

## COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

As we have talked about in this column previously, 2023 is a rule change year and with that comes the necessary steps in 2022 to ready ourselves. Earlier in the year, you and the members of the chartered breed associations sent in your rule proposals to your breed association, who in turn, sent them in to UKC. This spring and summer, those proposals have circulated around the Breed Days and internet, with breed associations looking for feedback on how their members felt about the proposals and figuring out how they would end up voting. The culmination of that process happened on Friday morning at Autumn Oaks with a round table made up of Allen, two members of each of the seven chartered breed associations, and I discussing each rule in depth and ultimately ballots being turned in by each breed association.

I was really encouraged by the discussions that were had in the rules meeting. Each association had notes that pertained to the rule we were discussing, and also came in with a position in mind, based on their association membership's preference. Of course, not everyone will be happy with the results. But as is the case in our country, majority rules. Even though I didn't have a vote, I feel the rules that passed will advance the sport and more importantly, none of the passed proposals will cause coon hunting to go backwards.

The following is the results of the Rules Meeting at Autumn Oaks. These rules will not be in effect until January 1, 2023. In future articles here, and also on the UKC Hunting Ops Podcast, Allen and I will go in depth on these rules as we transition them into our rulebook. The current rulebook is still in effect for the remainder of this year. There are also some procedural rules that are still being considered for change in the 2023 Rulebook that we will make you aware of in the next couple months.

### **Rule Proposal 1. (Failed 2-5)**

Alter the tree countdown to read that the second tree position closes after 30 seconds, third tree position closes after one minute.

### **Rule Proposal 2. (Passed 6-1 with amendment)**

Remove the first offense warning from Rule 2(a) for handlers not striking their dog on or before the third bark.

The amendment agreed upon by the associations was to keep the first offense warning in affect for youth-only casts.

### **Rule Proposal 3. (Passed 6-1 with amendment)**

Remove the first offense warning from Rule 2(d) for handlers calling the wrong dog.

The amendment agreed upon by the associations was to keep the first offense warning in affect for youth-only casts.

### **Rule Proposal 4. (Passed 6-1)**

Change and combine rules for Dogs Treeing but Not Declared Treed to receive the same demerit, regardless of how the tree is scored. The recommendation from the proposal is to minus the strike points and to **not** assign any additional tree points in any circumstance.

### **Rule Proposal 5. (Passed 7-0)**

Change Rule 4(b) to read, *Strike points will be minus if none of the declared struck dogs open within six minutes.* The six minutes is a change from the eight minutes the rule currently requires.

### **Rule Proposal 6. (Failed 0-7)**

In any category, a dog to accrue 200 minus points (regardless of pending strike/tree points) for running, treeing, or molesting off game. (Off game must still be seen).

### **Rule Proposal 7. (Passed 7-0 with amendment)**

Allow the use of thermal imaging devices, cell phone cameras, and mirrors as scoring aids.

The amendment agreed upon by the associations was to allow the use of thermal imaging devices as a scoring aid. The amendment does **not** allow for the use of cell phone cameras or mirrors as scoring aids.

### **Rule Proposal 8. (Passed 6-1)**

Alter Rule 11(d), taking out the stipulation that you must hear a struck or treed dog open before recasting.

### **Rule Proposal 9. (Failed 1-6)**

Put a time limit on handlers recasting their dogs after pulling them off of a scoring situation. Give them up to one minute to recast their dog, or if other dog in cast is declared treed, up to one minute to utilize their option to keep their dog on leash until the next opportunity to recast arises.



### **Attention!**

The following person's Nite Hunt Director and Nite Hunt Judging privileges have been suspended until the date listed.

**Darrel Barker • Rockford, IL | Scott Johnson • Monroe, WI**

**October 19, 2022**

**Justin Crockett • Senatobia, MS**

**May 1, 2024**

Violations to these privileges should be reported to the United Kennel Club.

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