



2008 - 2011 PRO EVENT RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

- A. **PROFESSIONAL KENNEL CLUB, INC.**, referred to as PKC, will license all events, keep record of winnings, issue championship degrees and World Championship qualification. PKC or its' employee will serve as Hunt Director, and will have responsibility for taking entries, accounting for and disbursing proceeds, appointing judges and determining winners of events.
- B. **SPONSORING CLUB** - Sponsoring club will be a PKC licensed club, who will provide all guides needed for event. Any owner or handler may file a written complaint concerning actions of the sponsoring club. PKC will investigate the complaint and take necessary action.
- C. **GUIDE** - The Guide will be a responsible person who is an active coonhunter and is able to keep the cast in the best possible hunting grounds. Casting ground will not be in any type of controlled raccoon environment (enclosed pens). The casting ground should be an area where cast can compete safely for two (2) hours without calling time, if possible. Guide must be physically able and willing to stay with the cast for the duration of hunting time, **and may be a "hunting guide" or a "non-hunting guide" on the qualifying rounds and must be a "non-hunting guide" on semi-final and final rounds.**
- D. **JUDGE** - The Judge will be selected by the Hunt Director. He should have a good knowledge of the sport and the ability to honestly conduct the cast according to PKC rules. The Judge will have complete control of the cast and will make all decisions. Any Judge found to have deliberately scored any situation incorrectly for the benefit of any individual or dog shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- E. **ASSISTANT JUDGE** - PKC reserves the right to appoint an Assistant Judge at any event. Duties of the Assistant Judge to be explained when appointed.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE** - By your entry in this event you agree to hold PKC, the PKC National Association, the Club, Judge, Guide and Hunt Director harmless in the event of accident, error or misapplication of rules.
- B. **FIREARMS** - **No person participating in a PKC sanctioned event will be allowed to have any type of firearms in his/her possession during hunting time.**
- C. **DRAWING FOR CASTS** - It is very important that all judges, guides and handlers draw for their cast. Any person who owns more than one (1) dog entered in an event may request to draw a separate cast provided PKC registration papers are in order and are presented to the Hunt Director to prove ownership.
- D. **TIME KEEPING** - Judges should insure that all time keeping is accurate and that all cast members are informed when a time-keeping rule is started on any dog(s).
- E. **STAYING WITHIN HEARING DISTANCE** - When dogs are turned loose, the cast is to walk slowly in the direction the guide wishes to hunt. After the dogs are struck, the cast will make every effort to remain within hearing dis-

stance of all dogs. If they are unable to keep all dogs within hearing range, the Judge may apply the time out rule. The cast should stay as close to the dogs as possible at all times.

- F. **CAST SHOULD STAY TOGETHER** - The cast must stay together and all cast members will go to all trees unless dogs are treed in different places. A handler may leave the cast to go to a split tree when time is up or all dogs have been declared treed. The Judge only must score each tree; however, every effort should be made to show all handlers the coon. A handler going to a split tree must leash his dog and wait for the Judge to come and score the tree. Any Handler leaving the cast except to go to a separate tree may be scratched from the cast.
- G. **JUDGE FIRST** - The Judge should go to each tree first, but together with handlers to determine if all dogs called treed are treeing. Dogs declared treed should be showing tree. Every effort should be made to allow cast members to go into tree with the Judge, however, when absolutely necessary, the Judge may go into a tree alone to determine if dogs should be scratched for fighting.
- H. **USE OF MUZZLE** - No dog will be allowed to compete wearing a muzzle during a cast.
- I. **HUNTING TIME** - All casts will hunt two (2) hours or until a cast winner is determined.
SUNRISE - No cast to be extended more than one (1) hour beyond sunrise. Time of sunrise should be determined and announced by Hunt Director prior to late cast(s) leaving for hunting grounds.
- J. **CALL ACKNOWLEDGMENT** - The Judge should acknowledge a handler's call by responding the dog's name and number of points received for the call.
- K. **ONE (1) MINUTE RULE** - When dogs are turned loose each time, the handler has one (1) minute to call his dog. After one (1) minute, the dog should be called struck on or before the third bark. The dog must be called struck on the next bark after the Judge asks for a call. A dog called struck must have opened immediately preceding the call. (See Minus Points Rules Paragraph 10-H and 10-I).

3. SCORING TREE

- A. **Shining Time On Tree** - Eight (8) minutes of hunting time may be demanded to search a tree unless the tree is scored. Time will begin when the Judge is in position to score a coon. No time is to be called out to search a tree, when dogs are leashed to be led away, nor leading to a split tree. After the Judge has determined which dogs are showing tree and which dogs, if any, are off tree, dogs will be leashed and the tree scored. Any dog coming to the tree after time is up will be leashed. All dogs leashed at the tree will remain leashed until they can be released toward other trailing dogs or a fresh casting area if no dogs are on trail. The handler with the most to gain on this tree should be allowed to search the tree for a few minutes alone, then all handlers may search. In the event all dogs are declared treed on different trees, they will be scored in the most convenient order. Dog(s) scored out of order shall remain on leash until dog(s) declared treed before it are scored.



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1. The handler with the most to gain on this tree should be allowed to search the tree for a few minutes alone, then all handlers may search.
 2. **First Three (3) Minutes** - Provided all handlers agree, handlers may blow coon squallers, pull vines, etc. during the first three (3) minutes of shining time.
 3. **Last Five (5) Minutes** - Handlers may blow coon squallers during the last five (5) minutes, regardless of what other dogs are doing.
- B. **RECASTING AFTER SCORING TREE** - After scoring the tree, dogs will be lead one (1) minute from the tree to be released. If all dogs are on leash, they should be released and a new strike opened up. If other dogs are on strike, the six (6) minute rule should be applied and the dogs should be released when one (1) of the dogs opens. If no dog opens for six (6) minutes, except as provided in paragraph 14 B. # 5, all strike points will be minused, the dogs should be released, and a new set of strike points opened. Dogs scored on tree cannot be released if there is another dog on strike but not opening and the six (6) minute rule being applied even if there is another dog competing for strike. A dog shall be released provided there is a dog declared treed and a dog competing for strike. Provided cast has not walked out of hearing of trailing dogs, dogs must be recast even if one (1) or more of the remaining dogs have been declared treed, provided there are one (1) or more dogs on strike or competing for strike who have not been declared treed.
- C. **TREED ON CLOSED TREE** - Any dog declared treed after a tree is closed must receive 100 points. If the dog is actually treeing on the closed tree, tree points will be deleted.
- D. **SEPARATE TREE** - Handler(s) should not call treed for a separate tree. The Judge should award separate tree points as soon as he is sure which dog(s) is/are on a separate tree. In the event dogs are found to be on separate trees upon arrival of cast, refer to Rule #8C for scoring of trees.
- E. **MOVEMENT ON TREE** - Judges will pay careful attention to the location of dogs called treed to be sure the dogs do not move. If in doubt as to whether or not the dog is moving, it is best to hold the cast in place to watch for movement.
- F. **FIVE (5) MINUTE RULE** - When a dog is declared treed, the dog must have opened immediately preceding the call, and he must remain treed for a period of five (5) minutes unless all dogs are declared treed.
- G. **LISTENING FOR DOGS** - The cast should stop when requested by a handler to listen for his dog until five (5) minutes are up.
- H. **PROCEEDING TO TREE** - When all dogs have been declared treed, handlers may proceed to the tree even though five (5) minutes are not up. Handlers may proceed to split trees when all trees are closed.
- I. **DOG COMING TO MEET HANDLER** - A dog should not be minused tree points for coming back a short distance to meet the handler if he goes back and trees satisfactorily. However, the dog should be minused if he is seen not showing tree.

4. QUESTIONS

Any handler has the right to question the scoring of any dog in the cast, including a dog being scratched for fighting. Questions must be placed on the card at the time the dog is scored or should be scored. Questions will be submitted to the Hunt Director upon completion of the cast. Handler must place a deposit of \$25, or sign an IOU on the back of the scorecard, with the Judge in the woods at the time of the question. The deposit will not be refunded later in the cast if the handler changes his mind. However, the handler may choose to drop the question and forfeit the deposit at the end of the cast if it is agreeable with all cast members. Should a handler decide to drop a question, he is still responsible for the IOU, which must be paid prior to entering another event. Should a handler fail to pay an IOU, he may be suspended from entering another cast until question fee is paid.

- A. **QUESTION PRESENTATION** - A cast should not return to the clubhouse to have a question heard until hunting time is completed, unless the question pertains to a dog or handler being scratched from the cast.
- B. **PANEL HEARING** - The Hunt Director will assemble a panel of three (3) qualified people to hear the question. If the panel finds in favor of the question, the deposit will be returned and the scorecard changed to reflect the change. If the panel finds against the question, the deposit will be forfeited to PKC. The panel's decision is final, unless appealed.
- C. **PANEL APPEAL** - Any cast member who believes a panel has made a gross misapplication of a rule, may request an appeal of the panel's decision, if and only if, he can quote the specific rule violation to the Hunt Director or PKC Representative immediately following the rendering of the panel's decision by placing a deposit of \$100 with the panel at that time. When, and only when, an appeal panel overturns the original panel's decision, will the appeal deposit be returned.
- D. **Any situation requiring a panel to return to casting area to determine the outcome of a question may allow the panel to correct the scorecard of the cast in question to reflect the panel's ruling when possible.**

5. DISCIPLINARY REPORTS

Any handler may be reported to the Hunt Director by another cast member, judge, guide or club member. Hunt Director will send report to PKC with other hunt results. Misconduct reports will be handled as provided in the National Association By-Laws. Issue will be investigated and charges may be brought on others involved, as well as, member charged.

6. HANDLERS

- A. **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS** - Handler must be a current member of PKC and be in good standing. It is the handler's responsibility to know the rules contained herein and agree to abide by them. The handler also agrees to accept and abide by the decision of the Judge and Master of Hounds. Handlers only will be responsible for bringing formal questions and appeals to the Hunt Director.
- B. **HANDLER CONDUCT** - A handler must conduct himself as a gentleman and sportsman at all times. A handler becom-



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ing loud, aggressive or belligerent will be scratched regardless of the merit of his argument. A handler displaying unsportsmanlike conduct or failing to abide by these rules should be reported to the Hunt Director for a disciplinary hearing. The disciplinary committee may fine, place on probation, or suspend any member.

- C. **HANDLER INTERFERENCE** - Any handler or owner found guilty of interfering with another handler's dog in any way that would affect his ability to compete may be scratched and subject to disciplinary action.
- D. **DISCIPLINING OF DOGS** - A handler will not scold, encourage, or punish his dog during the cast. Abuse, of any kind and at any time, of any dog is strictly prohibited at any PKC sanctioned event.
- E. **HANDLER LEAVING CAST** - A handler will not leave the cast for any reason except to go to his dog on a separate tree after the tree is closed. The Judge may give a handler permission to leave the cast to search for his dog during time out.
- F. **SCORECARD INSPECTION** - A handler may inspect the scorecard at any time, provided Judge is not in process of scoring dogs.
- G. **SPECTATORS** - The Hunt Director may decide and announce if spectators will be allowed on a cast, if agreeable with the majority of cast members. Handler shall be responsible for the conduct of spectator(s) accompanying him on cast.
- H. **REMAINING WITH CAST** - Each handler should make every effort to remain with cast for the entire hunt even though his dog may no longer be a part of the cast.
- I. **SIGNING SCORECARD** - All cast members should sign scorecard, however, it is not mandatory. Any handler who feels that the scorecard is not correct should make note in the appropriate place on the back of the card of the reason, sign his comments, and sign on the shaded side.
- J. **INTENTIONAL MIS-HANDLING** - A handler must compete to the best of his and his hound's ability. Any handler intentionally handling his dog in such a way as to allow another hound or handler to win will be subject to disciplinary action.
- K. **USE OF LIGHTS** - A handler will not use his light to help control his dog. He must turn the light off at the request of the Judge.

7. DOGS

Any dog entered must meet PKC standards. It should be trained so as not to hinder other dogs in the cast. The dog must be PKC registered in the true owner's name. All awards will be presented to the registered owner of the dog, or his written designated assignee.

- A. **FALSE REGISTRATION** - Anyone found guilty of falsely registering or falsely entering any dog with wrong papers will be scratched, and subject to disciplinary action.
- B. **VETERINARIAN EXAMINATION** - A hound will not be under the influence of any drug that would alter his behavior or ability to hunt. The handler must allow his hound to be examined by a veterinarian, if requested, or be permanently suspended.

- C. **TRACKING COLLARS** - A dog may wear a tracking collar during the hunt. It can be used during any time out to return the dog to the cast.
- D. **TRAINING COLLARS** - A dog may wear an electronic training collar or dummy collar, but a trainer transmitter may not be used during the hunt nor carried on cast. The collar may be used only after the dog has finished the cast. This rule is to be strictly enforced. Abuse of this rule will result in disciplinary action by PKC.

8. POINT SYSTEM

- A. **STRIKE POINTS** - 100 points for the dog struck first, 75 points second, 50 points third and 25 points fourth.

(1) **ONE SET OF STRIKE POINTS** will be awarded in case of a split tree. Each will be counted as separate trees for tree points.

(2) **STRIKING AFTER DOG DECLARED TREED** - A dog cannot receive strike points if he is not struck when the first dog is declared treed unless he trees on a separate tree. However, he may receive tree points if he trees within five (5) minutes. All dogs must be called struck before being called treed. **Any dog called struck after a dog has been called treed will have its strike points recorded with a line under them indicating that a dog was called treed when the dog was called struck. Strike points will be deleted if the dog trees on the same tree.**

- B. **TREE POINTS** - 100 points for the dog treed first, 75 points second, 50 points third and 25 points fourth.
- C. **POINTS RECEIVED FOR TREE CALL** - **Thirty (30) seconds after the first dog is called treed, the second tree will be closed. After one (1) minutes the third tree will be closed. All dogs treed after one (1) minutes will receive 25 points. If the dog is actually treed on the closed tree, tree points will be deleted.**
- D. **DOG COMING INTO SCORED TREE** - Any dog at a tree when cast arrives or coming into a tree that is being scored or has just been scored and is handled without being called treed shall have his strike points minused if coon is seen, deleted if tree is circled or minused.

9. PLUS POINTS

- A. **COON SEEN** - When a dog strikes and trees, and a coon is seen by the Judge. Only one (1) tree is counted even if more than one (1) coon is up the tree.
- B. **COON SEEN IN PLACE OF REFUGE** - When a dog is declared struck and treed and a coon is seen in a place of refuge other than the tree, the dog declared treed will receive strike and tree points. Dogs not declared treed will receive strike points only. No tree points are allowed for a coon caught on the ground. Anytime dogs catch or bay any game, the cast should advance and investigate immediately. Dogs declared treed will receive deleted tree points. Strike points will be plus for coon and minus for off game.

10. MINUS POINTS

- A. **TREEING OFF GAME** - For treeing game other than a coon both strike and tree points will be minus. Any dog at a tree when the cast arrives at an "off-game" tree will receive minus strike points if it has not been called treed. Any dog



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coming in to an "off-game" tree after the cast arrives will receive deleted strike points.

- B. **TREEING EMPTY TREE** - When dogs tree and the Judge can plainly see that no coon is there.
- C. **LEAVING TREE** - When a dog has been declared treed and the dog leaves the tree. If he goes on the trail, just his tree points will be minused. If the dog returns to the tree before the tree is closed, he will receive the next available position on the tree. If all positions are taken, the dog will receive 25 points.
- D. **QUITTING TRAIL** - When a dog quits a trail, strike points will be minus. When a dog strikes back on a trail that is being worked, he will receive 25 points.
- E. **SIX (6) MINUTE RULE** - If dogs declared struck do not open within six (6) minutes, all strike points will be minus.
- F. **TWO (2) MINUTE RULE** - After a dog is declared treed, at least one (1) of the dogs declared treed must bark at least once every two (2) minutes or be minused.
- G. **RUNNING OFF GAME** - If dog(s) come close enough and are seen to be running off game, their strike points will be minused and struck back in for 25 points.
- H. **BABBLING** - Any dog leaving barking off the chain and/or is declared struck within the first minute must show that it is taking a track out of the area and not false barking. Dogs guilty of false barking (babbling) will be minused on the first offense and scratched on the second offense.
- I. **FAILURE TO CALL DOG** - When Judge has determined that a dog has opened three (3) times after the first minute, he will ask for a call. If Handler fails to call the dog struck on the next bark, Judge will award next available points and minus them. If the dog continues to open he must be struck after the next three (3) barks or minus process repeated.
- J. **RUNNING FAST GAME** - When one (1) or more dogs leave on a fast moving trail and the cast is unable to keep close enough to effectively judge the dogs, the Judge will minus the dogs and apply the time out rule. Any dog not running a fast moving trail will receive deleted strike points. The place for the handlers to return to must be designated. Any handler unable to return his dog to the cast within the time limit will be scratched and the cast completed with the available dogs.
- K. **CALLING A DOG THAT HAS NOT OPENED** - Should any handler call his dog that has not opened or calls another handler's dog, the Judge will award points called and minus them. These points will then be opened for all handlers.

11. CIRCLE POINTS

Circle points count neither for, nor against a dog. A dog with all circle points will have a total score of zero. Points will be circled when a dog strikes and trees up a tree where there could be a coon, yet no coon and no off game is seen. No trees should be climbed, however, every reasonable effort should be made to score a dog. Stepping up on a stump, log or fork of a tree is not considered climbing. Any handler has the right to search a hole that any dog is called treed in. Under no cir-

cumstances should strike points be circled unless they are connected to circle tree points.

12. DELETED POINTS

Reasons for points to be deleted are:

- A. **DOG(S) RETURNING TO TREE** - When dog(s) return to a tree previously scored on.
- B. **HUNTING TIME COMPLETED** - When dogs are trailing when hunting time is completed.
- C. **TIME OUT CALLED** - If time out must be called.
- D. **INTERFERENCE** - When the Judge orders dogs to be called off because of livestock or nearness of a highway, buildings, etc.
- E. **When dog's scores are altered through interference of a person that is not a member of the cast.**
- F. **DOG(S) TREEING ON CLOSED TREE** - When dog is called treed after five (5) minutes are up on another tree he will receive 100 points. The points will be deleted if he is in fact treed on the closed tree. Other dogs treed with same dog will receive the next available position on the closed tree.
- G. **DANGEROUS OBSTACLE** - When dogs are treed across deep water or other dangerous obstacle, and after all efforts to reach dogs have been exhausted and the cast can not reach the dogs, all points should be deleted and the time out rule applied. Under no circumstances should any cast member attempt to cross water deep enough to require swimming.
- H. **SQUIRREL RULE** - If dogs tree and a squirrel is seen and there is a bed or hole in the tree large enough to conceal a coon, points will be deleted.
- I. **OFF-GAME TREE** - Any dog coming in to an "off-game" tree after the cast arrives will receive deleted strike points.

13. DOGS WILL BE SCRATCHED

Dogs or handlers will be scratched for interfering with another dog or handler's ability to compete. Dogs or handlers should be scratched as a last resort. Every effort should be made to allow dogs and handlers to compete. Reasons to scratch are:

- A. **FIGHTING** - Any dog snarling, growling, or coming off the tree toward another dog will be scratched. A dog with his hackles turned up, growling and fussing may be scratched. Equal consideration should be given about scratching a dog fussing and growling while hunting, as well as, one who is treed. No dog should be scratched for fighting while under the control of his handler (on leash, in a truck, etc.) or because of another dog previously scratched or withdrawn but not handled. However, a dog may be scratched after hunting time has expired should it be involved in the scoring of a tree call.

WARNING - Judge may issue a warning to the handler of a dog he suspects is causing trouble without scratching the dog. In any subsequent altercation where the aggressive dog is not known, the dog under warning should be scratched with the dog



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involved being permitted to remain in cast under warning. No Handler will be allowed to withdraw his dog before first being handled.

- B. **BABBLING** - Any dog leaving barking off the chain and/or is declared struck within the first minute must show that it is taking a track out of the area and not false barking. Dogs guilty of false barking (babbling) will be minused on the first offense and scratched on the second offense.
- C. **UNDESERVED POINTS** - Any Handler making a deliberate attempt to gain undeserved points or avoid deserved minus points may be scratched.
- D. **MOLESTING LIVESTOCK**
- E. **HANDLER MISCONDUCT** - Any handler becoming unreasonable, aggressive or presenting his ideas in a forceful manner may be scratched. The decision is final and cannot be questioned. Any handler continuing to be abusive will be reported to a disciplinary committee.
- F. **SEXUAL BEHAVIOR** - Females smelling strong enough to attract male dogs, or any dog exhibiting sexual behavior instead of hunting during the progress of the cast may be scratched. If it is not possible to determine which dog is responsible for the behavior, both may be scratched.
- G. **STATIONARY RULE** - Any dog barking continually in the same place for a period of six (6) minutes will be scratched, unless called treed. This rule to apply to a dog obviously treed, if a dog should pause for more than two (2) minutes or leave the area and return, a new six (6) minute rule will be applied. If the six (6) minute rule is being applied to a dog and another dog is called treed in the same place, the six (6) minute rule will be stopped. If it is determined that the dog(s) are treed on separate trees, then the six (6) minute rule will be started on the dog(s) not called treed. Handler must be advised that time has been applied and his dog will be scratched unless called treed. Anytime the six (6) minute rule is running for four (4) minutes or more and dog stops barking, the two (2) minute rule should be applied. Should the six (6) minute rule expire before the two (2) minutes expires and dog starts back barking, Handler should be permitted to make a tree call provided call is made on the first bark the dog makes.
- H. **FIFTEEN (15) MINUTE RULE** - Dogs failing to go hunting during any fifteen (15) minute period of hunting time will be scratched. The handler has the right to walk any dog not hunting in the direction the guide wishes to hunt. A dog must be gone for five (5) minutes to be considered hunting, unless the hunt expires. At anytime a dog(s) is called struck that has opened, the fifteen (15) minute rule will be dropped/stopped/broken.
- I. **Unreasonable delay in completion of the cast.**
- J. **RETURNING TO A TREE** - A dog may return to a tree already scored on one (1) time without penalty. Any dog handled at a tree three (3) times will be scratched.
- K. **UNSOLICITED ADVICE** - Any handler offering unsolicited advice to a Judge concerning the scoring of dogs while he is considering his call may be scratched on second offense. Judge must warn handler on first offense, and scratch on

second offense. Judge must be free to make his decision concerning scoring of dogs without being under pressure from handlers to make a certain call. Any handler is free to question judge's decision after he has made his call according to question rules, he may also question a Judge who has not made a call that should have been made.

- L. **HANDLER LEAVING CAST** - Any Handler leaving the cast, except to go to a separate tree, will be scratched from the cast. (Refer to Rule # 6-E)

14. TIME-OUT

Time-out should not be called unless absolutely necessary if all dogs are not close enough to leash. If time-out is called, it will apply to all dogs in the cast. Time out should be a maximum of one (1) hour, but less than one (1) hour may be allowed if necessary to make the deadline at the club. A place for handlers to return must be designated. At the end of time-out, handlers must have their dog in hand at predetermined location and be ready for recasting. Time-out may be called for the following reasons:

- A. When dogs or cast members are getting near a place of danger. (highway, gunshots fired, posted property, etc.)
- B. When dogs not in the cast are working a trail or tree with cast members' dogs. All scores by cast members' dogs will stand unless altered by dogs outside the cast.
- C. If new ground must be found to finish the cast.
- D. To allow handlers to search for dog(s) if dog(s) becomes lost.
- E. In case of accident or sickness.
- F. **GOING OUT OF HEARING OF TRAILING DOGS** - When the cast leaves dogs trailing to go to a tree which takes them out of hearing of trailing dogs, the cast will return to the area where dogs were last heard. **If dogs are not heard within six (6) minutes, points will be deleted and the time out rule applied. or handler(s) may receive minus strike points and continue the cast at his/her/their option. If cast members involved are unable to reach a majority decision on calling time out or taking minus points, time out will be called.**

15. TIES

All ties are to be broken to determine a cast winner. A dog will win over other dogs as follows:

- A. The dog with the most plus tree points.
- B. The dog with the most plus strike points.
- C. The dog with the most circle points, strike and tree points combined.
- D. The dog with the most circle tree points.
- E. The dog with the least minus points.
- F. **OVERTIME CAST** - If there is still a tie, the dogs tied will continue the cast until the tie is broken. In an overtime cast, the first dog to minus or be called treed will break the tie. Time-out should not be called to break a sudden death tie. Cast should continue without time out being called.



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16. ENTRY REFUSAL

PKC or a sponsoring club has the right to refuse entry to any dog or handler. However, no handler will be barred on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, physical impairment, or his status with another registry. Any handler denied entry must be given a hearing if it is requested in writing before entry is refused.

17. NON-WORKING DOG

A dog who has no tree points (circle or plus) cannot place over a dog who has struck and/or treed, scoring plus points on strike or tree or circle points on tree.

18. DETERMINING WINNERS

The final score is determined by subtracting all minus points from all plus points. All circle points count as zero as a final score. After determining the final score of each dog, the Order of Placement is:

- A. MOST PLUS POINTS - If more than one dog has the same amount of plus points as a final score, see tie-breaking rules.
- B. TOTAL SCORE OF ZERO - All circle points count as zero for a final score. If more than one dog has a final score of zero (no plus and no minus), see tie-breaking rules.
- C. LEAST MINUS POINTS WITH TREE - The dog with the least minus points that has scored plus or circle points on tree or plus points on strike (see Non-Working Dog Rule).
- D. LEAST MINUS POINTS WITHOUT TREE - The dog with the least minus points without scoring plus or circle points on tree or plus points on strike.

Special Note

This formula applies to a placing in a cast or a cast winner advancing. Anytime more than one dog is scratched from a cast at the same time, they will place in the order of their score at the time they were scratched. No dog scratched for fighting may advance as a cast winner.

19. RECASTING

A deadline will be announced for cast winners to be back to the clubhouse. Winners will be cast winners whose scorecard is back at the deadline. Any dog not on the grounds to answer roll call will be scratched. The scorecard is considered back if it is on the club grounds at the deadline. Cast winners will recast to determine placement, *or split awards equally, if agreeable with all cast members.* The Hunt Director will have the authority to set a time deadline for cast(s) to be finished. The winner will be the dog winning the cast at the deadline. In case of a tie that cannot be broken, the awards will be split for the tied positions.

20. GOOD JUDGEMENT

These rules are written and intended to identify and reward the hound that hunts, strikes, trails, and trees a raccoon and stays until his handler arrives. At times

it will be necessary to use good judgment rather than a literal interpretation of these rules toward this end. It is within the scope of these rules for the Judge and/or Master of Hounds to rule on a situation not specifically covered by the rules.

Use of alcoholic beverages or unprescribed drugs shall not be permitted on the grounds of or while participating in a PKC sanctioned event. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or unprescribed drugs will be refused entry.