

# COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

**M**an, time is flying this year. I feel like the year just started and now we have Autumn Oaks ads dropping, I'm on my last run of breed day events, and we can see the finish line for the World Championship qualifying year. The ol' adage was correct, the older you get, the quicker it goes.

As is typical for the articles from May through August, I try to hit on as many hot topic issues as possible in this advisor. Things that I see and hear popping up on a weekly basis. Let's dig into some of these topics now. Make sure you share this with your friends or with your club. And remember, just because a rule isn't how you think it ought to be doesn't mean it isn't correct. There are some rules that I don't particularly like or agree with but our jobs as competitors and officials aren't to do what people like but to get the calls correct.

### *Youth Casts at Standard Events*

It seems this has been popping up more recently, with hunters thinking that a club can have youth casts at a regular UKC licensed event. As things stand right now, clubs do not have the authority to split youth into separate casts at a standard event. Maybe they should be able to, but at the moment, it is not permitted by the rules.

The argument I hear a lot of the time is that they can do it for veterans so why not the youth, and I get that. At the same time, the veterans are able to guide and judge themselves. For youth casts, you would need to have a non-hunting judge in most instances. If there is a kid 13 or under, they will need an adult with them. It can quickly become a lot on a club not prepared for it. To be frank, I've sat at breed day events this year that had a standard hunt and a youth hunt on the same night and watched the hunt officials scour the grounds for over an hour looking for a volunteer to judge a cast and that was with over 100 capable adults there. Imagine if there were only 10 or 12?

The second part that is tough for me to wrap my head around is what to do if not enough kids show

up? Say I drive 45 minutes to your club with my kid in hopes that we have enough to have a youth cast and it turns out you don't. Do I just take my lumps and go home? Does it then become ok to put them in the regular pool of hunters? Let's take it a step further. Let's say three Senior Division kids show up but only one Junior Division kid shows up. Do we then have only one youth cast and make the other kid hunt with the adults? It can get tricky on the administrative end.

Lastly, I will say that I have been very encouraged by the recent surge in clubs wanting to put on YEP (Youth Education Program) events at their club. Back in 2022 I compiled numbers for a podcast we did and at the time there were 120 youth only events that year. I don't have the data in front of me, but I feel like that number has increased. And some clubs and associations are putting a lot of effort into making these events feel like a must-attend deal. Every UKC licensed club in good standing can hold a licensed youth only event at their club free of charge. That means that UKC waives the license and recording fees. I would love to see just about every club taking advantage of that in the meantime.

### *Shut Out but Treeing and Not Declared Treed*

I won't take long on this one, but I have had this question pop up quite a bit over the past several weeks. What do you do when a dog that is shut-out on strike, but is treeing but not declared treed when you arrive at the tree?

By now it's been beat to death in this column, so I hope we know what happens when a dog is treeing but not declared treed when the judge arrives. The second sentence of Rule 4(f) tells us plainly, Dog(s) treeing but not declared treed when judge arrives receives minus strike points. Again, this language changed and became quite a bit simpler in the current 2023 Rulebook. Whether the tree is plussed, minused, or circled, the dog treeing but not declared treed will get their strike points minused. In no instance would you award additional tree points to be minused. Alright, I'm veering off topic now.

Let's take a look at the next sentence in Rule 4(f) which would be sentence number three. It reads, Dogs shut-out\* on strike will receive no minus strike points. Ah-ha! There is our answer. Dogs being shut-

out are the exception. In that instance, the shut-out takes precedence. So just to hammer it home, let's put it into a real-life scenario that can happen.

Dog A is treed. On the way to Dog A's tree, Dog B is declared treed. By the time the cast is done scoring Dog A's tree, Dog B's tree is closed, and no other dogs can be declared treed there. When Dog A pulls off their tree, obviously the handler has the option to recast Dog A or keep the dog on the leash since Dog B is declared treed. Really in this situation, there is no downside to cutting the hound loose. Hypothetically, if Dog A is recast and is struck in, they would have their strike points underlined on the scorecard, meaning if they tree with Dog B, they are shut-out on their strike points. So, if Dog A ends up on Dog B's tree, the strike points will be deleted per Rule 4(f) and Rule 5(i) which tells us points will be deleted, When dog that is shut-out\* comes into tree shut out on.

## Option to Recast

Speaking of option to recast, it seems like there has been some discussion over this the past couple of months as well. In my opinion, if there was one rule to read over as often as possible, it would be Rule 11. It is full of useful and pertinent information. For instance, Rule 11(d) covers just about anything you need to know about Recasting. For the sake of the readers, I'll share the whole thing here, so you don't have to go back and forth.

Rule 11(d) Recasting. After being scored, dog(s) may be released immediately or led a reasonable distance (judges' decision) from scored tree before recasting. However, if another dog in cast is declared treed, handler(s) has the option to recast or keep scored dog on leash. Handlers opting to keep dog on leash may not recast dog until next opportunity arises (next tree is scored or dog leaves tree). If all

remaining dogs in cast are declared treed and cast decides they need to move to a new location after all dogs are scored, all scored dogs shall remain on leash and time out shall be called while walking to split trees. Hunt time shall be called back in during shining time only. Otherwise, scored dog may be recast even if all remaining dogs are declared treed. Once a position has been scored it becomes available again. A dog declared struck after the recast, receives the next available strike position. A dog cannot be struck in over a position that is being held except when a dog holds his strike position for one hour. In that case, all strike positions will be open to other dogs. The strike position previously held by dog(s) on leash is not available until dog is recast. Multiple dogs may occupy fourth strike position.

To answer our original question, I have underlined the first three sentences of the paragraph. Honestly, I could leave well enough alone and I think that would answer any question you have about the option. After pulling your hound from a scoring situation, the only time you have the option to leave your hound on the leash is if another dog in the cast is declared treed. If I elect to leave my hound on the leash, I am bound to that decision until one of two things happen, 1) We score the next tree, 2) The dog declared treed leaves the tree.

For clarity's sake, let's say that all four hounds in the cast are split treed. I was first and after scoring my tree, I elected to keep my hound on the leash to go score the second dog in sequence. I would then have another option to recast or keep the hound on the leash after scoring that second tree. I'm not bound to my decision to keep my hound on the leash until all the remaining trees are scored, just the next tree in sequence. Hopefully that makes sense to everyone.



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