



**Official UKC® Hunting Beagle Honor Rules**  
**Effective January 1, 2016**

1. All casts must hunt the complete hunting time designated for cast. The host club will decide the hunt time for all casts (60 or 90 minutes) on the day of the event and announce the time period prior to calling out casts. Prior to the hunt, a time deadline for returning scorecards will be announced and posted in plain view of all hunters. The designated hunt time and the time to return scorecards to Master of Hounds/Hunt Director shall be indicated on all scorecards. Dogs to be drawn into the fewest casts possible, using four dog casts. Multiple same owner and multiple Inactive Handler entries will be drawn to separate casts, if possible. Casts shall not be drawn until after entries close at the advertised entry deadline. Those in entry line at deadline will be entered. Casts to be run on wild rabbit only. Wild rabbit is defined as a 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.

**2. POINT SYSTEM:**

- a. One set of strike points. 100 points for dog that opens and is declared struck first, 75 points second, 50 points third, 25 points fourth. If a dog is turned back in on a track, he gets next available position. If all positions are taken, he gets 25 points.
- b. After rabbit has been completely circled and seen by a cast member or Non-Hunting Judge, first dog to trail through the line to receive 100 points, 85 second, 70 third, 55 fourth.
- c. All dogs struck are to be minused 20 points at each check. First dog to recover the check to be awarded 20+ points. No additional points for second, third or fourth dog. A check is defined as a temporary loss, where none of the declared struck dogs open for a period of one minute. Start time immediately after last bark.
- d. Points, including recovery points, may be split in cases where positions cannot be determined.

**3. PLUS POINTS:**

- a. When Non-Hunting Judge, or majority of cast if Hunting Judge is used, are present as Judge scores dogs on speed and drive at point where rabbit was seen by a Judge or cast member after completion of circle.
- b. On strike for all dogs, provided dog was struck in on majority of the track (circle), after any one dog is awarded speed and drive points.
- c. If dog(s) catch rabbit, dogs receive Strike and Check points only.
- d. On Strike, when rabbit is jumped and seen by Non-Hunting Judge or majority of cast if hunting Judge is used, but goes to a hole or place of refuge before completion of circle. Cast must make an attempt to locate hole. Non-Hunting Judge's decision, or majority of cast when hunting judge is used.
- e. 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.

**4. 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 25 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". If after check loss occurs without a recovery, delete those check points and score in accordance with 4(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 4 (a) or 4(b), draw a line through the original strike points and minus each dog 50 points. Otherwise, dogs are responsible for their called positions.
- 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 6(m).
- f. After first three minutes of hunt, judge shall ask for a call on a dog that has opened three times but is not declared struck. Dog must be declared struck on next bark. If not declared struck by handler on or immediately after next bark, judge shall minus and then award next available strike position to dog. For second offense see Rule 6(c).

**5. 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 (cast must make an attempt to locate hole, majority of cast or Non-Hunting Judges decision).
- b. If dog(s) are trailing when hunting time is finished.
- c. If Judge has to call time out because of nearness to livestock, building, highway, etc.

**6. DOGS WILL BE SCRATCHED:**

- 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. On second offense, after judge asks for a call if handler fails to declare dog struck

on or immediately after next bark. This rule is to be rigidly enforced. Dog(s) having barked less than three times and not struck in prior to being handled; must be struck in on or before the third bark.

d. For running or molesting stock.

e. If a handler is drinking, or seems to want to stir up trouble.

f. 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.

g. If dog is continuously silent on trail.

h. For delaying completion of cast for 30 minutes after time out is called in accordance with Rule 7.

i. For running game other than rabbit, even if time is out. Off game does not have to be seen.

j. If handler hollers at or physically abuses the dog.

k. 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.

l. Club must set an overall time to return scorecards and cast will be scratched for violation.

m. On second offense, if handler calls another handler's dog.

n. Casts hunting over or under designated hunting time will be scratched.

o. For backtracking on second offense.

p. For "rough-running," "cutting," or "slashing" on track on second offense. This rule to be rigidly enforced.

q. On second offense, when dog(s) quits a trail that is being worked, provided remaining dog(s) circles and scores its rabbit.

r. If dog accumulates 300 minus points regardless of how many plus points the dog has.

s. If handler handles dog without judge's permission.

t. If dog fails to pack (shall only apply at the point it has become disruptive and detrimental to the hunt).

**7. 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.

**8. WINNERS:**

- a. The top four Registered cast winners with plus points will advance to the Winner's Pack. Dog must be present when Winner's Pack is assembled. See rulebook for procedure for placing dogs in an elimination style hunt.
- b. The Registered Winner's Pack will hunt for 60 or 90 minutes as designated and posted by the club prior to entry deadline. The cast shall be judged by one or two Non-Hunting Judges.
- c. A total of ten Registered places will be awarded for championship points. First through tenth places to be determined; first, by order of finish in the Winners Pack followed by next highest scoring cast winners. Championship points are awarded only to cast winners with a total score of plus points. No Winners Pack for champion and grand champion categories except in elimination style hunts. See rulebook for procedure to place dogs in an elimination style hunt. No Championship points will be awarded to any dog that withdraws from or is intentionally scratched from a Winners Pack. No Exceptions! No dogs shall move up in placement because of a Winners Pack dog not receiving championship points.

**9. TIES:**

All ties to be broken for UKC points. Dog will win out over other dog; dog that has the least number of minus points; if still a tie, dog that has the most plus strike points; if still a tie, dog that has the most plus speed/drive points; if still a tie, dog that has the most recovery points; if still a tie, dog that has the most circled strike points; if still a tie, dogs will hunt in one-hour intervals until tie is broken or flip a coin (club official's decision).

**10. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**a. Search and Jump:** Dogs to be freely cast and walked in the general direction of the hunt. No hunting in enclosures except in Registered Winner's Pack. Dogs to be declared struck and recorded according to their called positions upon opening. Dog must open before being declared struck. 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.

**b. 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.

**c. 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 in order to be scored. If allowed to continue on trail, score initial strike points and each time rabbit is circled and seen, score speed and drive only. 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.

**d. 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) turned in on split track must be declared struck by the handler in accordance with Rule 4(f) and will receive next available position. If all positions are taken, dog(s) get 25 points.

**e. Inactive Handler:** 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.

**f. Losses and Recoveries:** 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. In case of split tracks, times to be kept separately for checks on each track. 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. If no dog opens within three minutes, track to be considered finished and that particular track must be minused. In case of running rabbit in hole or place of refuge, see Rule 3 (d) or Rule 5 (a).

**g. Electronic Devices:**

**I.** The handheld of locating only devices may be carried by the handler. Device may be used during the hunt but only under those strict provisions as outlined in current Locating Device Rules. Locating Device Rules are provided in the host clubs Event Packet and are also available on UKC's website.

**II. Controlling Devices:** Any handheld device capable of controlling a dog in the cast (stimulating or toning) must be left in vehicle and may not be used by handler or spectators until dog wearing device is scratched and all other dogs are recovered for re-casting. Reported controlling device infractions will be subject to disciplinary action by United Kennel Club.

**h. Scorecards:**

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. All scorecards to be kept confidential by the Master of Hounds/Hunt Director until the posted deadline or until all scorecards have been returned. This rule must be strictly adhered to. All scores must be posted after the return deadline or made available to any participant for review. Club secretary must keep scorecards for one year minimum and make them available to contestants or UKC, if requested.

**11. MASTER OF HOUNDS/HUNT DIRECTOR:**

Up to two Master of Hounds will be appointed by the host club and be in charge of the hunt. Master of Hounds will not work together on one category (Registered, HBCH and GRHBCH) nor will they work together when hearing questions. Each will be responsible for their designated category. If an individual's dog is eliminated in the registered (morning) portion of the event he may serve as the Master of Hounds for the Registered Winners Pack, HBCH and GRHBCH. If a dog registered to their name is still competing in the event, they may not serve as Master of Hounds. If an individual is only entering a Hunting Beagle Champion or Grand Hunting Beagle Champion, they may serve as the first round Registered Master of Hounds. If club chooses to run all Registered, Champions and Grands at the same time, only one Master of Hounds may be utilized. A Master of Hounds must be at the clubhouse at all times. If a question arises, the Master of Hounds will hear each viewpoint and have last say. A handler may state his case plainly but if unreasonable; his dog may be scratched by Master of Hounds.

**12. JUDGE:**

Judges shall be selected based on their integrity and knowledge of the running rules and procedures. They must be honest and capable of scoring all situations. Authority of Judge begins when he or she is officially designated and receives the scorecard. The authority of the Judge ceases when the scorecard is turned in to the Master of Hounds/Hunt Director. They will show no favors to any dog or hunter and will inform handlers of score and time, if requested. 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. 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 cast only, if necessary. 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. Scorecard to be carried by Judge and situations must be scored in plain view of all handlers. Judge will be official

time keeper. If there is a question, follow procedures outlined under Rule 14.

**13. HANDLERS & SPECTATORS:**

**I.** 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. No holes or places of refuge to be disturbed. No rabbits or other game to be killed. Handler is not allowed to call dog in unless instructed by the Judge. Judge will give permission to call in dog to keep pack hunting in the same vicinity. Handlers may give no 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. Judges to keep handlers and spectators at a distance so as not to interfere with dogs. Any handler unable to complete hunt must pick up their dog. Judge shall give permission for another handler to complete hunt. It is the handler's responsibility to verify time and score before signing scorecard. A handler may have a spectator lead, release or handle (physically) their dog during the hunt.

**II.** For physical reasons the handler may declare to be an inactive handler. A handler must advise entry takers and declare themselves inactive at the time of entry. Multiple Inactive Handler entries shall be drawn to separate casts, if possible. A handler, who has declared themselves as inactive, will retain that status for the duration of the event which includes any subsequent rounds. An Inactive Handler is removed from having any part in scoring lines during the hunt. An Inactive Handler may not call lines. An Inactive Handler retains all voting rights during the hunt with exception to those related to speed and drive. This shall apply to casts throughout the event that utilize a Hunting Judge only.

**III.** 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. An Inactive Handler is also considered a spectator when it comes to calling lines and speed and drive scoring procedures during the hunt. Handler's dog(s) will be scratched for rule violations by their spectators.

**14. QUESTIONS, PANELS, APPEALS, & MISCONDUCT**

**Questioning a Judge**

**(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. Situations not questioned and notated at the time Judge's decision is made, will not be considered.

- 1. The Hunting Judge has complete authority and will be responsible for scoring all situations.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Each handler must vote or their dog will be scratched. It takes a majority vote to overturn judge's decision.
- 4. 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/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. No questions will be considered by the MOH/Panel after a period of 30 minutes has elapsed from the time the scorecard was received by the MOH/Panel.

**Panels**

- 1. In order to form a panel a \$10 Panel Fee must be paid before the question is heard.
- (a) When using a Master of Hounds, a panel may be formed if a handler is not satisfied with the MOH ruling.
- (b) When using a Hunt Director, a panel must be formed to hear any and all questions.

**Appeals**

- 1. If the matter has not been satisfactorily resolved by the decision of the panel, an Appeal may be filed.
- 2. An Appeal Form must be requested and filed immediately following the panel's ruling, while the panel is still assembled.
- 3. Appeals must be submitted to the MOH/HD with a fee of \$20 and mailed to UKC with the Event Report.
- 4. All Appeals will be investigated and ruled on by the UKC. An appeal may not be considered if previous procedures were not followed.

**Misconduct**

Situations involving misconduct do not fall under the appeals procedure. Refer to the Misconduct Section on the Official UKC website for complete procedures and instructions. Misconduct may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Intimidating, threatening, or injuring another individual.
- b. Falsifying event related documents.
- c. Abuse, neglect or drugging of a dog in conjunction with an event.
- d. Intentionally killing game in conjunction with an event.
- e. Use of any device used to control dog during hunting time.
- f. Relaying any type of electronic messaging with reference to scores, that is deemed detrimental to the hunt.