

# ARHA Progressive Pack Rules, Policies, and Procedures

April 2023

All rules, policies, and procedures listed in this document have been established by the ARHA Progressive Pack Board of Directors and the President of ARHA and are in effect as of January 1, 2021 for at least 5 years. The primary purpose of Progressive Pack Field Trials is to keep the beagle useful as a rabbit-hunting hound.

**NOTE: Gender.** *The personal pronoun "he" and the possessive pronoun "his" when used in these rules are not intended to indicate a male person or a male hound. They are used for the sake of brevity and may refer to a male or female. The word "chairman" may also refer to either a male or a female.*

## ARHA CHARTERED CLUB RULES:

1. Chartered clubs are to hold their elections by December of each year. A club update form is to be sent to the ARHA office by January 1, listing the type(s) of competition the club will hold, names of all officers, and addresses and phone numbers of these officers.
2. Each chartered club must have a liability insurance policy and a copy of this policy must be sent to the ARHA Office by January 1 of each year. New clubs, chartered after January 1, must have 1, 2, and 3 before they hold their first licensed hunt.
3. The annual charter fee is \$50.00 and must be sent to the ARHA Office by January 1. The check is to be made out to the Progressive Pack Special Fund. (If the club also runs Little Pack competition the check should be made out for \$25.00.)
4. If a club fails to comply with 1, 2, or 3 the ARHA President will cancel the clubs' hunts and /or cancel their charters.
5. With the exception of the US Championships, all hunts must be scheduled on a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal holiday. No hunt shall be scheduled on Christmas Day or Easter Sunday.
6. Each member club must hold at least 1 Progressive Pack Licensed hunt in a calendar year.
7. A club may not hold more than 8 Progressive Pack Licensed hunts in a calendar year. This includes State and Big 6 hunts.
8. Progressive Pack clubs may share the same running grounds and club house provided the clubs are independent of one another. The club officers must be different in each club. Immediate family members may not be an officer of any other club. However, the club officers and/or immediate family members may help any other independent clubs with their hunts.
9. No hunt can be scheduled on the same day as the Morgan Classic or the U.S. Championship.
10. No club may hold a hunt on the same day as a Regional is being held within the club's region.
11. If a new Progressive Pack Club opens up after June 30 of a calendar year, the Progressive Pack Executive Board must vote as to whether the Hound of the Year points will count for any hunts that club may hold for the remainder of that year.

## Executive Board:

### A. Duties of the Executive Board:

1. The Board shall work as an administrative board to carry out rules, policies and procedures that have been established by the Board of directors.
2. The Board shall approve expenditures from the Progressive Pack Special Fund.
3. The Board shall assign the host clubs for the 5 Regional Hunts, the United States Championships, and the State Hunts.
4. In the event that an elected ARHA officer, or elected committee member, cannot (does not) complete his/her term of office, this Board shall appoint a person to serve in that position until the next Board of Directors meeting at which time the position shall be filled by election.
5. The Board shall assist all existing committees in carrying out their duties, if the chairman of the committee requests assistance.
6. The ARHA President, with the approval of the Chairman of the Board, shall appoint ARHA Representatives for the different areas of the country to help new clubs get started and to consult with existing clubs as needed. The Secretary/Treasurer shall pay reasonable expenses for the representatives in the conduct of their duties if the ARHA President or the Chairman of the Board approves these expenses in writing.

7. The State Representatives in each state shall recommend the Certification judges for their state. When it becomes necessary for a vacancy to be filled on a Certification Committee, such as through a resignation, disciplinary action, or a shortage of active certification judges in a state, the club presidents of that state shall submit nominations to the State Representative for their state. The State Representatives, the Chairman of the Board and the ARHA President will collaborate and make the appointment(s). This is also true for committees in new Progressive Pack states or new committees within existing states.

#### **B. Members of the Executive Board:**

1. The President of ARHA.
2. The Chairman of the Board of Directors.
3. The Secretary/Treasurer.
4. All regular members of the Watchdog Committee.
5. One At-Large member to be elected by the Board of Directors for 2-year term.
6. All chairpersons of other committees, whether these committees are elected by the Board of Directors or appointed by the Chairman of the Board, shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board.

#### **C. Meetings of the Executive Board:**

1. The Chairman of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board the ARHA President or his/her designee shall conduct the meeting.
2. The Chairman of the Board or ARHA President shall call all meetings, but all members of the Executive Board must be notified of the meeting by e-mail and/or text message.
3. Normal decisions are made by consensus if it is evident that members present at the meeting are all in agreement; however, if it is evident that the item in question does not have 100% support, a formal vote (with motion and second) shall be held.
4. If a formal vote is taken on an item a simple majority vote wins.
5. To conduct an official meeting, a quorum must be present. A quorum is a simple majority of the members of the Executive Board members present
6. In the event that it is impractical to hold an Executive Board meeting, the Chairman of the Board may solicit a vote by phone call or mail vote to members of the Board.
7. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an official record of all proceedings of the Board and shall provide copies of the minutes to all board members of this board

### **II. Board of Directors:**

- A. The Board of Directors shall be made up of the Presidents of all Progressive Pack clubs and all members of the Executive Board, whether elected or appointed, under these conditions; if an alternate (appointed representative) is to be an official voting member of the Board of Directors he/she must have a written proxy from the club President he/she is representing. This written proxy must be presented to the Chairman of the Board when there is a meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### **B. Duties of the Board of Directors**

1. The Board of Directors or the President of the ARHA shall set all running rules and scoring procedures for the ARHA Progressive Pack and the conduct of all Progressive Pack competition events Licensed by the ARHA.
2. The Chairman of the Board, with the approval of the ARHA President, can call a Board of Directors' meeting when he/she feels it is necessary.
3. The President of the ARHA or the Chairman of the Board must notify each member of the Board of Directors, at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.
4. There must be 2/3-majority vote of the directors in attendance at the Board of Directors' meeting to change any running rule or scoring procedure. Club presidents may vote by mail on the published proposals. The President of ARHA has final veto power on all changes.
5. Changes to the ARHA running rules and scoring procedures may be made only by vote of the Board of Directors or the President of ARHA. In some emergency situations, the Chairman of the Board or the ARHA President may solicit a vote of the Board of Directors by mail.

**C. Duties of the Chairman of the Board:**

1. The Chairman of the Board serves as an ex-officio member of all ARHA committees.
2. The responsibility of the Chairman of the Board shall be that of taking the association forward, with the specific task of creating committees, appointing chairpersons of all committees and monitoring each committee's effectiveness.
3. After the election of the Watchdog Committee, it shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Board to appoint a chairperson to head that committee.
4. The Chairman of the Board shall conduct all Board of Directors meetings and Executive Board meetings.
5. The Chairman of the Board shall assist the ARHA President, the Secretary/Treasurer and the ARHA Representatives in establishing new clubs and assisting existing clubs as needed. When possible, the Chairman of the Board shall attend State Hunts and Big 6 Hunts as an ambassador of the ARHA.
6. The Chairman of the Board shall serve as a representative on the ARHA President's Cabinet, which is made up of representatives from Big Pack, Little Pack, Progressive Pack, and Gundog Divisions.
7. Concerning all committees and chairman appointed by the Chairman of the Board; the Chairman of the Board has the authority to remove from office any of his/her appointees if he/she feels they are not fulfilling their responsibilities in a responsible way. The Chairman of the Board shall give his/her reasons for removing chairman or committee members in writing to the Executive Board.
8. The Chairman of the Board should receive an annual gift of not less than \$500.00 and not more than \$1000.00 in December of each year provided funds are available. The amount is to be set by the Executive Board.

**D. Secretary/Treasurer and Duties:**

1. The Board of Directors at the bi-annual meeting shall elect the Secretary/Treasurer.
2. The Duties shall be:
  - A. Maintain the financial records for the ARHA Progressive Pack Special Fund. These records are open for audit at all times and will be audited when directed by the Chairman of the Board or the ARHA President.
  - B. Receive copies of hunt results, charter fees and protest fees that are sent to the NKC/ARHA home office for deposit in the Progressive Pack Special Fund.
  - C. All funds collected are deposited into the ARHA Progressive Pack Special Fund and all expenses are paid by the NKC/ARHA home office.
  - D. All of the above are operating funds for Progressive Pack and shall be used as follows:
    - a. Return \$50.00 to persons who have their protest upheld.
    - b. Reimburse authorized persons for expenses incurred in doing their duties.
    - c. Pay other expenses as approved by the Executive Board.
    - d. Pay the expenses of the ARHA Progressive Pack Representatives that have been approved by the Chairman of the Board or the ARHA President.
    - e. It is the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer to keep club presidents informed concerning action of the Board of Directors, the Executive Board and the Watchdog Committee.
    - f. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an official record of all proceedings at the Board of Directors and Executive Board meetings and shall publish minutes of these meetings.
    - g. The Secretary/Treasurer should receive an annual gift in December of each year, provided funds are available. The amount is to be set by the Executive Board.

**E. Duties and Procedures of the Watchdog Committee:**

1. Enforce the ARHA Progressive Pack rules, policies, and procedures as they pertain to protest of rule infractions at licensed hunts.
2. If the protest of the Master of Hounds decision concerns a specific cast of hounds and involves the running rules, the protest must be made to the Watchdog Committee by a handler whose hound was involved in that cast. If the protest concerns the conduct of the hunt; such as illegal casting of the hounds, illegal assignment of judges, not holding to the entry deadline, etc., any hound owner or handler who is present at the hunt and has a hound entered in the hunt may file the protest.
3. The Master of Hounds is the final authority at the hunt. If a formal protest of his decision is made to the Watchdog Committee it must be made in writing within 20 days of the hunt. The protest must state that this was a Progressive Pack hunt, give the date of the hunt, the name of the club hosting the hunt, the name of the Master of Hounds, the rule the protester believes was violated, and a short description of the situation that led to this formal protest. Club presidents have copies of the protest form that must be used if an official protest is made to the Watchdog Committee.

4. Protests are to be sent to the Chairman of the Board and copies to the NKC/ARHA Home Office.
5. The person making the protest must deposit a check or money order for \$50.00 dollars when that person files the protest. The deposit shall be returned to the person who filed the protest only if the Watchdog Committee rules in his/her favor. The check or money order shall be made out to ARHA Progressive Pack Special Fund.
6. The decisions of the Watchdog Committee are final and cannot be appealed.
7. The Chairman of the Watchdog Committee shall inform the NKC/ARHA Office, the Chairman of the Board and the Secretary/Treasurer, the President of the club being protested, all persons being protested and the person protesting a copy of the rule that was broken, and how the situation should have been handled in the form of a registered letter within 10 days of an official ruling of a protest.
8. The Master of Hounds at the licensed hunt makes the final decision concerning protest at the hunt. The Watchdog Committee only becomes involved in the event that the Master of Hound's decision is formally protested.
9. Penalties that may be invoked by the Watchdog Committee include:
  - A. The final decision of the Watchdog Committee may affect a class, division, or the entire hunt results may be nullified.
  - B. If the Watchdog Committee finds a violation of the rules, the results of that hunt may be treated as a non-licensed hunt. Example: Club A conducts a licensed hunt and a person protests the way the casting was done, the Master of Hounds denies the protest, and that person files a protest with the Watchdog Committee. The Watchdog Committee rules in favor of the person who protested. The Watchdog Committee may rule that the licensed for the hunt has been removed and that the hounds that placed in the hunt shall not receive ARHA or Hound of the Year points. The Watchdog Committee has the authority to take any disciplinary action it feels is appropriate.
  - C. The Watchdog Committee is made up of 3 regular members and 2 alternate members. The Board of Directors at the annual meeting elects all members. All members of the Watchdog Committee must be licensed Master of Hounds before they start their term of office.
  - D. If a regular or alternate member of the Watchdog Committee is found to have intentionally violated the rules, the Chairman of the Board shall release him of his/her duties and that person shall never be permitted to again serve on the Watchdog Committee.
  - E. When the Chairman of the Watchdog Committee receives a protest, or he/she has another matter that needs to be discussed with the other members of the committee, he/she may arrange a conference telephone call with the members. In some cases, the chairman may call a meeting of the members of his/her committee. The members of the Watchdog Committee are to be compensated for reasonable telephone expense incurred in the settlement of a formal protest. Such expense is to be documented and presented to the Secretary of PP for reimbursement.
  - F. An alternate becomes a regular member of the Watchdog Committee if a regular member resigns as a member of the committee, or a regular member is removed from the committee for disciplinary reasons. The Chairman of the Board decides which alternate becomes a regular member under these circumstances.
  - G. A member of the Watchdog Committee, while attending a licensed hunt, has the responsibility to privately inform the Master of Hounds of that hunt if he/she sees that the hunt is not being conducted according to ARHA Progressive Pack rules.
  - H. The Chairman of the Watchdog Committee shall inform the Chairman of the Board and the Secretary/Treasurer whenever an official ruling is made concerning a formal protest.
  - I. The Chairman of the Board and/or the ARHA President have the authority to request that the Watchdog Committee give an official interpretation of a Progressive Pack rule if there is a concern about the meaning of the rule. The Watchdog Committee has the responsibility to give this interpretation as soon as possible so that this information may be distributed to the club presidents and other ARHA officials.
  - J. The Progressive Pack Division shall uphold the bans by the Watchdog Committees of other ARHA divisions that is; if a person is banned from competition and participation in any other ARHA Divisions he shall have the same ban in Progressive Pack Division. If a person appeals this ruling it must be appealed to the ARHA President's Cabinet.
  - K. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: The Watchdog Committee has the authority, after thorough investigation of a protest charge or claim to disqualify a hound from past or future competition;

to disqualify a handler from future competition; and to disqualify an owner from future competition for unsportsmanlike conduct whether such conduct occurs before a hunt, during hunt, in preparation for a hunt, in the aftermath of a hunt relating to the ownership of a hound, the registration of a hound, the drawing or rolling of a hound during a hunt, the breeding of a hound, or any other conduct which in the opinion of the Watchdog Committee amounts to cheating, sharp practices or unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes but is not limited to abusing a hound, cursing, the use of illegal or non-prescribed drugs, the use of alcohol, the use of marijuana, threatening to harm another person or fighting. (see below) \*. The disqualification of said hound, handler or owner shall be for a term not less than one year. At the discretion of the Watchdog Committee, all hounds owned, in whole or in part, by the handler, owner or spectator may be banned for a like period of time. This ban does not apply if the dogs are transferred to another individual not related to the banned owner.

\*If physical contact is involved. The individual that instigates the first physical contact is automatically banned for life; additionally, a person is allowed to defend himself/herself.

- L. Once an individual is banned, they will not be allowed to be present at or participate in any NKC/ARHA sanctioned event.

**F. Rules Committee:**

1. This committee is made up of 4 members, preferably one from each region, appointed by the Chairman of the Board. They serve 2-year terms.
2. This committee shall be a standing committee that during the year collects recommendations for running rules or scoring procedure changes. This committee puts the suggested changes in proper order and presents them to the Executive Board.
3. Note that the only recommendations that will be processed by the Rules Committee will be those submitted by ARHA Progressive Pack chartered clubs or Executive Board members.
4. It will be the responsibility of the Rules Committee to update (and/or re-write) the tests for field judges and Master of Hounds to reflect any changes to the rules made by the Board of Directors. These tests are to be approved by the Chairman of the Board before they are distributed to Progressive Pack clubs.
5. **Note:** Any decision made by a committee and/or board within the ARHA Progressive Pack structure shall be subject to review and possible revocation by the ARHA President.

**G. Hall of Fame Committee:**

1. The duties of this committee are to take nominations, make recommendations, and conduct a vote of the Board of Directors to elect the beagles to be inducted into the Progressive Pack Hall of Fame.
2. All beagles and/ or beaglers meeting the requirements as set forth in the criteria will automatically go into the Hall of Fame without a vote of the Board of Directors. Proof of having met the requirements must be received by the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee by December 31st to be honored at the next Hound of the Year banquet.
3. The Hall of Fame Committee shall also take nominations for beagles and/or beaglers that do not meet the criteria, and by a unanimous vote of the Hall of Fame Committee, select 1 beagle and 1 beagler from these nominations to be voted on each year by the Executive Board. Note: only 1 beagle and/or beagler may be submitted each year through this method. The Committee does not have to select a beagle and/or beagler each year.
4. Any beagle and/or beagler that is elected to the Progressive Pack Hall of Fame shall be inducted on January 1st of the following year. Each beagle and/or beagler will be honored at the Hound of the Year banquet. Note: Once a beagle and/or beagler has been elected to the Progressive Pack Hall of Fame the title cannot be taken away, unless it is proven that he/she was elected illegally.
5. Any beagle inducted into the Progressive Pack Hall of Fame as a Competition Hound must be a Progressive Pack Rabbit Champion. Any beagle inducted into the Progressive Pack Hall of Fame, as a Producer must have produced at least 1 Progressive Pack Rabbit Champion.

**Criteria for Progressive Pack Hall of Fame Competition Hound.**

**The hound must have a total of 50 points and all points must come from Progressive Pack competition.**

10	Pts	Hound of the Year Run-off Winner
5	Pts	Reserve Hound of the Year Run-off
10	Pts	National High Point Hound of the Year
5	Pts	Reserve National High Point Hound of the Year
10	Pts	Regional High Point Hound of the Year
5	Pts	Reserve Regional High Point Hound of the Year
10	Pts	1st in US Championship Hunt
5	Pts	2nd in US Championship Hunt
8	Pts	1st in Morgan Classic Hunt
4	Pts	2nd in Morgan Classic Hunt
3.5	Pts	Best of Show at Morgan Classic Hunt
7	pts	1st in a Regional Hunt
3.5	pts	2nd in a Regional Hunt
5	pts	1st in a State Hunt
2.5	pts	2nd in a State Hunt
7	pts	Grand Rabbit Champion
5	pts	Rabbit Champion
5	pts	Grand Bench Show Champion
4	pts	Best of Show at US Championships
3	pts	Best of Show at Regional Hunt
2	pts	Best of Show at State Hunt
2	pts	Bench Show Champion
1	Pt	1st in a sanctioned hunt
-10	pts	Each time a hound is banned for 1 year for running off game

**Criteria for Hall of Fame Reproducers, 125 points needed.  
The following points are for each son and/or daughter who:**

20	Pts	makes PP Hall of Fame
15	Pts	U S championship Winner
7	Pts	Reserve at the U S championship
15	Pts	Hound of the Year Run-off Winner
5	Pts	Reserve Hound of the Year Run-off Winner
15	Pts	National High Point Hound of the Year Winner
5	Pts	Reserve National High Point Hound of the Year Winner
12	Pts	Morgan Classic Winner
6	Pts	Reserve Winner at the Morgan Classic
10	Pts	Regional High Point Hound of the Year Winner
5	Pts	Reserve Regional High Point Hound of the Year Winner
10	Pts	Regional Hunt Winner
10	Pts	becomes a Grand Rabbit Champion
5	Pts	becomes a Rabbit Champion
5	Pts	State Hunt Winner

- 5 Pts becomes Grand Show Champion
- 4 Pts Best of Show at U S Championship Hunt
- 3 Pts Best of Show at Morgan Classic
- 3 Pts Best of Show at a Regional Hunt
- 2 Pts Best of Show at a State Hunt
- 1 Pt becomes a Bench Show Champion
- 1 Pt Win at a sanctioned hunt

**Criteria for Progressive Pack Beagler Hall of Fame, 125 points needed.**

- 20 Pts The President of the ARHA
- 20 Pts Recorded owner of hound when it makes PP Hall of Fame
- 10 Pts PP U.S. Championship Hunt Winner
- 10 Pts Chairman of the Board
- 10 Pts Secretary/Treasurer
- 10 Pts Hound of the Year Winner
- 7 Pts Reserve Hound of the Year Winner
- 7 Pts Chairman of the Watchdog Committee
- 7 Pts Morgan Classic Winner
- 5 Pts Watchdog Committee Member
- 5 Pts Executive Board Member elected At Large
- 5 Pts Chairperson of a Committee (Other than Watchdog Committee)
- 5 Pts Regional High Point Hound of the Year
- 5 Pts Grand Bench Champion
- 5 Pts Grand Rabbit Champion
- 5 Pts 2<sup>nd</sup> at US Championship
- 4 Pts Regional Hunt Winner
- 3.5 Pts 2nd at Morgan Classic
- 3 Pts Any Committee Member
- 3 Pts Rabbit Champion
- 3 Pts Bench Champion
- 3 Pts US Championships Best of Show Winner
- 3 Pts State Hunt Winner
- 2 Pts Active Judge
- 2 Pts Active Bench Judge
- 2 Pts Active Certification Judge
- 2 Pts Board of Directors member
- 2 Pts President and/or Secretary of a Club
- 2 Pts Master of Hounds of a club
- 2 Pts ARHA State Representative
- 2 Pts Morgan Classic Best of Show Winner
- 2 Pts Regional Best of Show Winner
- 1 Pt State Best of Show Winner
- 1 Pt Licensed trial winner

### **Criteria for Progressive Pack Kennel Hall of Fame.**

For any Kennel wanting to be inducted into the Kennel Hall of Fame; **ALL** kennel owners must first be inducted into the Beagler Hall of Fame. Any Beagler that owns an individually owned kennel, and is inducted into the Beagler Hall of Fame, the Kennel will automatically be inducted into the Kennel Hall of Fame as well.

All points must come from the Progressive Pack Division Only. To total points, take the point amount and multiply it by the number of years (or number of times) you have done this. If a hound is co-owned, the points are equally divided according to the number of co-owners.

### **III. General Rules for the Conduct of ARHA Licensed Hunts**

#### **A. Licensed Hunts:**

1. What constitutes a licensed hunt?
  - a. The hunt must be approved and licensed by the President of the ARHA.
  - b. The hunt schedule must be received at the ARHA office at least 30 days in advance of the hunt date. The hunts will be advertised on the ARHA website and a link is on the appropriate division's Facebook page for upcoming hunts. For hunts to be listed in the Rabbit Hunter magazine, those dates must be received into the ARHA office 60 days in advance of the hunt date.
  - c. Hunts listed in The Rabbit Hunter magazine must list the date of the hunt, the location of the hunt, the contact person for information about the hunt, the type of hunt (LP, BP, PP, Gundog Brace or Pack), whether a Championship Class will be held, whether a Grand Championship Class will be held, whether a Bench Show will be held, and the entry deadline.
  - d. All hounds entered in the hunt must be ARHA registered.
  - e. The hunt must be conducted under all ARHA Progressive Pack rules, policies, and procedures.
  - f. There must be a minimum of 10 Open Class hounds to conduct an Open Class ARHA hunt. There must be a minimum of 3 Rabbit Champion hounds to conduct a Rabbit Championship Hunt. There must be a minimum of 2 Grand Rabbit Champion hounds to conduct a Grand Rabbit Championship Hunt.
- B. The Big 6 Hunts are the United States Championships, North Regional, South Regional, East Regional, West Regional and the Morgan Classic.
  - a. No Progressive Pack hunt shall be scheduled the same weekend as the US Championship Hunt or the Morgan Classic. No club may hold a hunt on the same day as a Regional is being held within the club's region.
  - a. The dates of the Big Six Hunts are to be set by the Executive Board. If possible, 3 of these hunts are to be scheduled in the Spring and 3 are to be scheduled in the Fall or Winter.
  - b. The US Championship Hunt will be conducted under the Standards for Conducting the US Championships that have been developed by the Executive Board. In the future the Executive Board may develop standards for the conduct of the other Big Six hunts. If these standards are developed, the other hunts will be conducted under these standards.
  - c. The use of firearms, weapons, alcoholic beverages, marijuana, and illegal or non-prescribed drugs are prohibited from all individuals participating in an ARHA licensed hunt. This includes judges, club officers, handlers, owners and spectators.

#### **I. Judges**

- A. All judges must be ARHA Progressive Pack certified. An ARHA certified judge is one who has studied the rules and passed a written test with at least 85% correct, must be 16 years of age, and who has had at least 3 experiences as a judge at a fun hunt or as an assistant judge at a licensed hunt. The Master of Hounds shall have a list of all Progressive Pack certified judges. Any new judge, not as yet on that list must, show the Master of Hounds his or her judge's card before he or she is allowed to judge. Note: The Club President, Secretary, or Master of Hounds must supervise the person taking the judge's test. This is not an "open" book test.
- B. A Progressive Pack field judge shall not judge **A.** his own hound, **B.** any hound he has owned in the six months prior to the hunt he is judging. In reference to rule IV. B., the date of ownership of the hound is the day the hound was sold (or given) to the present owner. If there is a question, the new owner must produce a dated receipt from the previous owner, or a written and dated



statement (or a copy of the transfer papers), verifying the date that the hound was sold or given to him. The new owner can compete the hound in ARHA competition even though he is waiting for the official paperwork from ARHA, **C.** any hound owned by his blood, step, or in-law relatives. **D.** any hound owned by a member in his/her household, **E.** or any hound he carried to a field trial and entered on behalf of another person (simply riding to a trial with an unrelated person does not prevent a judge from judging that person's dog).

- C. A club must provide at least 1 judge per cast, but may elect to have more than 1 judge per cast. If there are two (2) judges on a cast, and those judges elect to each carry a scorecard, it is crucial that they communicate with one another to ensure that scoring is not duplicated.
- D. The judge shall be responsible for making all calls in the field and recording the scoring on a scorecard or scoring booklet. No scoring or judging calls shall be made by an apprentice (non-licensed) judge who is assisting the licensed judge.
- E. The judge's decision in the field is final; however, a handler may appeal the judge's decision to the Master of Hounds.
- F. Before the hounds are cast in the field, the judge shall instruct the handlers and spectators and tell them what they can and cannot do during the cast.
- G. The judge shall tell the handlers and spectators the exact starting time of the hunt and shall announce to them when there is a time out.
- H. In the event that a judge cannot finish a cast due to sickness or injury, the cast is called in time-out and the cast will return to the place of drawing to be re-assigned another judge by the Master of Hounds. The scoring that has previously been compiled and the time elapsed will remain in effect. The new judge will complete the remainder of the unfinished cast.
- I. A judge who is abusive, uses abusive language or strikes a Master of Hounds, handler, or spectator shall face whatever penalties that are set down by the Watchdog Committee. If it is proven that a judge has not judged by the rules, he/she shall face penalties set down by the Watchdog Committee. **Note:** This rule applies if an official protest has been filed against the judge.
- J. While in the field judging any cast of dogs, all judges are not to carry cell phones with them.
- K. For purposes of safety, judges are allowed to carry cell phones on the casts to be used for emergency situations such as illness or injury of hound or person, or in the event that he has become separated and is trying to regain contact with the cast members. A judge is not to use a cell phone for personal calls or texts during a cast. Cell phones may also be used for timekeeping if absolutely necessary; however, it is preferred that the judge uses a timekeeping device other than his cell phone. Any judge found talking or texting on his cell phone during the cast time in violation of these rules shall be reported to the Watchdog Committee by the Master of Hounds.

#### IV. Scorecard and Protest

- 1. At the end of the cast the judge shall return to the cast area (where the hounds were turned loose) and total the scores in the presence of the handlers when possible. He/she will then announce the placements and offer the scorecard to the handlers for their initials or signatures.
- 2. The handler may lodge a protest with the judge by not signing the scorecard.
- 3. When a handler signs the scorecard, he forfeits his/her right to protest, unless the score has been changed after he/she signed the scorecard. This applies only to a handler whose hound's placement changed as a result of the score being changed.
- 4. If a handler protests and does not sign the scorecard, the other handlers who agree with the judge's decision shall sign the scorecard.
- 5. If no protest is made by a handler, all handlers must sign the scorecard.
- 6. All protest must be made to the Master of Hounds by the protesting handler within 15 minutes after both have returned to the clubhouse or staging area. All protests brought to the clubhouse, once the Master of Hounds or Assist. Master of Hounds has all parties involved in the protest present, shall be settled within a time limit not to exceed 45 minutes.
- 7. All protest shall be settled in a private conference involving the Master of Hounds, the judge involved in the protest and the handler who is bringing the protest. The other handlers may be called in individually by the Master of Hounds as witness to explain or substantiate what happened. No spectators shall be called as witnesses. In case of a protest, if at all possible, the cast should not be re-run. However, if the Master of Hounds decides that the only fair solution is to re-run the cast, then he has that option if there was a blatant violation of the rules.
- 8. A protest that involves the way the hounds were drawn, or the way judges were assigned, must be made prior to the casts going afield (this is to allow for incorrect processes to be corrected in order to avoid having an entire hunt disqualified).

9. The Master of Hound or Assist. Master of Hound's decision is final, with the exception of the appeal (formal protest) to the Chairman of the Board within 20 days of the date of the hunt.

#### **V. Master of Hounds and/ or Assistant Master of Hounds**

If possible, it is advisable to identify an Assistant Master of Hounds prior to each hunt in the event that the Master of Hounds has reason to excuse himself from a protest situation, or is unable to complete the hunt.

1. Each club is to select a person to serve as Master of Hounds and Assistant Master of Hounds. This person(s) is to be knowledgeable in ARHA rules, policies, and procedures for conducting ARHA Licensed hunts. Persons wishing to become Master of Hounds must have taken and passed the Progressive Pack Field Judge Test and Bench Test before taking the Master of Hounds Test. (Persons who were already Progressive Pack Masters of Hounds (before January 1, 1997) do not have to take this test unless they wish to.)
2. The Master of Hounds must be licensed by the ARHA. They must have taken and passed both exams for the Progressive Pack Field Judge and Bench Judge.
3. The Master of Hounds shall act as the final authority in the selection of methods of hunting, location of hunting areas, selection of cast by draw, appointment and assignment of judges, and supervision of all functions associated with the hunt; including the resolution of any protest from the handlers concerning judge's decisions. He/she is also the final authority concerning protest involving bench shows.
4. The Master of Hounds must announce when entries are closed and no entries shall be accepted after this announcement has been made. Note that this rule includes bench show entries.

#### **VI. Breed Inspector**

1. Each club is to select a Breed Inspector for the hunt. This person is to be knowledgeable concerning breed standards. The Breed Inspector must be licensed by the ARHA.
2. The host club has the option of whether or not to measure the hounds before the hunt; however, any handler may challenge the size of any hound in his or her cast, and such hound must be measured before advancing any further in the hunt. All hounds must be present at the staging area before they are taken to the field. Any challenge to the hound's size must be done at the staging area. (Note: This challenge may take place at the beginning of any series before the hounds go out in the field.) If a hound is measured earlier during the day of the hunt it does not have to be measured the second time that day.
3. The Breed Inspector makes the final decision as to whether the challenged hound shall be allowed to hunt.
4. The Breed Inspector has the right to measure any hound entered in the hunt or show. Any hound over 15 inches tall at the withers is disqualified.
5. The Breed Inspector must have an official measuring stand available for use.
6. The Breed Inspector shall determine whether a hound qualifies for ARHA registration. The Breed Inspector shall check AKC registration papers for hounds being registered and write the AKC registration number on the ARHA registration form. It is not required that a hound be AKC registered in order to be registered with the ARHA.
7. The club secretary shall issue a form signed by the Breed Inspector stating that said hound has been registered with ARHA at that club on that date. This form shall be filled out in triplicate. The club shall retain one copy. One shall be sent to ARHA for registration. The third is to be given to the dog's owner to be presented at subsequent hunts until the owner receives the official ARHA number. No hound shall be entered without an ARHA number or the above proof of registration. If a hound is being entered in a hunt prior to receipt of its' official registration papers, the application registration may be used for entry into a hunt for 60 days from applying for registration. When completing the entry form for the hunt, list the club and date when the application was applied for in place of the number

#### **VII. Conducting the Hunt**

- A. All clubs must have a Master of Hounds, a Breed Inspector and Club President or Secretary present at the hunt to conduct an ARHA Licensed hunt.

- B. The club Treasurer, or another person appointed by the club President, must collect all money for entry fees and keep an accurate accounting of this money. He/she shall forward to the ARHA office all the money that is required by the ARHA for licensed hunts.
- C. Casts shall only be run during daylight hours. No cast shall begin prior to 30 minutes before legal sunrise. No cast shall continue beyond 15 minutes after legal sunset, regardless of the time left on the running time clock or at the Master of Hounds' discretion.
1. No cast shall be made until the Master of Hounds has announced that the entries have been closed. This announcement must be made precisely at the advertised entry deadline.
  2. All handlers/owners must be present with their hounds at the place of casting at the prescribed time. No cast shall be held up, or re-scheduled, because a pre-entered hound and/or handler are not present at casting time.
  3. Judges for each cast, and cast areas, may be assigned and announced before the cast is drawn. If a judge's hound is drawn out in the cast he is judging, his hound must be rolled into another cast because he cannot judge his/her own hound. The judge may have his hound rolled into the next series (those cast not going out first) if his/her hound is drawn out at a time he has to judge. Judges for each cast may be drawn out after the casts have been drawn out in any series.
  4. Cast shall be determined by random selection methods to ensure that all hounds have equal opportunity to win the event. The casts must be drawn by using the hounds' numbers. A non-hunting person, the Breed Inspector, or someone knowledgeable of the drawing process shall conduct the drawing. A bingo selection method may be used. The Master of Hounds and the Assistant Master of Hounds must be present for the drawing.
  5. Separate drawings shall be made for Open Class, Rabbit Champion, and Grand Rabbit Champion.
  6. All cast of hounds are made up without discrimination to sex and size. Each initial cast in the open class is to be made up of 4 to 6 hounds. Later casts may be from 2 to 6 hounds. Champions may run with 3 to 6 hounds per cast. Grand Champions may run with 2 to 6 hounds per cast.
  7. **ROLLING A HOUND(S):** In order to roll a hound(s), the owner/owners name MUST match exactly on the registration papers for each hound to be rolled. If hound A is registered under John and Bill Smith, and Hound B is registered under Bill and John Smith, these two hounds CAN BE ROLLED. If an owner or handler acting on behalf of the owner draws 2 or more of his/her hounds out in the same cast he/she may elect to leave all hounds in the same cast or have the number of the second hound held out until that cast is completed. The number is then placed back in to be drawn into another cast. This process is called "rolling the hound". In other words, the owner need have only 1 of his hounds in a cast, provided the number of hounds he has entered does not exceed the number of casts. If there are to be 5 casts and an owner has 4 hounds entered, and he/she is judging a cast. He/she has the right to have 1 of his/her hounds drawn into each of the other 4 casts. If 1 of his hounds has not been drawn into a cast, the last slot is left open and filled when 1 of his/her hounds are drawn. If an owner has 2 hounds not yet drawn out when the next to the last cast is being drawn, he is to speak up and then the last slot in that cast is left open. The drawing continues for the next cast and when 1 of his/her hounds is drawn, it is placed in the slot left vacant. The same principle applies if an owner has more than 2 hounds entered. If 2 owners each have 2 hounds not yet drawn when the next to the last cast is being drawn, the last 2 slots in that cast are left open until 1 hound from each owner is drawn. The same principle applies if 3 or more owners are affected.
  8. The hound must hunt in the cast into which it was drawn. If a hound is scratched at the cast pole, leaving a disproportionately small number of hounds in one cast, the Master of Hounds has the authority to rectify the situation, in the most feasible manner, to create a more equitable number of hounds in each cast. **Example:** Seven Champions are entered in a hunt. A cast of four and another cast of three have been drawn and report to the cast pole. One hound from the cast of three is scratched at the cast pole. The two remaining hounds are combined with the cast of four and run as a six-hound cast. The two judges may co-judge or the Master of Hounds may determine which one will judge the cast.

9. The drawing of casts must be open to all handlers or the results are void.
10. A hound's number may be rolled forward or backward. Also, 1 or more slots may be left open to be filled later, when 1 or more owners have 2 or more hounds that have not yet been drawn.
11. All judges and handlers should be attentive during the drawing of the cast. No hound may be rolled to another cast after the final number has been drawn. If a judge has a conflict after the final number has been drawn, another judge must be drawn.
12. At no time shall a judge take a cast of dogs into the field without at least one handler.
13. It is not allowable to enter a hound and scratch him at the casting pole for purposes of altering the numbers and/or sizes of casts. Example: As the entries are about to close, there are six grands entered, which will result in just one cast of grands. Entering a 7th hound will force a second cast, resulting in casts of 4 and 3. Then, scratching the 7th hound at the pole, there are two casts of 3 remaining, potentially increasing a hound's odds for winning. In such a situation, the Master of Hounds shall place all six remaining hounds in one cast.
14. It is not allowable to enter a hound that is not present, or not going to be present, and then scratching that hound for purposes of having enough hounds to meet cast size requirements. Example: At a small hunt, only nine opens are present, meaning that the cast size requirements will not be met for a licensed Open Class hunt. It is not allowable to "enter" a hound that is not present and not going to be run for purposes of having ten hounds entered, then scratching the tenth hound and continuing on with the nine original hounds. Any hound that is scratched must be listed with the hunt results with the reason for being scratched listed.
15. A hound may only be entered in one Progressive Pack hunt per day. An exception to this rule occurs in the event that a field trial held on Saturday is not completed until Sunday, so that a hound may have to complete the Saturday field trial Sunday morning, then attend a regularly scheduled Sunday hunt.

D. **Identification of Hounds in the Hunt:** All hounds must be marked in such a way that the judge can identify each hound without the handlers having to report to the judge which hound is his. An approved method is to use color-coded collars at least 1 inch in width made of day glow fabric, or other fabric that is clearly visible. The judge should assign the collars at the casting stakes to match, as well as possible, the collars already on the individual hounds.

#### E. Awards

1. Each club that hosts a licensed hunt must present a minimum of 5 awards to the top 5 finishers in the Open Class, but may present as many as they see fit.
2. A first-place award must be given in the Champion Class and a first-place award must be given in the Grand Champion class. However, a club has the option of giving out more awards if it desires.
3. The awarding of prizes that are donated by dog food companies or other sponsors is left up to the discretion of the host club, rather than based solely on the order of finish of the hounds.
4. No cash prizes may be awarded without the permission of the ARHA.
5. No Calcutta, Shotguns, or other significant awards may be given.
6. ARHA does not prohibit raffles at hunts.

#### F. Reporting Hunt Results to the ARHA

1. The Secretary or President of the host club shall issue Approved Certificates to the owners of the top 10 hounds in the Open Class and up to 10 winners of the Rabbit Champion Class, and the Grand Rabbit Champion Class. Certificates shall also be issued based on the Bench Show rules.
2. The President or Secretary of the host club must fill out a hunt results form and mail it within 15 days of the hunt to ARHA. The white copy of the winner's certificate must be sent to the ARHA office with the hunt report form for every hound that placed in the field or on the bench.
3. If these procedures are not followed, the club hosting the hunt could face penalties as seen fit by the Watchdog Committee.

## VIII. Progressive Pack Running Rules and Scoring Procedures

- A. Scoring can only occur during active running time. No scoring shall be done prior to the cast beginning, during a time out, or after the cast has ended.
- B. All points are plus or minus points.
- C. A rabbit is defined as a Cottontail, Hare, Snowshoe Hare, Jack Rabbit, Swamp Rabbit or any subspecies of these.
- D. The judge does not have to see the rabbit to award points.
- E. **Strike**
  1. The Progressive Pack format promotes rabbit hunting beagles that search hard, work their cover thoroughly and account for their game. The Strike (and Jump) point system is in place to reward hounds that do just that.
  2. **Definition:** A strike is 3 or more barks over a short time span from the same hound once the cast has begun. This hound is said to be "on the clock" and has four minutes for either that hound or its' packmates to produce the rabbit for the strike to be considered successful. **Note:** For purposes of clarity, it should be understood that a rabbit can be considered "produced" without being jumped, but cannot be jumped without being produced.

### **A SUCCESSFUL STRIKE HAS A POINT VALUE OF TWENTY (+20).**

3. If no hound is on the clock and a hound jumps a rabbit, that hound is awarded strike and jump points regardless of whether or not the hound barks. **Example:** A hound is hunting hard in the brush and pushes a rabbit out the other side. The rest of the pack sees the rabbit and the race is on. In this example, the hound hunting hard and pushing the rabbit out of the brush should be awarded strike and jump points even though the hounds out in the open barked first. **Note:** In the scenario described in the example, the judge must see the jump occur (or be certain by process of elimination, which hound jumped the rabbit).
4. In the event that 1 hound strikes but another hound jumps the rabbit, the hound that struck shall receive strike points and the hound that jumped the rabbit shall receive jump points.
5. A hound that opens on the track and is struck by the judge does not have to produce the rabbit himself to receive his strike points. The rabbit may be produced by any or all of his packmates provided that occurs within the allotted 4 minutes.
6. The judge does not have to see the rabbit in order to produce it.
7. If the judge sees what he believes to be the rabbit that the hound on the clock is working, the rabbit is automatically produced and strike points are awarded. If the judge sees the rabbit in its setup he should remain still, let the four minutes continue and give the hounds the opportunity to score a jump. If, at the end of the four minutes, the rabbit has not been jumped the judge may flush the rabbit and put the hounds on the track and go from the first check.
8. After a hound has opened (3 or more barks) and the judge strikes that hound, the judge shall give 4 minutes for the rabbit to be produced. If no rabbit has been produced at the end of the 4 minutes, the judge shall announce time has expired and issue 10 minus points to the dog that was on the clock. He shall instruct the handlers to move their hounds to another area, or ask if they wish him to do so. He may or may not request that the handlers leash their hounds.
9. Strike points can be given just once on each rabbit. A "dead track" must be announced and the strike and jump reopened, before another strike may be awarded.
10. If no hound is on the clock and a rabbit is jumped by a judge, handler, or spectator, no strike or jump points shall be awarded. However, at the judge's discretion, the hounds may be called in and put on the track for scoring to begin at the first check after ALL the hounds in the cast are in the chase.
11. A hound that is on the four-minute clock shall be given minus points if he loses interest and quits the track within 4 the minutes. **Example:** A hound barks three or more times in a short time span, then loses interest and leaves the area where he struck. The hound would be minused when he left the strike area. The four minutes is no longer a consideration. Even if other hounds are working the track, the hound that is on the clock receives a minus if he loses interest and leaves the strike area. If no other hound is working the strike area, the strike and jump can be declared open again after the hound is minused. However, if other hounds have opened on this same line, the hounds must be moved to a new area. **Note:** Harking to another hound in the cast is not considered "losing interest," and the hound remains on the clock until a rabbit is produced or the four minutes expire.

Note: A strike area has no predetermined size; as long as the hound is working to produce the rabbit he shall remain on the clock.

12. The judge shall give the hound that is struck a full four minutes on that track no matter what the other hounds in the cast do. However, if the judge determines that another hound has produced the rabbit that was struck, he shall ask the handler to get his hound up to the one running the rabbit. The hound that is on the clock receives the strike points.
  - a) If the hound on the clock harks to another hound or hounds that have produced a rabbit that the judge believes to be a different rabbit than the one that was struck, the judge may, at his discretion, begin scoring from the first check or instruct the handlers to catch the hounds and move them. In this situation the hound that was on the clock receives neither plus nor minus points.
13. In a situation where the judge cannot determine which hound barked on the strike, he may ask the handlers which hound barked. If the majority of the handlers agree on which hound opened first the judge shall award strike points if the rabbit is produced within the allotted four minutes. If no handler claims the dog, the judge can, at his discretion, either start scoring from the first check once all the hounds are on the line, or call time out and move the hounds to a different location.
14. If strike and jump are open and a hound catches a rabbit, he gets credit for a strike and jump regardless of whether or not he barked. If one hound is struck in, and another hound catches a rabbit from its setup, the hound that catches the rabbit is credited with a jump even if he does not bark. The hound that was struck in gets credit for the strike. Note: If the rabbit is caught in its setup, the hound that catches it receives strike & jump points. If the rabbit is up and running and a hound runs it down and catches it, that hound receives check points. **Note:** In the event a nest of baby rabbits is found by a hound, judge, or handler, a time out is to be called, the hounds are to be leashed and moved to a new area. No strike or jump points are to be awarded on baby rabbits still in the nest.
15. **See SECTION X.E concerning a strike that occurs in the last four minutes of a cast.**

## F. Jump

1. Definition: A jump occurs only when a rabbit has been flushed from a setup by one of the hounds in the cast. A jump can occur only at the beginning of a chase. Only one jump may be scored on each rabbit. A "dead track" must be announced and strike and jump re-opened before another jump may be awarded. **A JUMP HAS A POINT VALUE OF TWENTY (+20).**
2. The judge may be unsure of which hound actually jumped the rabbit and may not award any jump points. **Example:** Hounds A, B, and C go under a brush pile and a rabbit runs out of the other side of the brush pile. 1, 2, or 3 of the hounds may have actually jumped the rabbit, but the judge cannot determine this, so he does not award points.
3. The judge does not have to see the rabbit to award jump points.
4. Please refer to **SECTION X. E.** regarding a possible jump situation where a judge sees the rabbit in its setup while a hound is on the four-minute clock.
5. If no hound is on the clock a hound that jumps a rabbit shall receive strike and jump points and shall receive check points as they are earned, even if he is the only dog running the track. The judge shall immediately instruct the handlers of the other hounds to bring up their hounds and place them in the chase with the hound that first jumped the rabbit. **Example:** Hound "A" jumps the rabbit and follows track. No other hound joins hound "A" in the chase, so he is running the rabbit solo. Hound "A" has a breakdown in the forward progress, but then regains the line by giving mouth and making forward progress. Hound "A" is scored check points each time it is evident that he has had a breakdown in the forward progress, but then recovers the line by giving mouth and making forward progress. The judge shall continue scoring hound "A" and/or any other hounds that join the chase until a dead track is declared.
6. A hound that does not hark in or join the chase once a rabbit is produced shall not be scored if he produces another rabbit. The judge shall judge the hound that produced the rabbit first and the other hounds that are in that chase. **Example:** Hound "A" drifts away from the pack. Hound "B" jumps or strikes a rabbit and the chase is on. Hound "A" jumps a rabbit after Hound "B" has already jumped or struck a rabbit. Hound "B" and the other hounds in the original chase are scored and Hound "A" is not. The judge should request that Hound A be brought up and put in the chase.
7. If the judge does not see which hound jumped the rabbit, he may ask the handlers to identify the hound that jumped the rabbit. He shall not award jump points unless the majority of the handlers agree on which hound jumped the rabbit.

## G. Checks

1. The Progressive Pack format promotes a hound that, after losing contact with the line, works quickly but thoroughly to regain the track. The Progressive Pack hound should return to the point of loss and work the check from the inside out.
2. **Definition:** A check occurs when it is evident that there is a breakdown in the forward progress of the chase. The hounds do not have to cease barking in the check area for it to be considered a check. If it is evident that no hound is making forward progress on the line, then a check has occurred. A hound must claim the check by giving mouth and making forward progress. At a check, hounds should first work close to where the check occurred, then extend the search further afield to regain the line. Note: A check is not determined by elapsed time. Forward progress has no pre-set distance. **SOLVING A CHECK HAS A POINT VALUE OF TEN (+10).**
3. The first hound to successfully work out the check and make forward progress on the line while giving mouth shall be awarded check points. **Note:** The judge should give this a few seconds to materialize to ensure that the hound actually does have the line.
4. If one or more hounds overrun a turn in the line, or lose the line, and another hound, behind them, turns with the line, or carries the line on beyond their point of loss, gives mouth, and makes forward progress, he must be awarded check points. This is often referred to as "cutting from behind."
5. The scoring of checks shall continue as long as the chase continues.
6. If a hound catches a rabbit that the judge believes is the rabbit the hounds have been chasing, that hound is awarded check points.
7. The judge should remain vigilant during a breakdown to avoid awarding points to a hound that is feeding off another hound's work. **Example:** The hounds are in a breakdown. Hound A barks like he has the line and takes one step forward. Hound B jumps directly in front of Hound A and leaves with the line with A following behind. Hound A should be awarded the check, not hound B.
8. If the judge determines that the rabbit has holed up, or that the hounds have hopelessly lost the track, he shall announce to the handlers that the track is dead.

## H. Scoring of Minus Points

1. The Progressive Pack format promotes a smooth-running hound that brings a rabbit around to the gun as quickly and efficiently as scenting conditions allow. The Progressive Pack hound should maintain reasonable contact with the line, should gear down when scenting conditions are poor, and should work a check quickly but thoroughly from the inside out. The minus point system is in place to take points away from a hound, or possibly remove a hound from the cast who, by his behavior, disrupts this process.

### **THE ACTIONS DESCRIBED BELOW EACH CARRY A POINT VALUE OF NEGATIVE TEN (-10).**

2. **Failure to Produce:** A hound is put on the four-minute strike clock and no rabbit is produced by him or his castmates within the allotted four minutes.
3. **Pop-Off Barking:** A hound barks three or more times in a short time span but is not working a track (in other words, a hound that is just barking to hear himself bark). Note: Judges are granted some latitude here in the early part of a cast. Judges should remember that many of these dogs have been hauled hundreds of miles and spent hours, if not days, in the dog box or trailer. Note: Barking while harking into the pack is not considered pop off barking.
4. **Backtracking:** When a hound is clearly trailing and barking in the opposite direction of that which the rabbit went for a distance of at least 50 feet on a track that has already been run by a hound or hounds.
5. **Not Packing:** When a hound continually runs off to the side, in front of, or well behind the pack and is not contributing to the chase, or, when a hound continually leaves the chase to go find its own rabbit. Note: This does not apply to hounds that temporarily lose contact with the pack, nor does it apply to hounds that have split off onto a separate rabbit.
6. **Swinging:** When a hound leaves an established line to get ahead of the pack. Note: Passing other hounds while still on the line is not swinging.
7. **Skirting:** When a dog leaves the line to avoid difficult terrain or heavy cover in order to gain an advantage on his packmates. Note: Skirting can only occur once the hounds are packed up and

running the line. Skirting cannot occur at the beginning of a chase or when the hounds are in a check. Note: A woven wire or similar type fence is not considered difficult terrain.

8. **Not Working the Check:** When a hound just runs around in the check area, whether barking or not, but is making no attempt to solve the check. –OR- When a hound enters the check area and just watches the other hounds but makes no attempt to solve the check –OR- When a hound enters the check area and leaves, making no attempt to solve the check.
9. **Slipping the Check:** When a hound slips out of the check area on the track, refusing to bark for at least 50 feet in an effort to gain an advantage on the other hounds. This is also sometimes referred to as stealing the track or slipping the rabbit.
10. **Pulling:** When a hound leaves the check area for some distance without having the line but barking like he does, and pulls another hound or hounds out of the check. –OR- When a hound hangs up on the line barking and won't pull up with the pack, thus pulling another hound or hounds back down the line or out of the check area.
11. **Reaching:** When, upon losing the line, a hound continues to cast forward for some distance rather than returning to the point of loss –OR- when upon losing the line, a hound immediately casts out in a wide loop rather than working the check from the inside out. **Note:** A check area has no pre-determined size. Judges should always be gauging the scenting conditions by how the hounds are working. Judges should also be aware of the terrain where a breakdown occurs. Poor scenting conditions and/or bare ground typically produce bigger check areas and wider check work by the hounds. Hounds should not be misused for doing what it takes to keep the chase going, as long as they have first worked from the inside out.

#### I. Disqualification of a Hound, Handler or Owner

1. A Progressive Pack field trial is intended to be an event in which the hounds can demonstrate their abilities and be judged fairly based on a set of standards and rules. Behaviors that detract from this process, either by owners, handlers, or hounds, as outlined below, will result in the disqualification of a hound from the field trial.
2. Any hound that has been disqualified in the field shall be leashed as soon as possible. The judge shall inform the handler that the hound has been disqualified. The handler shall, at that time, catch and leash the hound, while trying not to disturb the remaining hounds.
3. The following will result in disqualification of a hound:
  - A. **Minusing Out:** When a hound accumulates 30 minus points during a single cast, he shall be disqualified, regardless of how many plus points the hound has. **Example:** Hound A has 200 plus points, but accumulates 30 minus points. Hound A is disqualified.
  - B. **Disruptive Behavior by the Hound:** If, during a cast, a hound is fighting, attempting to fight, or continually attempting to mount another hound that is not in heat, in such a fashion that it prevents the other hounds from hunting.
  - C. **In Heat:** If a female is in heat and is distracting to the other hounds.
  - D. **Not Hunting:** If a hound refuses to hunt for 5 consecutive minutes of any cast. Note: The judge must announce that the hound is being clocked for not hunting. **Note:** A judge should make allowances giving the hounds time to acclimate, before placing on hound on the clock for not hunting. **Note:** If a hound is on the clock for not hunting, the judge should continue to hunt the pack giving the dog on the clock every opportunity to start hunting. He may, at his discretion, ask the hound's handler to walk along with him. This allows the judge to stay close to the pack without losing sight of the hound that is on the clock for not hunting.
  - E. **Prohibited Handling in the Field:** If the handler touches or otherwise attempts to handle his hound, such as verbally, by hissing, by whistling or using hand signals, or using any banned device during a cast without the judge's permission. An exception to this is if the hound is in danger.
  - F. **Oversized Hound:** A hound that has been inspected by the Breed Inspector and found to be oversized shall be disqualified.
  - G. **OFF GAME: Defining and Clarifying Off Game:**

Off-game is divided into two categories Major Off Game and Minor Off Game.

    - a. **Major off game** includes deer, elk, moose, bear, wild hog, wild sheep wild goat, wolf, coyote, fox mountain lion, lynx and bob cat.
    - b. **Minor off game** includes anything other than a hare, a rabbit and not listed in major off game.



- c. **Reporting Off Game:** Offences involving Minor Off Game **SHOULD NOT** be reported to the NKC/ARHA office (minor off game is not to be listed on hunt report DQ listing) and shall not count toward the "three strikes and your are out rule". All Major off Game **shall** be reported to the NKC/ARHA office (all major off game offenses are to be listed on the hunt report DQ listing). Offenses involving either category of off game would still result in the dog or dogs being disqualified for the day.

**Important:** If a dog gets a minor off game in the course of a trial and his paperwork needs to be sent to the NKC/ARHA office due to a small class or bench show placement please note Disqualified on his paperwork NOT off game.

- d. **Banning from Competition for Off Game:** A hound shall be barred from all competition in Progressive Pack ARHA licensed hunts for 1 year if he has three **major off** game offences in a calendar year (January 1st through December 31st). The barred year shall begin on the date of the third disqualification and last 1 year. January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year the three strikes for major off game count resets to "0" for all dogs. Any dog's that have been barred will also reset but are not eligible to hunt until the barred year is over.

1. A hound does not have to bark to be considered to be pursuing off game. **Example:** Hound A takes up the track of a deer, barking as he goes. Hound B joins in and continues to go well after the point that he could smell the deer, but never barks. Both hounds A and B are disqualified.
2. Harking into a hound that is pursuing off game, then quitting the track upon discovering it is not a rabbit track, is NOT reason for disqualification, regardless of whether the hound that harks in barks or not. **Example:** Hound A takes up the track of a deer, barking as he goes. Hound B harks in to Hound A, barking as he approaches. Hound B joins in with Hound A for a short distance, then quits the track and returns to the judge, the handlers, or continues to search for a rabbit. Hound A is disqualified. Hound B is not.
3. "Bugger-barking" at livestock, a snake, a turtle, or anything else the hound may not frequently encounter in the normal course of rabbit hunting is not considered pursuing off game unless the hound pursues or trails.
4. To pursue and catch is a basic instinct of all dogs, particularly the hound breeds. This instinct is "triggered" instantly when an opportunity is presented to the dog. Virtually no amount of training can overcome this automatic trigger. Judges must always apply common sense to an off-game call. **Example 1:** A hound jumps forward, sticks its muzzle down in the grass, and comes up with a field mouse. This should not be considered pursuing off game.
5. Judges should be aware that by running with a hound that is pursuing off game, they may inadvertently be "encouraging" the other hounds to join in the chase. Once a judge suspects off game, he should stop running with the hound(s) and give any hounds he may have inadvertently "coaxed" into the chase an opportunity to quit the track.
6. Judges should not be quick to call an off game. Waiting a bit for the scenario to play out, if at all possible, is usually the best policy. **Example:** A hound goes on the four-minute strike clock in an open meadow. The rest of the pack joins in, and they gradually work the track into a large thicket. At the 2-minute mark, they get to about the middle of the thicket and a covey of quail flushes. All the dogs go quiet. At the three-minute mark, a couple of the hounds begin barking again, and at the 3 ½ minute mark they all fire off and push a rabbit out of the thicket. No dog should be disqualified under this scenario. However, had the judge called an off game when the quail flushed and the dogs went quiet, the handlers would have entered the thicket to catch their hounds and the entire pack would have been wrongfully disqualified
7. The judge does not have to see what the dogs are running. He may base his decision on the actions of the hounds and/or the manner in which the track is being run. However, the judge must be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the hounds are pursuing off game.
8. Trailing another hound in the cast, or trailing a handler, is not considered off game. **See SECTION VIII.M.5 for treatment of this.**
9. A handler may not "save" his hound from an off-game situation by catching or scratching his hound. **Example:** The entire pack takes a track which the handler of Hound A suspects to be off game. The handler instructs the judge to scratch Hound A. A few minutes later, the judge declares the track to be off game. Hound A is disqualified even though he was scratched prior to the call being made. **Note:** This rule does not apply to a hound that is caught to be kept out of danger. The judge must agree that the hound, was, in fact, caught to be kept out of danger. Example: Hound A strays from the pack and starts a track right alongside a busy road. The handler of Hound B is able

to catch his hound before it goes to Hound A. The rest of the pack makes it to Hound A and the chase is on. The pack crosses the road, goes into the woods for a ways, then doubles back, coming back across the road, hot on the heels of a fox. The judge declares an off game. All hounds in the cast, with the exception of Hound B, are disqualified. Hound B is not disqualified because he was caught to be kept from danger, and therefore, was not given the opportunity to turn down the track.

10. A hound may not be disqualified for pursuing off game after the cast has ended, even if, without the judge's knowledge, the violation occurred while the cast was still being run. **Example:** At 55 minutes into the cast, a hound is placed on the strike clock. A few minutes later, the judge produces what he believes to be the rabbit and begins scoring the pack. At the 60-minute mark, the judge calls field trial. One minute later, a bobcat runs past the judge and handlers with the entire pack right behind him. In this circumstance, no hound is to be disqualified and all scoring remains on the scorecard.

#### K. Time Outs

1. Only the judge has the authority to call a time out, but a handler may request a time out.
2. The judge shall keep an accurate record of the amount of time involved in each time out, and the amount of time used for a time out shall be added to the total time of the cast. **Example:** A 1-hour cast started at 9:00 AM. The judge called a 10-minute time out. Instead of the cast ending at 10:00 AM, it will end at 10:10 AM.
3. Anytime a judge has a handler leash a hound that has not been disqualified he must call a time out. Once all of the hounds that have not been disqualified have been leashed, the judge may call time in and release the hounds so they can return to active hunting.
4. During a time out, the judge may instruct the handlers to call in their hounds and leash them. However, the hounds do not have to be leashed during a time out if the judge so declares. A time out may be called if the hounds go onto property where the judge and handlers may not be welcome. If the chase continues and returns to friendly territory the judge can note the duration of the time out and resume judging. A judge may also call a time out without leashing the hounds if he is momentarily incapacitated, or if the hounds are running in a totally inaccessible area. This is often referred to as a "running time out."
5. No scoring shall occur during a time out.
6. If a rabbit is jumped, or struck, during a time out the judge may use this rabbit for the next chase, but no jump or strike points are awarded. However, a judge must not allow the hounds to actively hunt during a time out for the purpose of extending the hunt until a rabbit is jumped.

#### L. Dead Track

1. If a breakdown in the chase occurs and the judge feels that the hounds have hopelessly lost the track, he shall announce to the handlers that the track is dead and the chase ended.
2. When a track is declared dead the judge may call time out and request that the handlers leash their hounds to move to another area. The judge may elect to try to move the hounds himself without their being leashed. In this case, he may or may not call time out at his own discretion. In either situation the scoring has stopped and does not commence until the judge announces that the hunt has again started or states that the strike and the jump are open.
3. When a dead track or a time out has been called and it is evident that 1 or more hounds have left the hunting area, the judge will instruct the handlers of the hounds that are missing that they have 5 minutes to catch their hounds and return to the cast. At the conclusion of the 5 minutes, the judge will instruct the handlers of the hounds caught to re-cast their hounds. Scoring will resume even if the missing hounds are not back in the cast. If and when the missing hounds return, they will be allowed to re-join the cast and scoring. This provision does not apply to hounds having left the area pursuing off game.

#### M. Miscellaneous

1. **Electronic Training Collars & Tracking Collars:** Training and tracking collars **ARE** allowed in the field. Training collars that have the ability to be controlled by cell phones are **NOT** allowed. If training collars are used, all the transmitters must be placed in a bag and held by a pre-appointed handler who will carry them in the field. Handlers **ARE** permitted to carry the receiver for tracking collars in the field. Combination tracking and training collars are permitted and treated just like a training collar. If a handler intends to use a training collar, he must present it to the field judge for

inspection at the casting pole prior to putting it on his hound and give the transmitter to be placed in the designated bag to be held by the pre-appointed handler. Likewise, tracking only collars are to be presented to the field judge prior to the cast and approved. Training collars are only allowed to be used in one of the three following instances:

1. The judge announces the cast has ended at the conclusion of the cast.
2. The judge announces that a hound has been disqualified for any reason, that hound's handler may request the training device and use it for training purposes.
3. In the instance the judge calls a time out, training devices may be used only at the judges' discretion.

**NOTE:** We are aware that there are combination tracking/training units that may be modified by removing the training pods from the collar. These units such as, or similar to (Garmin Alpha-TT15) are allowed to be modified to tracking only. However, the Alpha device must still be placed in the cast bag as the unit still has the tone function. If a handler wants to use the collars such as TT15 for tracking only without the Alpha device, but with the ASTRO 320 device, this would be allowed. When the collar is installed into the ASTRO 320 with the training pods removed this unit becomes track only without any tone feature through the ASTRO 320.

2. **Sight Chasing:** If a hound sight chases the rabbit the judge believes the pack has been running, and pulls away from the pack without their knowledge, the judge shall immediately instruct the handlers to get their hounds up to that hound.
3. **Splits:** If, during a chase, one or more hounds in the cast split off from the pack on another track, and the judge can positively determine which group of dogs is running the original rabbit, he shall follow the hounds running the original rabbit and continue scoring as normal. He shall also instruct the handlers of the other hounds to get their hounds back with the hounds that are on the original rabbit. If the judge cannot positively determine which group of hounds is running the original rabbit, he shall stop scoring and instruct the handlers on which group of hounds to catch and move to the other. He may also, at his discretion, call a dead track and have all of the hounds caught and moved.
4. **Tame Rabbits:** If the judge is aware that the hounds are running a tame rabbit no scoring shall take place and the judge shall call a time out and move the hounds away from the area. No hound shall be penalized for running tame rabbits. If a judge determines it was a tame rabbit the hounds have been running, points scored on the tame rabbit shall remain on the scorecard.
5. **Trailing Another Hound or Handler:** If strike and jump are open, and a hound is observed by the judge to be trailing another hound or a handler and barking, he can either be put on the four-minute strike clock after the third bark, or minused for pop off barking. Since it may be somewhat difficult to determine what the hound is actually doing, particularly on the first occurrence, it may be advisable to put the hound on the strike clock the first time. Then if the behavior repeats itself, the pop off barking rule should be implemented to save valuable cast time. Each time a hound receives a minus for pop off barking in this situation, a time out should be called, and all the dogs caught and moved.

## IX. HANDLERS AND SPECTATORS

### A. Handlers

1. **Definition of handler:** Any person who takes the hound into the field for a cast, after the hound has been entered in the event.
2. A handler is permitted to handle more than 1 hound in a cast.
3. Distances between judge, handlers, and spectators, is at the discretion of the judge.
4. All handlers must stay in a group. A handler shall not stray from the group in order to attempt to get his hound to hunt or in an attempt to jump a rabbit, or to gain an advantage in any manner.
5. If a handler does not stay in the group he shall be warned by the judge and, on the second offense, the judge shall disqualify his hound. This rule is not intended to be imposed on a handler that is temporarily left behind or is physically unable to keep up with the group.
6. The handler shall not direct any questions to the judge regarding scoring until the cast has ended, nor should he tell the judge how to score.
7. After the cast is over and the judge presents the scorecard, then the handler may ask questions about the cast and the scoring of the cast and discuss any concerns with the judge. At no time during or after a cast shall a handler argue with the judge.
8. If the handler does not agree with the judge and wishes to protest, he should not sign the scorecard. **See SECTION IV concerning protests.**

9. The handler shall identify his hound when asked to do so by the judge.
10. The handler shall not call, restrain, or encourage his hound unless he is permitted by the judge to do so. This may be cause for disqualification. **Refer to SECTION VIII. I. g**
11. A handler is not allowed to catch his hound and lift it over a fence, or other obstacles, unless permitted by the judge to do this.
12. If a hound is running a rabbit other than the one the pack is running, or the hound has wandered some distance from the other hounds before a chase has started, the handler may ask the judge's permission to catch his hound and put it in the pack. Note: The handler is allowed to leash his hound to return it to the pack. No time out is called unless the judge instructs a handler to leash a hound.
13. Unsportsmanlike conduct is not permitted and may be cause for disqualification. **Please see SECTION II.E.K.**

#### B. Spectators:

1. A spectator is a person who goes into the field to observe the hunt. The spectator is not part of the hunt. He is only an observer.
2. The judge shall instruct spectators as to where he wants them to be in relation to the handlers and himself.
3. Spectators cannot be called as witnesses in a protest situation.
4. It is up to the judge whether or not to allow spectators to ask questions during the cast. Spectators should not tell the judge how to judge the hounds.
5. A spectator cannot touch a hound or in any way encourage the hound when they are in the field.
6. With the permission of the judge, a spectator may help a handler catch a hound if a handler is in need of assistance, if a hound is in danger, if the hound is chasing off game, or at the end of the hunt.
7. A spectator who is abusive, uses abusive language, threatens or strikes a judge, Master of Hounds, handler, or another spectator, may be disqualified by the Master of Hounds if he is also a handler or owner. He shall also face whatever penalties are set down by the Watchdog Committee.
8. Unsportsmanlike conduct is not permitted. **Please see SECTION II. E. k**

#### X. RUNNING TIME

- A. All casts shall be run for one hour excluding time outs. A hound must complete the cast in order to be considered for placement in the cast.
- B. The one-hour cast time may be extended as set forth in **SECTION VIII.E. , XI. E. 2** (referring to a strike in the last four minutes of the cast, or certain casts in which there is no positive scoring and hounds are tied for first with zero or fewer points).
- C. Before a hound is declared to have placed in the final cast in a licensed hunt and receive Progressive Pack ARHA and Hound of the Year points, it must have been judged in active hunting for a minimum of 2 hours. The following are exceptions to this rule:
  1. In the event all but one cast of hounds are disqualified, then those hound's final placement will be according to the way they placed in their cast. In such a case, the two-hour minimum running time would not be applicable. Other unforeseen situations of this type may arise necessitating a decision by the Master of Hounds. His decision will be final so long as it is consistent with the general parameters of the rules.
  2. In a Rabbit Champion or Grand Rabbit Champion hunt with only one cast of hounds to be run in the class, the active hunting time shall be a minimum of 1 hour.
- D. If all but one hound in a cast has been disqualified, the remaining hound must continue on in the cast for the remainder of the hour.
- E. If, in the final four minutes of a cast, a hound is put on the four-minute strike clock, the cast time shall be extended by four minutes from the point in time at which the potential strike or jump occurred. All scoring shall continue as normal during this time extension. **Exceptions:** the four-minute extension shall terminate if a dead track is declared by the judge; -OR- if all dogs in the cast are disqualified. The four-minute extension is not to be used to search for another rabbit. **Note:** The judge can only call a dead track prior to the end of the four-minute extension if the hounds are in danger, the rabbit is caught, or run into a hole or brush pile. **Example 1:** A hound is put on the strike clock at 59 minutes into the cast. The cast time will end at 1 hour and 3 minutes. The judge produces the rabbit, awards strike points, and begins scoring checks and minuses until the 1 hour and 3-minute mark is reached.

#### XI. PLACEMENT OF HOUNDS IN THE CAST

- A. The hounds in the cast will be placed by their scores.
- B. Any hound who has been eliminated from the cast for any reason will not receive placement in the cast, regardless of how high his score is. (whether the hound may still be able to place in the overall hunt is determined by running time rules, **see SECTION X.C**)
- C. In most cases, ties for first place in a cast are not to be broken. All hounds tied for first will move to the next series, regardless of the makeup of their scores. **Example:** If two hounds are tied at 100, and Hound A has all plus points, while Hound B has a combination of plus and minus points, both hounds will move on to the next series. (Exceptions to this rule occur when there are no positive points awarded to any hound at any time in the course of a cast – **see SECTION XI.E.2.b**)
- D. In a cast where more than one hound moves on to the next series, the placement of the remaining hounds begins at 2nd place. Example: Three hounds tie for first in a cast, but this represents only one placement (1st). So, the next highest scoring hound, even though there are three hounds placing ahead of him, would place 2nd rather than 4th, and the next highest scoring hound would place 3rd, and so on.
- E. **Breaking Ties:**
1. The process for breaking ties is as follows:
    - Step 1:** The hound with the fewest minus points. If this does not break the tie, go to #2.
    - Step 2:** The hound with the most jump points. If this does not break the tie, go to #3.
    - Step 3:** The hound with the most plus strike points. If this does not break the tie, go to #4
    - Step 4:** The hound with the most check points. If this does not break the tie, go to #5
    - Step 5:** If still tied after using the four tie breakers listed above the Master of Hounds must go back to the last previously run cast of each hound tied and use the tie breakers 1 thru 4 listed above. (Total points or placement on a previous scorecard are irrelevant in this process). If still tied, the Master of Hounds must go to the second previous cast, provided there is one, and use the tie breakers 1 thru 4 again. This will be done as long as the tie remains and there are previous casts to be considered.
    - Step 6:** If still tied the winner shall be decided by toss of the coin to be conducted by the Master of Hounds.
  2. **If NO POSITIVE POINTS** are awarded to any hound at any time in the cast, and the highest scoring hounds are tied at zero or below, the following processes are to be followed:
    - a. In an initial cast, the judge will use Hunt and Handle to place all of the hounds tied for first. The remainder of the hounds shall be placed according to their score. Ties among the remainder of the hounds will be broken by using Step 6 of the tiebreakers (coin toss, being the only applicable step in this situation).
    - b. At small hunts where the first cast is also the final cast, after one (1) hour and no rabbit is produced, the time shall be extended an additional thirty (30) minutes. Only the hounds tied as zero (0) will continue. Hounds with minus (-) points will be placed under paragraphs G and H. If no rabbit is produced or scoring recorded at the end of the additional thirty (30) minutes, the tie shall be broken by the judge awarding ten (10) points to the one (1) hound, that in his/her judgment hunted and handled the best. This provision is not optional for the judge. One (1) hound must be chosen. Any hound with minus points shall not be awarded the ten (10) points for hunting and handling, except in a cast where all hounds finished with minus points for the total scores. The judge will place the balance of the hounds according to the manner each hunted and handled.
    - c. **Definition of Hunt and Handle:** In certain tie situations, the judge must select a winner by Hunt and Handle. In this case, considering only those hounds tied for first place, he will select the one hound he believes hunted and handled the best, and award that hound ten plus points, and that hound shall be declared the cast winner. The remaining hounds tied for first shall also be placed by the judge in the order in which he felt each hound hunted and handled. **Note:** A Hunt & Handle decision is based on the hound's performance while they were hunting, not on a handling demonstration after the time has expired.
  3. If the highest scoring hounds are tied at zero or below, and POSITIVE SCORING HAS been awarded for at least one hound at any time in the cast, it is to be handled just as it would if the highest scoring hounds were tied at 20, or with any other positive score (i.e., if there's another round to go on to, the two hounds tied with zero would both go on; if not, then the tiebreakers would be used).

## XII. PLACEMENT OF HOUNDS IN THE HUNT

- A. **No hound is moved up in the final 10 places to replace a disqualified hound.**
- B. **In the event that a hound minus out of the final cast that hound should be placed at the bottom of that cast and not minused out of the hunt as this hound has already won over some hounds that will place. If a hound is scratched for not hunting or running off game it should be disqualified from the hunt. (Note: minused out hounds are still subject to X Running Time rules.)**
- C. The club hosting the licensed hunt shall conduct a series of elimination events. All casts shall run for a minimum of one hour. The initial round of competition shall be known as the first series. All first series winners, including ties, will be drawn out in casts to run in the second series. If necessary, third and subsequent series shall follow. To determine winners that are not determined by second or third rounds of competition, the Progressionary Sequence Method shall be used.
- D. **Progressionary Sequence Method:**
  1. The process for determining placement of hounds in the overall hunt is called the "Progressionary Sequence Method." After the finals cast for a class have been run, the top placements will have been identified, but the remaining placements need to be determined.
    - a. Let's say there are two casts of hounds, and one hound from each cast goes to the final round, which determines the 1st and 2nd place finishers in the hunt. To determine 3rd through 10th place finishers, the scorecards from the first round are used. The 2nd place finishers from the first round are compared to each other, and the hound with the highest score from that round will place 3rd in the hunt, and the other will place 4th in the hunt. Then all the 3rd place finishers will be compared to each other in the same fashion, and so on, until all ten placements have been filled. If there are ties, for example, the two 2nd place finishers have the same score, then the tiebreakers in **SECTION XI.E.1.** are to be used.
  2. The reasons for using this method are: Some casts may find several rabbits and have high scores, while other casts may find very few rabbits and have low scores or a hound that scored second in his cast should not be placed lower than hounds that scored third or fourth in another cast.

**Example:** In this example we have two casts of hounds, and are determining the top ten placements.

	CAST 1		CAST 2	
Place	Hound #	Points	Hound #	Points
2nd	12	150	5	200
3rd	4	120	9	100
4th	1	60	10	80
5th	6	50	2	40

- a. Look at the second-place finishers. Hound # 5 has the highest point total and is awarded 3rd place. Hound # 12 is placed 4th.
  - b. Look at the third-place finishers. Hound # 4 has the highest point total and is awarded 5th place. Hound # 9 is placed 6th.
  - c. Look at the fourth-place finishers. Hound # 10 has the highest point total and is awarded 7th place. Hound # 1 is placed 8th.
  - d. Look at the fifth-place finishers. Hound # 6 has the highest point total and is awarded 9th place. Hound # 2 is placed 10th.
- E. A hound must meet the running time requirements in order to be considered for placement in the hunt. No hound is moved up in the final 10 places to replace a disqualified hound. That placement is left vacant.
  - F. If a hound has been disqualified for anything other than minusing out (30 minus points), he shall not be considered for placement in the hunt even if he has met the running time requirement.
  - G. A hound that minuses out in the third or later series has met the 2-hour running time requirement and shall retain its placement in the hunt. **Example:** Hound #15 wins its initial cast and moves on to the second series, which is the semi-finals. That hound also wins its semifinals cast and moves

on to a 3 dog finals cast. The hound minuses out in the finals cast, and the other two hounds return with positive points. Hound 15 shall place third in the hunt.

**XIII. ACHIEVING PP RABBIT CHAMPION OR GRAND RABBIT CHAMPION STATUS**

- A. In order for an Open Class hound to achieve Rabbit Champion status he must meet one of the following criteria and pass the certification test:
1. Have two (2) licensed club hunt wins from two (2) different clubs and have at least one hundred (100) points, not more than fifty (50) of which can come from any one club.
  2. Have one (1) state or Big 6 hunt win along with one hundred (100) points, not more than fifty (50) of which can come from any one club.

**B. Awarding of points for Progressive Pack Rabbit Champion Status**

1st Place 40 points	3rd Place 25 points	5th Place 15 points	7th Place 10 points	9th Place 5 points
2nd Place 30 points	4th Place 20 points	6th Place 10 points	8th Place 10 points	10th Place 5 points

**Note:** For the purpose of awarding points towards PP Rabbit Champion, state and Big 6 hunts are considered “neutral” as far as the host club is concerned. **Example:** Bill’s Big Bowser has a licensed club hunt win, a second place in a State hunt and a third in a Regional. All three trials were hosted by Joe’s Beagle Club. All ninety-five (95) of the points earned at those three trials may be used since the State and Regional hunts are “neutral”.

**C. Certification Test for Progressive Pack Rabbit Champion**

1. Once a hound has met the criteria set forth in **Section XIII. A** he must successfully complete the Progressive Pack Rabbit Champion certification test in order to be awarded Progressive Pack Rabbit Champion status.
2. The Certification Procedures and Rules are published under a separate cover and are available from the ARHA, the ARHA website, or from the Rules Committee.
3. There is no limit to the number of times a hound may attempt the certification test.

**D. In order to achieve Progressive Pack Grand Rabbit Champion status, he must meet one of the following criteria:**

1. Have five (5) champion class first place wins at licensed club hunts, at least three (3) of which must come from different clubs.
2. Have at least two (2) champion class first place wins at licensed club hunts and one champion class first place win at a Big 6 hunt.

There are no longer certification testing requirements for Grand Rabbit Champion. Once a champion class hound has met the criteria for Grand Rabbit Champion, his owner must complete an Application for Grand Rabbit Champion Certificate (form is available on the NKC website) and send it along with proof that the dog has met the criteria for Grand Rabbit Champion (winner’s certificates or copies of them) to the NKC/ARHA office.

**E. Requirement to move a hound up in class:** Once a hound has qualified to take the certification test for Rabbit Champion or to move from Rabbit Champion class to Grand Rabbit Champion Class, he may continue to compete in his present class for the remainder of the calendar year in which he qualified. After December 31st of the year in which a hound qualifies to move up in class, he will no longer be allowed to compete in Progressive Pack competition until he moves up in class.

**Note:** Upon successfully completing the Rabbit Champion certification test an Open class hound automatically and immediately moves up to Progressive Pack Rabbit Champion class.