

COONHOUND ADVISOR

Trevor Wade

The light at the end of a busy spring season is in sight. Five out of seven chartered breed day events are completed as of this writing. The bulk of Regional Qualifying Events are done. All signs are pointing to summer being here and a little bit of a slowdown before a very busy fall season which includes Autumn Oaks and the World Championship. On that note, online entries for both of those events open on July 1st so by the time you read this, it should be open.

It's a good time for reflection on what has been a very successful year to this point. I've been encouraged by the numbers and participation I've seen. I've been encouraged by the innovation and ideas I've seen clubs and associations put together for their events. And a few year long series or races to increase participation and a sense of competitiveness. I can see them learning a lot from this year's events and continuing to improve next year. Whew, the tasks for the volunteers that have been voted into their positions in those associations sure pile up. Make sure you tell them you appreciate them.

X-Bred Coonhounds

We are seeing more and more XBred Coonhounds show up on Bench Show reports that are coming in. Make sure if you are a Bench Show Judge that you police the entry taking, even if you aren't the one actively taking them. XBred Coonhounds do not have a breed standard as they are not a breed, they are a combination of multiple breeds or have unknown lineage in some cases. There is no standard to judge them based on. If you own an XBred and enter them in the show and for some reason the judge and/or entry taker doesn't take notice, UKC will, and those wins will be invalidated.

Going Back to the Same Tree

I've had several calls recently regarding dogs that return to previously scored trees. Here is a good time to say, though I or anyone else for that matter don't agree necessarily with every rule in the rulebook, those are the rules in place and the ones to go by. Under UKC's current rule set there is no penalty for returning to a previously scored tree. Let's refer to Rule 5(h) which is under the Deleted section. It reads, "When dog trees on a tree or coon previously scored."

Sometimes I hear people say that you can apply Rule 6(e) on a hound that returns to the same tree multiple times. This is incorrect. Rule 6(e) reads, "Dogs will be scratched for delaying completion of cast for one hour after time out is called during the hunt in accordance with Rule 7." This rule applies only to a situation where you call time out during the hunt. It is pretty straightforward.

Treeing but Not Declared Treed Scenarios

Another breed day event and more questions about

dogs treeing but not declared treed and dogs coming in after the judge arrives to a closed tree. Though the people who need it most may not see this, I'm going to run through some scenarios. Share this section with your fellow hunters if you can.

Scenario 1

2-dog cast and Dogs A and B are released. Dog A strikes for 100, Dog B strikes for 75. Dog A has been declared treed. Upon the judge and the rest of the cast arriving to the tree, Dog B was also found treeing with Dog A when they get there. How do you score Dog B in this situation?

A: Dog B is what we commonly refer to as "treeing but not declared treed" in this scenario. I was going to prolong this part of the article but honestly there is no need. Let's refer to Rule 4(f) under the Strike Minus section. The second sentence of that rule is key, and it reads, "Dog(s) treeing but not declared treed when judge arrives receives minus strike points." Using that rule, which is pretty straightforward, let's score Dog B in four separate scenarios.

- Tree is plussed. Dog B receives minus strike points.
- Tree is minused. Dog B receives minus strike points.
- Tree is circled. Dog B receives minus strike points.
- Tree has off game. Dog B receives minus strike points in Registered cast. Dog B is scratched from the hunt in a Champion cast as he is treeing off game.

Two notes I'll make that I hope help drive it home. 1) You can go ahead and minus those strike points before you ever score the tree. How the tree is scored is irrelevant. Minus the strike points. Rule 4(f) tells us that. 2) There is never a situation in UKC's rulebook after the latest rule change year in 2023 that you assign next available tree points for a dog. Forget that terminology when you are hunting UKC hunts. Just minus strike points and be done.

Scenario 2

2-dog cast and Dogs A and B are released. Dog A strikes for 100. Dog A is declared treed. Dog B is struck for 75 with a line under it on the way to Dog A's tree. Upon the judge and the rest of the cast arriving to the tree, Dog B was also found treeing with Dog A. How do you score Dog B in this situation?

A: Dog B is again treeing but not declared treed. This time however, we find that Dog B is shut out on strike which occurs when Dog A is treed before Dog B is struck and Dog B ends up on the tree it is shut out on. Let's again head to Rule 4(f) in the strike minus section and see what we find. We know sentence 2 reads, "Dog(s) treeing but not declared treed when judge arrives receives minus strike points." Let's read the 3rd sentence right after it. "Dogs shut-out on strike will receive no minus strike points." Awesome, that spells it out for us! Now let's look at the same four scenarios we did above.

- Tree is plussed. Dog B's strike points are deleted as it was shut out on this tree.
- Tree is minused. Dog B's strike points are deleted as it

was shut out on this tree.

- Tree is circled. Dog B's strike points are deleted as it was shut out on this tree.
- Tree has off game. Dog B's strike points are deleted as it was shut out on this tree in Registered cast. Dog B is scratched from the hunt in a Champion cast for treeing off game.

The only note here is that if you can remember to read both sentences of that rule it will tell you simply what to do in these situations. Highlight them if it helps.

Scenario 3

2-dog cast and Dogs A and B are released. Dog A strikes for 100, Dog B strikes for 75. Dog A has been declared treed. The judge and the cast arrive to the tree, handle Dog A, and start to shine the tree. Dog B comes into Dog A's tree where the cast is. How do you score Dog B in this situation?

A: We have an added layer here. The dog is no longer treeing but not declared treed when you arrive but comes in after the Judge arrives. The "after" is key. Let's venture to Rule 5(b) under the Circle Point section. It reads, "No dog to receive minus points for coming into tree after Judge arrives unless a coon is seen, and the dogs treeing are awarded plus points." Let's bring back our four scenarios.

- Tree is plussed. Dog B's strike points are minused as

Rule 5(b) tells us this is the only situation that the strike points would be minused.

- Tree is minused. Dog B's strike points are circled per Rule 5(b) which tells us the only situation strike points would be minused is if a coon is scored.
- Tree is circled. Dog B's strike points are circled per Rule 5(b) which tells us the only situation strike points would be minused is if a coon is scored.
- Tree has off game. Dog B's strike points would be circled in both a Registered and a Champion cast in the situation that the dog comes into the tree AFTER the judge arrives. Again, "after" is key.

I really hope seeing these scenarios in action helps. Hopefully you can save this column and refresh on these scenarios every so often.

ATTENTION!

The following person's Nite Hunt Director and Nite Hunt Judging privileges have been suspended until the date listed.

Andrew Ratliff • Winchester, KY • January 1, 2025
Cliff Monroe • Mooresboro, NC • Indefinitely
Chris Simmons • Cramerton, NC • Indefinitely

Violations to these privileges should be reported to the United Kennel Club.



Rev. 12/7/2023

Easy Entry® Card Holder

Each UKC Easy Entry® Card Holder can hold up to 72 cards!

MAIL TO:

UKC Registration Department • UKC Easy Entry Card Holder
100 E Kilgore Rd
Kalamazoo MI 49002

_____ UKC Easy Entry Card Holder(s). (\$10 each/ includes S&H)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check/ Money Order (must be enclosed). Payable in U.S. funds.

Please make checks to United Kennel Club

Major credit cards accepted.

Card number: _____

Exp date: _____

Cardholder's name: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

\$10

(includes shipping and handling)



Order online at shop.ukcdogs.com/

Call us at (269) 343-9020 (ask for Registration Department) or fill out the form and mail it to us.

