



The Official Bench Show Rules of the American Coon Hunters Association

Rev 8/24 by GSM

Section 1 - Approved Judging

All **ACHA** Coonhound Bench Shows must be judged by an approved **ACHA** Bench Show Judge.

Section 2 - Requirement to Follow Bench Show Rules

The host club shall follow the **ACHA** rules for holding a bench show. The club shall select an individual who is an **ACHA** licensed Bench Show Judge to judge the show. It is recommended not to use the same judge at every show; dogs cannot earn titles if they have all wins under the same judge.

Section 3 – Judge Licensing

Application for an **ACHA** judge license may be obtained by email us through the contact form on our website or request via mail to: American Coon Hunters Association • P.O. Box 126 • Ellerslie, GA 31807.

All show judges are required to know the breed standards as published by **ACHA** and pass the **ACHA** judge test as of January 1, 2016. All persons holding an **ACHA** Bench Show Judge License issued prior to this date shall be recognized as **ACHA** Judges.

Section 4 - Dogs Registration Requirement to Compete

All coonhounds shall be registered with **ACHA** to show in any licensed **ACHA** World Show, Little World Show, State Show, Youth State Show, and at the local Club Level Show.

To show in a licensed **ACHA** World Show, Little World, or State Show, an owner/handler shall have an **ACHA** paid membership.

No entry shall be made at any **ACHA** Bench Show under a judge where the dog is owned or handled by a person in that judge's immediate family or household. The members of the immediate family are defined as husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, father in-law, mother in-law, son in-law, daughter in-law, brother in-law, or sister in-law.

Section 5 - ACHA Coonhound Titles Available

Champion, Grand Champion, Superior Grand Champion.

Male and female classes shall be shown separately.

- Little World Show Champion of Breed - Male/Female
- Little World Show Grand Champion - Male/Female
- Little World Show Superior Grand Champion - Male/Female
- Little World Overall Show Champion - Male/Female
- World Show Champion of Breed - Male/Female
- World Show Grand Champion - Male/Female
- World Show Superior Grand Champion - Male/Female
- World Overall Show Champion - Male/Female

Section 6 - Bench Show Classes and Points System

Male and female classes shall be shown separately.

Puppy Class: Shall be for hounds five months to one year of age.

The Best in Class winner receives (5) five points.

Junior Class: Shall be hounds one year of age and under two years of age.

The Best in Class winner receives (5) five points.

Senior Class: Shall be hounds two years of age and over. The Best in Class winner receives (5) five points.

Best of Breed Class: This class is to be selected from the Best in Class winners of the Puppy Class, Junior Class, and Senior Class. The winner of this class shall be known as the Best of Breed Male/Female and awarded (10) ten points.

Best Male and Female of Show: This class is to be selected from the Best of Breed winners.

The winners shall be Best Male of Show and Best Female of Show, awarded (20) twenty points.

Qualifications for Show Champion Title

- Hound must have earned a minimum of 100 **ACHA** recorded points in the open classes and (2) two wins for Best Male/Female of Show.
- Hounds must have competition at the Class or Breed and Show Level at the event they win Best of Show.
- Hounds having no competition will receive championship points but win does not count towards the Show Champion Title.
- The only way to not have competition is to be the only dog entered in the show.
- Dogs of all levels may compete for an "overall" win if necessary. This will give every dog entered the opportunity to win.
- Wins must be earned by showing under (2) two different **ACHA** Judges.

Qualification for Grand Show Champion Title

Hound must have (3) three Best of Show Champion Class wins with competition to earn a Grand Show Champion Title, must be under (2) two different **ACHA** Judges.

Qualification for Superior Grand Show Champion Title

Hound must have (3) three Best of Show Grand Champion class wins with competition to earn Superior Show Champion Title, must be under (2) two different **ACHA** Judges.

Section 7 - Procedure for Bench Show

- A. Males Breed Class: Puppy, Junior, Senior
- B. Females Breed Class: Puppy, Junior, Senior
- C. Male Best of Breed
- D. Female Best of Breed
- E. Best of Show
- F. Show Champion Males/Females
- G. Grand Champion Males/Females
- H. Superior Show Champion Males/Females



American Coon Hunters Association

The following Breeds are recognized by **ACHA** and shall be shown in the following order:

Black & Tan, Bluetick, English, Leopard, Plott, Redbone, Treeing Cur,
Treeing Walker, Louisiana Catahoula Leopard

Every Bench Show at **ACHA** could have eight Best of Breed Male/Female winners,
Show Champion Male/Female winners, Grand Champion Male/Female winners,
Superior Grand Champion Male/Female winners.

Clubs may choose to bring back all winners for Overall Best of Show Male/Female. This is not required at Club level. There are no **ACHA** wins for this class.

All Clubs are encouraged to have Youth Hunts and Youth Bench Shows.

Section 8 - World and Little World Hunting Dog Bench Show

To qualify to show in the **ACHA** Coon Hound Hunting Dog Show the hound must be:

1. Any hound registered to hunt in the **ACHA** World or Little World Hunt may show in the Hunting Dog Bench Show.
2. Or successfully passed a 3-part CAT hunt test and earned the CAT degree.
3. Or be at least an **ACHA** NiteCh Degree.

The Hunting Dog Bench Show shall be held at the Little World and World Hunt and Shows (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED ON THE PROGRAM.)

Titles for Hunting Dog Bench Show

- Little World Hunting Dog Show Champion of Breed - Male/Female
- Little World Hunting Dog Show Grand Champion - Male/Female
- Little World Hunting Dog Show Superior Grand Champion - Male/Female
- Little World Overall Hunting Dog Show Champion - Male/Female
- World Hunting Dog Show Champion of Breed - Male/Female
- World Hunting Dog Show Grand Champion - Male/Female
- World Hunting Dog Show Superior Grand Champion - Male/Female
- World Overall Hunting Dog Show Champion - Male/Female

Section 9 - State, Little World, and World follow the same format as in Section 8

Open, Show Champion, Grand Show Champion, Superior Grand Champion will show in separate classes regardless of number of entries in the State, Little World, and World Show.

There will be a State, Little World, and World Title for each breed chosen at the end of each breed's classes.

- The Little World Bench Show and World Bench Show shall conduct a Youth Bench Show, ages 5 to 12 years old and 13 to 17 years old.
Both follow the above rules and format, **unless otherwise stated in the itinerary.**
- The Youth ages 5 to 12 and ages 13 to 17 years, Little World Overall Show Champion Male and the Female World Overall Show Champion shall be chosen from the Male/Female Breed Champion, Male/Female Show Champions, Male/Female Grand Show Champions, and Male/Female Superior Grand Show Champions.
- All Section of rules and format shall apply to all State, Little World, and World Youth Bench Shows, **unless otherwise stated in the itinerary.**

Section 10 - Owners, Handlers, and Spectators

The handler should be able to gait the dog so that the judge may evaluate dog movement.
The handler should be able to show the dog's bite to the judge.

Owners, handlers, and spectators may not interfere with the judges in any way during show judging or after the show.

Any person intimidating, threatening, or injuring a bench show participant, judge, club officer, or representative may be barred for no less than one year up to life from **ACHA** licensed events.

Section 11 - Judging

- The judge is in charge of the show and their decision is final.
The judge has the right to split or divide a class when considered necessary.
- The judge will evaluate the dogs while being gaited and shown on the bench.
- The judge may excuse any dog for fighting or attempting to bite a dog or person while showing.
- Female dogs in season or altered/spayed dogs will not be permitted to show.
- If it is determined the show female is in season or a dog that has been altered/spayed, the dog will be excused from the show.
- There will be a three judge panel at the Little World and World Bench Shows.

Section 12 – Club Responsibilities

- The club is responsible for having an area to hold the bench show, with enough room for gaiting dogs and adequate benches for dogs to be shown on.
- The club is also responsible for a ring steward familiar with rules to facilitate the correct presentation of hounds shown to the judge.
- The club shall record all winners on the Bench Show Report and mail to **ACHA** within 5 days.
Our address is: American Coon Hunters Association • P.O. Box 126 • Ellerslie, GA 31807.