

OFFICIAL WILD COON HUNT RULES OF (ACHA) AMERICAN COON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC., 67TH EDITION, 2017 SCORECARD

1. JUDGES:

- A. All judges are selected by ACHA, the Sponsor Club or Master of Hounds. It is the judge's responsibility to keep handlers informed as to scoring of all dogs in the cast.
 - B. The ACHA WORLD HUNT will have non-hunting judges for the Top 16 and Final cast.
 - C. When dogs are turned loose, the judge is to walk slowly in the direction they wish to hunt. After first dog opens, the judge shall not walk other dog(s) in so they will strike; nor will stay so far from dog that excessive hunt time be lost.
 - D. The judge is to go into the tree first and see that all dog(s) that have been declared treed are treeing and then instruct handlers to handle their dog. In the case of hunting judges, the cast should go into tree at the same time.
 - E. When scoring a tree, the judge is to let handlers search the tree with lights only for the first 3 minutes, (unless all dog(s) are handled) last 5 minutes squalling allowed. Refer to 10-N. Individual holding first tree controls the shining of tree for the first two minutes.
 - F. Record strike points as dogs are called after first dog is called treed, in case dog(s) tree on separate trees. Judge will draw line under strike points for dog's that are struck in after a dog is called treed in case dog is treed on separate tree. If dog(s) that strike after a dog has been treed, tree on the same tree before 5 minutes expire, delete underlined strike points. Refer to 8-C.
- 2. HANDLERS:**
- A. Any owner or handler that enters a dog(s) in any ACHA or WCCHR event should know and abide by these rules.
 - B. No handler shall go to a tree ahead of the judge without the judge's permission.
 - C. A handler may inspect the scorecard at any time, provided the judge is not in the process of scoring a dog(s).
 - D. The owner or handler must accompany their entry on the cast and call their dog only.
 - E. The owner of a dog entered in a hunt is responsible for the conduct of their handler.
 - F. If a handler has to leave the cast for any reason, they must scratch their dog and pick it up.
 - G. All lights must be used for walking only except when instructed otherwise by the judge.
 - H. Judge will instruct the handler(s) to cast or catch dog(s) at all times.
 - I. It is the handler(s) responsibility to have dog(s) under control while leashed. Failure to control your dog is a scratchable offense.
 - J. Handlers must be on the grounds at time casts are drawn. If not, it is a scratchable offense.

3. GENERAL RULES:

- A. ACHA approves any draw system that is fair and impartial. The draw should be done, in public, except hunting judges and guides. Anyone entering more than 1 dog and shows proof of ownership may have the dogs split into separate cast, if possible. If the 2 dogs are drawn in same cast, the second dog drawn will be placed in next cast.
- B. No more than 4 dogs per cast. If the club has enough guides and judges 3 dog casts are allowed. If necessary 2 and 1 dog casts are allowed but the cast must have a non-hunting judge furnished by the host club. No 2 dog casts will be allowed to leave the grounds at the ACHA World or Little World Hunt events. They must return back to the clubhouse.
- C. No dog or cast will be eligible for points in any hunt governed by ACHA unless they hunt entire designated time.
- D. To qualify for tree points the dog must show the judge which tree it has been declared treed on. When a dog is treed other than a tree, it must show where it's treed. A handler cannot go out and bring their dog into a tree.
- E. Dog(s) declared treed must be scored accordingly regardless of whether barking in ground or otherwise, it has shown you where the game is. Other dog(s) shall be scored on strike only.
- F. If dogs strike and tree different coon, judge must count them all as one set of strike points. If dogs tree on different trees, they each deserve their own tree points.
- G. If a dog trees and handler will not call it treed, judge is to ask handler if the dog is treed. If the handler refuses to tree the dog, judge will put 5 minutes on the stationary dog before they go to the tree. If the dog is found to be treed, the dog will be scratched. See Rule 10(d)
- H. No non-prescribed drugs, alcohol or firearms allowed in any ACHA event.
- I. ACHA has the right to refuse entry/membership.
- J. ACHA is not responsible for any accidents, thefts or loss.
- K. ACHA retains the right to make all final decisions.
- L. In case where dog(s) return to a tree that has been scored. First offense draw a line through points. Second offense dog is to be scratched. 10-L.
- M. Recasting into working dogs.
 - 1. When dogs are pulled from a scored tree, they **MUST** be walked for 1 minute.
 - 2. Judge will tell handler(s) when to cut dog(s).
 - 3. If there are working dog(s) not barking, the 6 minute rule will be applied.
 - 4. If cast has walked out of hearing of working dog(s) to score a tree, they must walk back to the last place they heard the working dog(s) before the 6 minutes can be applied.
 - 5. If dog(s) have been declared treed but not barking, 2 minutes must be applied. If dog(s) have left tree, leashed dog(s) must be recast.
 - 6. Any handler cutting their dog before judge says so will be scratched.
 - 7. If more than one tree is made, after leaving first tree, the handler has the option of walking one minute before casting his dog or walking to next tree to be scored. Handlers' decision. Judge will tell handler when to cast.
- N. Voting on a Tree

- 1. 4 dog cast - Takes 3 votes to plus, minus or circle a tree. A 2 to 2 vote will delete a plus/ circle tree and circle a circle / minus tree.
 - 2. 3 dog cast - Takes 2 votes to plus, minus or circle a tree.
 - 3. All votes may be questioned and taken back to a panel. See Rule 13.
 - O. In local hunts, a Hunt Director is allowed to hunt. If a hunting question arises, it will be brought back to the clubhouse at or before the deadline. A panel of three members should be selected to hear and decide on the question. No members on the cast will be allowed to be on the panel.
 - P. Dog(s) and Handler(s) must be on the grounds at time casts are drawn out. If not on the grounds, dog(s) will be scratched. See rule 10-P
- 4. TIME RULES:**
- A. One Minute Rule: When dogs are cast, 1 minute will be allowed before the dog(s) must be declared struck. After 1 minute dog(s) must be declared struck on or before the third bark. Dog(s) struck and determined to be babbling will be minused their strike points.
 - B. Two Minute Rule: One of the dogs declared treed must bark at least once every 2 minutes. Judge's decision.
 - C. Five Minute Rule: When dog(s) are declared treed, judge is not to arrive at the tree or allow handlers to go to a tree until 5 minutes has expired, unless all dogs are declared treed or the hunt ends. Cast will proceed toward the tree after first dog is called treed, if it will take more than 5 minutes to get there, stopping at intervals so other handlers can see if their dog is treeing.
 - D. Six Minute Rule: A strike shall be considered finished and all strike points minused if no dog in cast barks for an interval of 6 minutes.
 - E. Eight Minutes is the maximum time a judge is to allow for searching a tree. Timeout cannot be called to search a tree or lead dogs away for recasting. No point changes allowed after leaving the tree except for in case of Rule 14.
 - F. A dog hunting alone must hold its tree for 5 minutes.
 - G. Judge may advise the handlers of any time remaining on track, tree or end of the hunt.

5. TIMEOUT RULES:

- A. A timeout can only be called by a non-hunting judge or majority of the cast when hunting judges are used.
- B. When dog(s) are getting near a highway, trail on posted land, 2 unhandled casts get together, near livestock or there is danger to cast member or dog(s).
- C. If cast gets lost or in case of sickness or an accident.
- D. If dog(s) have been declared treed in different places, the judge after 5 minutes on each tree is to give handlers permission to handle their dog. Judge is to go with handler that declared treed first. At any time if dog(s) are trailing then judge is to have handlers release their dog(s) and start hunt time. Dog(s) turned loose to go back in on trail get 25 strike points and tree points as they are called. Judge must instruct handlers to cast their dog if dog holding strike is opening. If no dog in cast is opening after 6 minutes has elapsed, strike is open.
- E. Cast cannot separate to follow trailing dogs, unless judge calls timeout.
- F. No timeout to recast unless dog(s) are loaded and vehicle moved. If recasting in same area, dogs must be recast with-in two minutes after last tree is scored.
- G. No more than 1 hour may be used to find lost dog(s) and have them ready to recast. Time starts when timeout is called.
- H. In case of death on a cast, the score of the cast shall stand at the time of death and will be considered a completed cast.

6. POINT SYSTEM:

- A. 100 points for first strike, 75 second, 50 third and 25 fourth. 125 points for first tree, 75 second, 50 third and 25 fourth. All dogs treed after 2 minutes will receive 25 points only if treed on same tree.
 - B. Should 2 or more dogs be declared struck or treed at the same time, then the combined points should be divided between the dogs. Should dogs get out of hearing and when cast gets in hearing of any dogs treeing the judge should give all hunters a chance to see if their dog is treeing and all that are declared treed will have their tree points divided. Any other dog(s) that are not declared treed at this time may be called treed any time before the 5 minutes are up. They will be scored in the order they are called.
 - C. No dog advances on tree, unless found on separate tree.
 - D. Non-working dog. If dog(s) are not working as part of cast and is holding first strike, second etc., all strike points will be open to other dogs after the second coon is seen on the second set of strike points or 1 hour of hunt time has expired.
- 7. POINTS WILL BE PLUS:**
- A. When majority of cast or a non-hunting judge see a live coon.
 - B. When dog(s) strike and tree and a live coon is seen, both strike and tree points will be plus. Only 1 coon per tree can be counted.
 - C. When coon is caught on ground and seen, strike points only will be plus. Draw a line through any tree points. These tree points are not to be used to break a tie. When in the opinion of the judge the coon is caught on the ground cast may go to the dog(s).
 - D. When hunters and judge are at the tree and a coon jumps out and is seen by the judge or a majority of the cast, points will be plus. If dog(s) get after this coon, timeout should be called. You cannot score on this coon again.

8. POINTS WILL BE MINUS:

- A. When dog(s) tree and judge can plainly see no coon is there, both strike and tree points will be minused.
- B. When dog(s) is declared treed and leaves the tree. If it goes on trailing, then only the tree points will be minused. If it quits altogether, its strike points will be minused.
- C. When a dog has been declared struck and comes into a tree 5 minutes after the first dog trees and a coon is seen. If no coon is seen then its strike points will be deleted.
- D. When a dog comes out from a track that is being worked. It is not to be leashed, but allowed to go back if it wants to, and is eligible for 25 strike points.

Each time it comes out, it is to be minused. Dog(s) do not have to quit any length of time. Judge's decision.

- E. For first offense of accidentally striking or treeing another handler's dog. Refer to 10-C.
 - F. Any dog seen running or treeing any game other than coon by the judge will be minused.
 - G. 6 Minute Rule: a strike shall be considered finished and all strike points minused if no dog in the cast barks for an interval of 6 minutes.
- 9. POINTS WILL BE CIRCLED:**
- A. When dogs strike and tree up a tree, hole in the ground or any place of refuge where there could be a coon, yet judge does not see the coon.
 - B. When dog(s) are still trailing when hunt time expires, points will be deleted.
 - C. When timeout is called.
 - D. In case of running coon in a hole or place of refuge, track may be considered finished if dog(s) by action either barking or otherwise, show judge coon could be there.
- 10. DOGS WILL BE SCRATCHED:**
- A. If a dog has a total of 400 minus in one cast.
 - B. Fighting or attempting to fight. Interfering with other dogs by fussing and following them. Judge is to see which dog is causing trouble. If unsure, judge is to get close enough to investigate. If a handler refuses to help, their dog is to be scratched. In the case of hunting judges, the cast should go into tree at the same time to investigate.
 - C. If a handler insists on calling another handlers dog. Judge's decision.
 - D. Any handler that refuses to claim their dog, including One Minute and Stationary Rules.
 - E. For running stock or poultry. Only one offense.
 - F. Any female smelling strong enough to attract males or any male bad to bother females or other dogs.
 - G. If a handler scolds, whips or encourages their dog at any time.
 - H. No fighting dog will be accepted for entry. Any dog that has been scratched for fighting twice in a 12 month period in ACHA events will be barred for twelve months. After a year suspension, if the dog is scratched for fighting ever again in an ACHA event, the dog will be barred for life and the owner could be called to a hearing before the Board of Directors.
 - I. For any unreasonable misconduct by any owner, handler or spectator. Any owner, handler or spectator threatening harm to anyone involved in an ACHA event may be barred for life.
 - J. If anyone climbs a tree or attempts to take a coon.
 - K. Any handler who handles their dog without the judge's permission.
 - L. Any dog that goes back to the same tree 2 times that it has been scored on will be scratched on second offense.
 - M. Any dog that fails to hunt for 15 continuous minutes.
 - N. No squalling allowed in the first 3 minutes of shining a tree, unless all dogs are handled.
 - O. Any handler who fails to control their dog while leashed.
 - P. Dog(s) not on grounds at time casts are drawn out will be scratched.
- 11. ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**
- A. ACHA allows hounds to wear tracking collars. Collars that have shocking or toning capabilities are **not allowed, if found to be used, dog will be scratched.**
 - B. Handhelds of locating only devices may be used by the handler.
 - C. Cell phones may be used as timing devices and for tracking of dogs. They are to be used to make calls or text messages **ONLY in cases of emergency.**
 - D. In no circumstances will thermal infrared devices of any kind be allowed. If found to be used, handler will be barred.
 - E. Scoring calls shall not be made solely from electronic devices. Dog(s) must be barking and heard by Non-Hunting judge or a majority of the cast in order for the call of struck or treed to be allowed.

12. SCORECARDS:

- A. Scorecards must be completed in the woods and no changes can be made later except where a question arises and is noted in the woods. If a question arises in the woods, the MOH / HD may change the score.
 - B. Handler's signature verifies hunting time and scores are correct. Any handler that does not sign the scored results in the dog being scratched.
 - C. Scorecards are to be kept confidential until hunt deadline passes or all scorecards are in the possession of the MOH.
 - D. If while reviewing scorecards, MOH / HD finds an error, whether math or other, the scorecard is to be thrown out and the dogs are to be scratched.
- 13. CASE OF TIE:**
- Tie Breakers = Least minus, most plus tree points, most plus strike points, most plus first tree points, most plus first strike points, most circle tree points, most circle strike points . . . go to lottery if time does not permit going back to the woods.
- 14. COMPLAINTS:**
- Handler must first lodge complaint with judge in the woods when the complaint comes up. Place question on card and continue hunting, unless it is a scratchable offense. Scratchable offenses must be returned to MOH or hunt director as soon as timeout can be legally called. Any questions must be addressed within 30 minutes of returning scorecard. Any member not satisfied with a rule judgment can put up \$20 and bring it in front of a panel. The hunt director will choose 3 people to sit on the panel to hear the question. If the question is lost, the club will keep the \$20. If the question is won, the member will receive their money back. Any member not satisfied with the panels' decision can appeal the decision by putting up \$100. ACHA will put together a panel to hear the appeal. If the appeal is lost, ACHA will keep the \$100. If the appeal is won, the member will receive their money back.