



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DEADLINES – Only those dogs that qualified with five cast wins during the 2025 calendar year in the correct categories and were entered by the advanced deadline of March 9, 2026 are eligible to hunt in the Tournament of Champions.

The deadline to confirm an entry at all region locations is 7:00 pm 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. **Note:** 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. The entry would need to be confirmed by someone else and the handler must be present when their cast is called out or the dog will be scratched.

FEMALES IN SEASON – Another dog that is qualified and registered to the same owner may be substituted for a female that comes in season. Otherwise, the owner must notify UKC prior to the event date in order to be eligible for a refund. A female that comes in season on the Friday of the event must be inspected, confirmed, and noted as such by the Master of Hounds. This must be done prior to casts going to the woods on Friday night in order for a refund to be issued.

VETERAN'S CASTS – There will not be any Veteran's Casts at any Region events.

SPECTATORS – Spectators are not allowed on any cast at the Regions. (See Backup Handlers Below)

BACKUP HANDLERS – Each handler is allowed to have one backup handler. The handler shall advise the entry taker who their backup handler is and should be noted on the scorecard. If the back-up 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. 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 back-up 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 Regions and the first round at the Finals. 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 starting in Round 2 at the Tournament of Champions Finals.

HUNT TIME PERIODS – All casts at the Regions will hunt for two hours. At the Finals, Rounds 1, 2, and the Final Cast will be two-hour casts. The Round 3 Heads Up Cast will be 90-minutes.

POSTING REGION 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 affect for any part of a region 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 UKC's Coonhound Program Manager to discuss the situation prior to rendering a decision. The Master of Hounds is not required to contact UKC per a handler's request in the event the Field Rep deems it unnecessary.

PLACEMENTS – The number of dogs advancing from each region will be based on a percentage of the total number of entries overall. The number advancing from each region will be announced prior to the calling of casts at each region by the Master of Hounds. Any two-night cast winners will place in accordance to combined highest scores followed by single cast win high scores.

CHAMPIONSHIP CAST WINS AWARDED – Any dog winning its cast, with a total score of plus points, on Friday and or Saturday night at the Regions will receive a cast win towards their degree. At the finals, all cast winners in Rounds 1-4 will receive a win toward their degree.

PAYOUT – Prize payouts will be 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.