only and does not change original score. Cast shall not return to club until overtime hunt is completed. Return deadline to be extended 15 minutes for any cast hunting overtime.
- h. If still a tie; flip a coin to determine cast winner.

**8. WINNERS:**

Dog must enter and hunt in correct class, otherwise, dog is considered ineligible for championship win.

Unless otherwise indicated, dog must hunt designated time and have a total score of plus points to be considered a cast winner.

**9. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- a. All casts must hunt the complete hunting time designated for cast. Hunt time is indicated on scorecard. Casts to be run on rabbit that is native to the immediate area. All points accumulated on non-native rabbits will be deleted. This rule is to be rigidly enforced.
- b. Search and Jump: Dogs to be freely cast and walked in the general direction of the hunt. Dogs to be declared struck and recorded according to their called positions upon opening. Dog must have

been heard opening immediately prior to a strike call. Otherwise, call shall not be accepted. Judge will instruct handlers to call in dog(s) when necessary to keep cast hunting together. Dog(s), not handlers or Judges, to search for and jump rabbit. In case of handlers inadvertently jumping rabbit, hounds may be released on track for split strike points. It is a majority of cast decision to split points if the rabbit is seen by the majority of cast. If the rabbit is not seen by the majority of the cast, it must be a unanimous decision to split points. Cast may not agree to put dogs on a rabbit already ran.

- c. Rough Running, Cutting, or Slashing: Dogs to pursue rabbit as fast as scenting conditions allow, but must exhibit good line control. Dog(s) observed to be “running rough,” “cutting,” or “slashing” on track will be scratched on second offense. Rough Running is defined as attempting to run the front of the pack faster than scenting conditions allow or without regard for the actual line. Routinely overshooting turns leading pack mates astray. Cutting is defined as attempting to run the front by leaving the trail to head off pack mates or avoiding heavy cover and other obstacles. Slashing is defined as running in a hit or miss fashion as a result of gambling and without regard for the actual line.
- d. Speed and Drive: Judge to score dogs on speed and drive as rabbit is circled and seen by a cast member. At time rabbit is seen, Judge, or majority of cast if Hunting Judge is used, must decide whether to allow dog(s) to continue on trail or pick up dog(s) in order to find new ground or another rabbit. Speed and drive points are awarded in order that dogs pass through the line, splitting points when positions cannot be determined. It must be obvious that a dog is NOT trailing in order to deny the dog Speed and Drive points. After first dog has been scored on Speed and Drive, there is a one-minute time limit to score remaining dogs on that line. Dog(s) must be opening on the majority of circle being scored to be scored. Speed and drive may be scored three (3) times only on the same rabbit. If loss occurs before completion of any additional circle, each dog declared struck to be scored 50 minus points in the Losses/Recoveries column. No dog(s) to be called off a trail without awarding minused points.
- e. Split Tracks: In case of split tracks, score speed and drive on first track one time and recover dog(s) so they may be turned in to dog(s) running split track. However, if rabbit on split track is seen while attempting to score the first track, it may be scored one time and then dog(s) must be handled and turned in on the split track. Dog(s) already scored on strike prior to being handled and put in with other dog(s), shall not receive new set of strike points when they open. See Rules 3 (h) or (i) if applicable.
- f. Checks, Recoveries, Losses: A check is defined as a temporary loss, where none of the declared struck dogs open for a period of one minute. Judge to start time immediately after last bark. Recovery points may be split in cases where positions cannot be determined. At point where dogs lose trail and become quiet, Judge to start clock on dogs. After one minute has elapsed without any dog opening, all struck dogs to be considered at a loss (check) and minused 20 points. If all dogs are declared struck, do not award any check minuses per Rule 3(c). The first dog to open honestly resulting in reasonable forward progress to be awarded 20+ points for recovering the loss. Additional dogs opening after first dog, to receive no “recovery” points. Any time a split track has been declared, checks or recoveries are no longer awarded to any dog(s) on either track, regardless of majority struck in or otherwise. Instead, during this time the focus should be on scoring a line, in accordance with Rule 9 (e), and then getting dog(s) back together. A track is considered lost or dead after no dog has opened for a period of three minutes or where sufficient progress is not made within a three-minute period of the hunt. See Rule 1(d) for scoring.

**10. SCORECARDS**

- a. Scorecards must be finished in the field and signed by each handler or his/her dog will be scratched and no changes to be made later, except where a question arises and is noted in the field. Handler’s signature verifies hunting time, and scores are correct. A scorecard may be signed still with the right of protest. Changes can only be made by the Master of Hounds/Hunt Director Panel.

- b. Any handler failing to sign scorecard in the field, may have the opportunity to sign upon returning the scorecard to and in the presence of the Master of Hounds/Hunt Director.

#### **11. JUDGES, HANDLERS, INACTIVE HANDLERS & SPECTATORS:**

- a. Individuals selected to judge must be experienced, honest, and capable of scoring all situations. Scorecard to be carried by Judge and situations must be scored in plain view of all handlers. Judge will be official timekeeper. They will show no favors to any dog or hunter and will inform handlers of score and time, if requested. Judges to keep handlers and spectators at a distance so as not to interfere with dogs. Judge will give permission to call in dog to keep the pack hunting in the same vicinity. Judge shall give permission for another handler to complete hunt if original handler is not able to finish hunt. Otherwise, handlers' dog must be picked up. If a hunting judge scratches his dog, they are encouraged to continue judging the cast. Otherwise, they may pass the scorecard to a qualified member of the cast. A non-hunting judge must be assigned to any one dog cast. A non-hunting judge may be assigned to any cast at the discretion of Master of Hounds/Hunt Director and/or club officials.
- b. One handler to each dog. It is the handler's duty to know their dog's voice and nature. Also, to advise the Judge of any of the dog's peculiarities before the hunt begins. No encouragement or discouragement of any kind to dogs. They must tell the Judge when the dog opens on strike. Handler is not allowed to call dog in unless instructed by the Judge. Handlers may not give verbal or hand commands to dog without Judge's permission. All handlers must stay with Judge at all times unless given permission by Judge to leave. A handler may have a spectator lead, release or physically handle their dog during the hunt. No holes or places of refuge to be disturbed. No rabbits or other game to be killed. It is the handler's responsibility to verify time and score before signing scorecard. In the event only one handler remains in the cast that individual must return to the Master of Hounds/Hunt Director for a Non-Hunting Judge to complete the hunt. The deadline may be extended for this reason, if necessary.
- c. If a cast member entered the event as an Inactive Handler, then he or she shall not be involved with any part of calling or scoring lines. An Inactive Handler may not be involved in any voting procedures related to scoring lines. An Inactive Handler is not included in the equation when it comes to the majority of the cast required to be present when dogs are scored on speed and drive. Example: In a four-dog cast, two out of the three active handlers are considered a majority.
- d. Spectators are allowed on all casts. They may not get involved in any part of scoring throughout the hunt, including calling lines for speed and drive purposes. Handler's dog(s) will be scratched for rule violations by their spectators.

#### **12. QUESTIONS, PANELS, APPEALS & MISCONDUCT:**

- a. Non-Hunting Judge Cast: A Non-Hunting Judge may score any situation without cast members being present. The decision of a non-hunting Judge may only be questioned in the field at the time the decision is made. The non-hunting Judge's decision cannot be overturned in the field. It may be scored with a question mark (?) and reviewed by the MOH/Panel. A decision made by a non-hunting Judge may only be overturned by the MOH/Panel.
- b. Hunting Judge Cast: The following procedure must be followed when using Hunting judges on a cast, regardless of category. The Hunting Judge has complete authority and will be responsible for scoring all situations. Should a situation arise where a handler questions a call that was made, or a call that should have been made but wasn't, that handler may ask to have his question voted on by all cast members that remain with the cast at that time. Situations not questioned and notated at the time judges' decision is made, will not be considered. Each handler must vote, or their dog will be scratched. It takes a majority vote to overturn judge's decision. Any handler that is not satisfied with the outcome retains the right to place a question mark (?) on the scorecard and present his question to the MOH/Panel. Unless or until it involves a dog being scratched from the hunt a

question shall not be taken to the MOH/Panel until after the hunt. If there is a question noted on the scorecard all cast members MUST return to the MOH/Panel.

- c. Panels, Appeals: Requesting a panel requires a fee to be paid before the question is heard. Requesting an Appeal also requires a fee to be paid before the form is provided to make the written complaint. Current procedures Panel and Appeal fees are available in club event forms on UKC's website and should also be available by the club at the event for review. If procedures are not followed, as fully outlined, the complaint will not be considered.
- d. Misconduct: Any individual found to have demonstrated any form of misconduct shall be reported and is subject to further sanctions by United Kennel Club.



Copyright © 2022 by United Kennel Club All Rights Reserved UNITED  
KENNEL CLUB  
Hunting Ops 100 E Kilgore Rd  
Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584 • [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com)