



2008 - 2011 OPEN EVENT RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Professional Kennel Club, LLC**, referred to as PKC, will license all events, keep record of winnings, issue championship degrees, and World Championship and Futurity qualification. PKC reserves the right to be responsible for accounting for and disbursing of proceeds, appointing judges, or determining winners of events. PKC reserves the right to withhold recognition of winners and may decline to license a club for future events at their sole discretion. PKC reserves the right to appoint a member of PKC management to serve as Hunt Director and/or manage any event it deems necessary.
- B. **SPONSORING CLUB** - The sponsoring club will be a club, national, breed or state association licensed by PKC to conduct events. The club will have authority to conduct events, determine winners and disburse awards. The club will appoint a certified Hunt Director who will have authority over the event. The club must furnish a qualified non-hunting judge for the final cast. The club will rule on all questions concerning an event, including rule interpretation and disciplinary action of members. The National Association and/or PKC reserves the right to correct gross errors at their discretion.
- C. **HUNT DIRECTOR** - The club will appoint a "PKC Certified Hunt Director" who will have the responsibility of selecting judges, guides and conducting events. (See Hunt Director Instructions for further information.) The National Association and/or PKC reserves the right to correct gross errors at their discretion.
- D. **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 raccoon controlled environment (enclosed pens). Person shall be able to guide cast without assistance from another individual. Clubs should provide "hunting guides" from the local area if at all possible. If there are not enough hunting guides entered in the event, non-hunting guides will be used. The casting ground should be an area where the cast can compete safely.
- E. **JUDGE** - The Judge will be selected by the Hunt Director from the entries he feels are most qualified to conduct the cast. He should have a good knowledge of the sport and the ability to honestly conduct the cast according to PKC rules. If possible, use judges who are not members of the sponsoring club. The Judge will have complete control of the cast and will make all decisions. **At any time cast members vote 2-2 on the scoring of any JUDGEMENT situation, the Judge will score the situation as he feels it should be scored, and any cast member disagreeing with his decision may question that decision through the normal question**

procedure. This does not apply to the scoring of a tree. See Rule # 12-1. No handler can be allowed to serve as a Judge while handling a dog that has been scratched twice for fighting. Any Judge found to have deliberately scored any situation incorrectly for the benefit of any individual or dog shall be subject to disciplinary action.

- F. **NON-HUNTING JUDGE** - A non-hunting judge may be assigned any cast at the discretion of the Hunt Director. The final cast must be assigned a qualified non-hunting judge. He will be an additional voting member of a cast and will have the same authority as a hunting judge, and must be a current PKC member.
- G. **CAST MEMBERS** - Each member of the cast will serve as a voting member. After the judge has made his decision, it may be questioned by any member of the cast. Any cast member who will not cast his vote concerning a question may be scratched from the cast. Any question that cannot be resolved by a majority vote of the cast will be brought to the clubhouse and presented to a panel. Any panel required for a question will be selected by the Hunt Director. Panel members should be current PKC members, however, the best qualified personnel available who have no interest in the outcome of the cast should be used even if they are not PKC members.
- H. **NON-HUNTING CAST MEMBER** - A Non-Hunting Cast Member may be assigned any cast, including the final cast. He will be an additional voting member of a cast in the event of a question. **The Non-Hunting Cast Member should be a current PKC member, but it is not required. The cast may be assigned a "Hunting Judge" and/or a "Non-Hunting Cast Member".**

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE** - By entry in a PKC event you agree to hold PKC, PKC National Association, the Club, Judge, Guide and Hunt Director harmless in the event of accident, error, or misapplication of the rules. Any owner or handler may file a written complaint concerning actions of the sponsoring club. PKC will investigate the complaint and take necessary action, including but not limited to withholding recognition of winners, and/or refusing to license the club for future events.
- B. **DRAWING FOR CASTS** - It is very important that all Judges, Guides, and Handlers draw for their cast. (See Cast Drawing Instructions in Hunt Director Instructions.) Any person who owns more than one dog entered in an event may request a separate draw provided PKC registration papers are in order and are presented to the Hunt Director to prove ownership. Senior Citizens, Youth Hunters, and Pups may be permitted to draw a separate cast at Open Events large



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enough to accommodate each. There must be a minimum of four (4) participants. Hunt Director may use his discretion when implementing this policy. See Hunt Director Instructions for more information.

- C. **HUNTING TIME** - All casts will hunt two (2) hours, except in the final cast where a majority of cast members may agree to hunt only one (1) hour. All Open Events with over four (4) casts must hunt two (2) hours in the first round to be considered for placement.

SUNRISE - No casts are to be extended beyond sunrise. Time of sunrise should be determined and announced by Hunt Director prior to late casts leaving for hunting grounds.

SIXTEEN (16) ENTRIES OR LESS - In all Open Events with four (4) casts or less, individual casts are permitted to hunt less than two (2) hours if all cast members agree.

- 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. **CALL ACKNOWLEDGMENT** - The judge should acknowledge a handler's call by responding the dog's name and number of points received for the call.
- F. **STAYING WITHIN HEARING DISTANCE** - When the 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 distance of all dogs. If they are unable to keep all dogs within hearing range, the judge may apply the time out rule by majority vote. The cast should stay as close to the dogs as possible at all times.
- G. **KEEPING CAST TOGETHER** - The cast must stay together and all cast members will go to all trees unless dogs are treed in different places. Every effort should be made to allow Judge to reach tree first. Dogs declared treed must be showing tree. A handler may leave the cast to go to a split tree when time is up or all dogs have been declared treed. A majority of the cast must go to each tree to score each dog. A handler going to a split tree must leash his dog and wait for a majority of the cast to come and score the tree.
- H. **NUMBER OF CAST MEMBERS** - In the event one (1) member of a four (4) dog cast withdraws/scratches and leaves the cast, the cast then becomes a three (3) dog cast with a majority of two (2) being required for scoring. The scratched cast member leaving the cast can not certify the scorecard for the remaining hunting time. Time remaining in the cast should be noted at the time it becomes a three (3) dog cast. Should any cast become less than a three (3) dog cast, the Hunt

Director or a member of PKC management must be contacted to determine who could serve as the required voting members of the cast.

- I. **USE OF MUZZLES** - No dog will be allowed to compete wearing a muzzle during a cast.
- J. **ABUSE OF DOGS** - Dog abuse of any kind shall not be tolerated while participating in a PKC sanctioned event, including time outs.
- 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 & 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.
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 led one (1) minute from the tree to be released. If all dogs are on leash, they will be released and a new strike opened up. If other dogs are on strike, the six (6) minute rule will be applied and the dogs will be released when one (1) of the dogs



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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 will 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.

- C. **RECASTING WITH DOG(S) DECLARED TREED** - 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.
- D. **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. A dog may not be called treed unless he has already been called struck. The cast should begin walking toward the dogs as soon as possible, in no event later than two (2) minutes after the first dog is called.
- E. **LISTENING FOR DOGS** - Cast should stop when requested by a handler to listen for his dog until five (5) minutes are up.
- F. **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. 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 it is seen not showing tree.
- G. **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.
- H. **SEPARATE TREE** - Handlers should not call treed for a separate tree. The Judge should award separate tree points as soon as he is sure the 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.
- I. **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.
4. **QUESTIONS**
- A. **PROPER PROCEDURE FOR QUESTION** - Any handler has the right to question the scoring of any dog in the cast. Questions must be placed on the card at the

time the dog is scored or should be scored. Questions must be submitted to the remaining cast members and resolved by a majority vote. If a handler is dissatisfied with the majority decision, that decision may be appealed to the Hunt Director to be heard after the cast is finished by placing a deposit of \$25. The deposit must be placed 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. Handler may sign an IOU on back of scorecard, which must be paid before question is heard. No deposit is required when cast has voted but does not have a majority.

- B. **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.
- C. **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 the club.
- D. **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's panel overturns the original panel's decision, will the appeal deposit be returned.
- E. **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 for misconduct. The Hunt Director will send report to PKC with other hunt results. Misconduct report will be handled as provided in 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 REQUIREMENT** - Handlers must be a current member, or guest 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



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the Judge and Master of Hounds. Handlers only will be responsible for bringing formal questions and appeals to the Hunt Director.

- B. **GUEST HUNTERS** - No person will be allowed to participate in a PKC sanctioned event as a "guest hunter", except in a "Try One" event. Refer to Hunt Director Instructions.
- C. **SPORTSMANSHIP REQUIREMENT** - A handler must conduct himself as a gentleman and sportsman at all times. A handler becoming loud, aggressive or belligerent may 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.
- D. **HANDLER INTERFERENCE** - Any handler found guilty of interfering with another handler's dog in any way that would affect his ability to compete may be subject to disciplinary action.
- E. **DISCIPLINING DOG** - A handler may not scold, encourage, or punish his dog at any time during a PKC sanctioned event.
- F. **HANDLER LEAVING CAST** - A handler may 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.
- G. **SCORECARD INSPECTION** - A handler may inspect the scorecard at any time, provided Judge is not in the process of scoring dogs.
- H. **SPECTATORS** - The local club may decide and announce if spectators will be allowed on casts, if agreeable with majority of cast members. Handlers shall be responsible for the conduct of spectators accompanying them on casts.
- I. **SIGNING SCORECARD** - Each Handler is responsible for the honesty of the scorecard and will sign the scorecard certifying it upon completion of the cast. A member who believes that the scoring of a cast is drastically wrong and cannot be corrected by bringing a question must notify the other cast members and sign the scorecard in the gray area at the time the situation is scored to disqualify the cast. In a four (4) dog cast, two (2) cast members must sign the scorecard in the gray to disqualify the cast. In a three (3) dog cast, only one (1) member must sign the gray area to disqualify the cast. This cast will not be considered for placement, and the signing in the gray can not be questioned, however, other cast members who believe the cast member(s) signing the gray to disqualify the cast did not have a legitimate reason for doing so may file misconduct charges against that member. If the cast is completed when a cast member signs the score-

card in the gray area, any other cast member(s) may question the signing in the gray. Hunt Director will appoint a panel to hear the reason for disqualification and if the panel determines that a mistake has been made, the panel may reinstate the cast if the handler did not have a justifiable reason for signing the gray. PKC reserves the right to review any scorecard submitted with signature(s) in the gray area for possible misconduct charges against any and/or all members of the cast.

- J. **REMAINING WITH CAST** - Each handler shall be required to remain with the cast for the entire hunt even though his dog may no longer be a part of the cast, unless all remaining handlers agree to his leaving, or he will be subject to disciplinary charges.
- K. **SCORECARD CERTIFICATION** - Any cast considered for placement in an event must have the signature of a majority of the cast members certifying it to be accurate. **Handlers shall sign his/her name followed by the winning score he/she is certifying and the dog's name and/or scorecard position of the cast winner. Should any handler leave the cast for any reason before cast hunting time is completed, he/she shall sign the scorecard and record the name of the dog and/or the scorecard position of said dog with the dog's score at that time, in addition to the amount of hunting time remaining in the cast.** All casts must be completed with at least three (3) members to certify the scorecard. The Hunt Director may sign the card on behalf of a handler if a question is brought before Master of Hounds. Hunt Director may also sign on behalf of any handler who has not signed a scorecard due to negligence.
- L. **SIGNING FRAUDULENT SCORECARD** - Any handler found to have signed a fraudulent scorecard may be suspended from all PKC activities, fined, placed on probation, and/or barred for life from registering dogs.
- M. **ACCEPTING UNDESERVED CREDIT** - Anyone found guilty of accepting credit for a different amount than he actually earned in a PKC event may be subject to disciplinary action.
- N. **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 may be subject to disciplinary action.
- O. **USE OF LIGHTS** - A handler may not use his light to help control dogs nor shine trees except upon the direction of the Judge. He must turn the light off at the request of the judge.

7. DOGS

- A. **PKC STANDARDS** - Any dog entered must meet PKC



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standards. It should be trained so as not to hinder other dogs in the cast.

- B. **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT** - The dog must be PKC registered in the true owner's name. All awards will be presented to the registered owner of the hound.
- C. **FALSE REGISTRATION/ENTERING** - Anyone guilty of falsely registering or falsely entering any dog with wrong papers may be scratched, fined, and/or placed on suspension and/or probation.
- D. **VETERINARIAN EXAMINATION** - The handler must allow his hound to be examined by a veterinarian, if requested, or be permanently suspended.
- E. **USE OF 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.
- F. **USE OF TRAINING COLLARS** - A dog may wear an electronic training collar or dummy collar, but a trainer transmitter may not be used during hunt nor carried on the cast. The collar may be used only after the dog has finished the cast. This rule 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. **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.**
- All dogs must be struck. If a dog trees on the same tree, strike points will be deleted.
- 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) minute the third tree will be closed. All dogs treed after one (1) minute 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. **MAJORITY OF CAST REQUIREMENT** - When a dog strikes and trees, and a coon is seen by a majority of the cast. (majority of a 4 dog cast is 3 members; 3 dog cast is 2 members.) If only three members of a 4 dog cast go to a tree, all three must agree on the scoring of the tree. Only one tree is counted even if more than one coon is up the tree.
- B. **PLACE OF REFUGE/COON CAUGHT ON GROUND** 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 plus strike and tree points. Dogs not declared treed get plus strike points only. No tree points are allowed for a coon caught on the ground. Any time 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 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 cast 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, it 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



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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 dog. A dog with all circle points will have a total score of zero.

- A. **CIRCLE TREE REQUIREMENT** - 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.
- B. **REQUIREMENT FOR CIRCLE STRIKE POINTS** - Under no circumstances should strike points be circled unless they are connected to circle tree points.

12. **DELETED POINTS**

- A. When dogs return to a tree previously scored on.
- B. When dogs are trailing when time is out.
- C. If time out must be called.
- D. 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. **TREEING ON CLOSED TREE** - When dog is called treed after five (5) minutes are up on a tree, he will receive

100 points. The points will be deleted if he is in fact treed on a dead tree. Other dogs treed with same dog will receive the next available position on the tree.

- G. **DANGEROUS OBSTACLE** - When dogs are treed across deep water or other dangerous obstacle, after all efforts to reach dogs have been exhausted and the cast cannot reach 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.
- J. **TIE VOTE ON SCORING TREE** - Any cast with two (2) members voting to circle a tree and two (2) members voting to minus a tree, all strike and tree points will be deleted.

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 as follows:

A. **FIGHTING**

- (1) **ISSUING WARNING** - Any dog snarling, growling, or coming off a 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 regarding scratching a dog fussing and growling while hunting, as well as, one who is treed. 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 shall be scratched with the other dog involved being permitted to remain in the cast under warning. No Handler will be allowed to withdraw his dog to avoid being "scratched for fighting" without first handling the dog. Any cast member(s) found guilty of allowing another cast member(s) to withdraw to avoid being scratched for fighting may be subject to disciplinary actions.

- (2) **REQUIREMENTS TO SCRATCH DOG** - A dog may be scratched by the Judge and one (1) other cast member or a majority of the cast **when observed in an altercation with another dog**. 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



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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.

- 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 will be scratched.
- D. MOLESTING LIVESTOCK**
- E. HANDLER MISCONDUCT** - Any handler becoming unreasonable, aggressive or presenting his ideas in a forceful manner will be scratched. A handler may be scratched by the Judge and one other cast member or a majority of the cast. The decision is final and cannot be questioned. Any handler continuing to be abusive will be reported to the Hunt Director.
- 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 will 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(s) stops barking, the two (2) minute rule should be applied. Should six (6) minute rule expire before two (2) minutes expires and dog resumes 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 the Judge concerning the scoring of dogs while he is considering his call will be scratched on the 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 after he has made his call according to question rules. He may also "question" 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-F)
- 14. TIME-OUT**
- A. TIME-OUT AGREEMENT** - A majority of the cast must agree on time out. Time out should not be called unless absolutely necessary if all dogs are not close enough to be handled. If time-out is called, it will apply to all dogs in the cast. Time out will be a maximum of one (1) hour. Less than one (1) hour, by majority vote of cast members, 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 the predetermined location and be ready for recasting.
- B. REASONS TO CALL TIME-OUT:**
1. when dogs or cast members are getting near a place of danger. (highway, gunshots fired, posted property, etc.)
 2. 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
 3. if new ground must be found to finish the cast
 4. to allow handlers to search for dogs if one or more dogs becomes lost
 5. 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 the handler(s) may receive minus**



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strike points and continue the cast at his option. If cast members involved are unable to reach a unanimous decision on calling time out or taking minus points, time out will be called.

6. in case of accident or sickness.

15. TIES

All ties are to be broken for a cast winner. The proper procedure to break a tie is 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, combined strike and tree
- D. The dog with the most circle tree points
- E. The dog with the least minus points
- F. 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, however the score at the end of the two (2) hour hunting time will remain the final score for determining placement in the hunt. Time out should not be called to break a "sudden death" tie. Cast should continue without time out being called.

SPECIAL NOTE

This formula applies to 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.

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.

17. NON-WORKING DOG

DOG WITH NO TREE POINTS - A dog who has no plus tree points or circle tree points cannot place over a dog who has scored plus points or circle points on tree or plus points on strike.

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. **This applies to placing in a cast or cast winners placing in the final four.** After determining the final score, the order of placement is as follows:

- A. MOST PLUS POINTS - If more than one (1) 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 (1) dog has a final score of zero (no plus and no minus), see tie breaking rules.
- C. LEAST MINUS POINTS WITH CIRCLE OR PLUS 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 PLUS OR CIRCLE - The dog with the least minus points without scoring plus or circle points on tree or plus points on strike.
- E. SIXTEEN (16) ENTRIES OR LESS - In any Open Event with sixteen (16) entries or less any awards normally due any disqualified cast may be disbursed at the clubs discretion. A cast may still qualify for awards even though it has not made the return deadline. However under no circumstances may awards from a disqualified cast(s) be added to other places. Examples of a disqualified cast are a cast killed by a member signing the gray, or a cast completing hunting time with less than three voting members.

19. RECASTING

A deadline will be announced for cast winners to be back to the clubhouse. Winners will be the top four (4) cast winners whose scorecard is back at the deadline. The final four (4) dogs will be placed on a scorecard. Any dog not on the grounds to answer roll call will be scratched from the final cast and will receive last place. The scorecard is considered back if it is on the club grounds at the deadline. The top four (4) cast winners will recast to determine first through fourth places. Only one (1) member requesting recasting will be necessary for recasting to be required for any Friday or Saturday night event, or any event held in conjunction with a major event. If all members of the final cast agree, awards will be divided equally and all finalists will tie for last place. In reference to added purse events, two (2) members requesting that the all of the added purse be awarded to the winning dog will require that two (2) members of the final cast request same. If agreeable with a majority of the cast members, a final cast may also be allowed to compete for only one (1) hour instead of two (2), however, should cast members decide to hunt, agreed upon hunting time must be completed in its' entirety, unless all cast members receive an equal share of the awards. The Hunt Director will have the authority to set a time deadline for the final cast 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 money will be split for tied positions.



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SPECIAL NOTE - ADDED PURSE EVENTS

Two (2) members requesting to compete for all of the added purse will be required for finalists to compete for the added purse. If the two (2) member requirement is not met, the added purse will be divided equally between the finalists competing for the PKC earnings.

- A. **FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE** - Any cast winner failing to return to the clubhouse by deadline will not be eligible to compete in the final cast. However, he will not be scratched as cast winner of first cast and is eligible for placement in an event with sixteen (16) or less entries. (Refer to Hunt Director Instructions - Recasting)
- B. **CREDIT RECEIVED** - Under no circumstances may the second, third, or fourth place dog in a first round cast receive any credit for winning.
- C. **WEEK NIGHT OPEN EVENTS** - In week night Open Events, awards will be split unless all handlers agree to hunt.
- D. **GUEST VOTE** - Any handler competing in a guest status may be denied a vote concerning recasting.

20. GOOD JUDGEMENT

These rules are written and intended to identify and reward the hound who 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 in detail by the rules.

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.

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.