

Gundog Division

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One Division, One Goal, One Purpose

AMERICAN RABBIT HOUND ASSOCIATION (ARHA/NKC) *A Tennessee Corporation*

ARHA/NKC Gundog Division Rules, Policies, and Procedures Effective 2005 – 2010 (Amendments to be added as necessary)

Section 1: Executive Rules

Section 2: Gundog Division Rules that apply to Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack

Section 3: Rules that apply to Gundog Brace only

Section 4: Rules that apply to Gundog Pack only

The ARHA/NKC Gundog Division Board of Directors has established all rules, policies, and procedures within this document. These rules are intended to promote the beagle as a hound suitable for hunting purposes with line control and searching abilities. Speed is not an issue as long as the hound is running the line in a correct fashion as scenting conditions allow. Slow, pottering, do-nothing hounds will be disqualified.

All actions within the Gundog Division structure are subject to review and possible revocation by the ARHA/NKC President. Anyone entering a hound in Gundog Division sanctioned hunts must be a paid member in good standing of a chartered ARHA/NKC Club that is also in good standing.

Section 1: ARHA/NKC Gundog Division Executive Rules

I. Clubs

- A. All Clubs holding Gundog sanctioned trials must be chartered by the ARHA/NKC. Charter fees are \$25.00 with proof of insurance submitted by a Club. For a Club without proof of outside insurance the charter fee is \$200.00. Charter fees must be paid to the ARHA/NKC office by October 31st of each year. If the Club participates in trials of other ARHA/NKC divisions (Progressive Pack, Little Pack), the charter fee is to be divided evenly between the various divisions.
- B. Checks should be made payable as shown below. Each Club is to have its own bank account. The fees stated are per hounds entered regardless of whether the hound was entered only in the field or only on the bench. Any Club that does not pay the appropriate fees after each hunt to the ARHA/NKC and/or the Gundog Division will have the hunt results count as a fun hunt.

Make Check payable to:	Sanctioned Club Hunt	State Hunt	Regional Hunt	U.S. Championship
ARHA/NKC	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.00
GUNDOG DIVISION	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.00

- C. Clubs will elect officers in September or early October. The Club will send a copy of the Club update form and appropriate charter fee, as stated in letter A above, by October 31st to the ARHA/NKC. The form will list the types of trials to be hosted and the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses (if applicable) of all Club officers. A copy of the update form will also be mailed to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame for his records. This is to be done every year-even if Club officers do not change.
- D. If a Club fails to comply with A and C above, the ARHA/NKC President will cancel the Club hunts and/or cancel the Club charter.
- E. All sanctioned hunts must be scheduled on Saturday, Sunday, or a federal holiday. No hunts are to be scheduled on Christmas Day or Easter Sunday.
- F. Each Club must hold at least one hunt per year of either format (Gundog Brace or Gundog Pack). Each Club can hold hunts of either Gundog Brace, Gundog Pack or a mixture of each. Each Club can hold up to 8 hunts per year. State and Big 5 Hunts (NE Regional, NW Regional, SE Regional, SW Regional, and

U.S. Championships: Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack) will not count against the eight allowable hunts per Club.

- G. No Club will hold hunts on the same day of the Big 5 hunts unless they are more than 200 miles removed from the location of the Big 5 Hunt. No Club hunts can be held on the same day as the U.S. Championship.
- H. Clubs starting after August 1, 2004, must be at least 25-50 miles from an existing Club.

II. Executive Board

A. The Executive Board will consist of:

1. The President of the ARHA/NKC.
2. The Chairman of the Board of Gundog Division.
3. The Secretary of the Gundog Division.
4. The Treasurer of the Gundog Division.
5. One at large member elected by the Board of Directors for a 2 year term.
6. All chairpersons of other committees whether elected or appointed.
7. All regular members of the Watchdog Committee.

B. Duties of the Executive Board

1. The Board will administer the rules, policies, and procedures that are established by the Board of Directors.
2. The Board will approve expenditures from the Gundog Division account.
3. The Board will assign host Clubs for State, Regional, and U.S. Championship hunts. If a State or Big 5 Hunt is not applied for, then the hunt(s) will not be awarded.
4. The Board will appoint replacements for any member that cannot complete his/her term. That position will then be filled by election at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.
5. The Board will assist all committees with their duties if requested to do so by the Chairman of that committee.
6. The President of the ARHA/NKC, with the approval of the Chairman of the Board, will appoint ARHA/NKC representatives for the different areas of the country to help form new Clubs and to consult with Clubs as needed. Reasonable expenses incurred by these representatives will be paid by the Treasurer if the ARHA/NKC President or Chairman approves these expenses. Receipts will be required in order to obtain approval for reimbursement.

C. Meetings of the Executive Board

1. The Chairman of the Board will preside at all meetings, or in his absence, by the ARHA/NKC President or an assignee.
2. Meetings will be called by the Chairman of the Board or by the ARHA/NKC President. All members of the Board are to be notified at least 10 days in advance of any meeting.
3. Decisions may be made by consensus if all are in agreement. If it is evident that 100% are not in agreement, a formal vote must be held. Items will pass with a simple majority.
4. To hold an official meeting, 2/3 of the Board must be present.
5. When a meeting is impractical, the Chairman of the Board may conduct a vote by phone or mail. The Secretary will keep an official record of all proceedings of the Board and provide copies to all Board members.

D. Gundog Division Account

1. This account is made up of money from the following sources:
 - a. Charter fees.
 - b. Disallowed protests (\$50.00).
 - c. \$1.00 for each hound entered into a Gundog Division sanctioned Club Hunt or State Hunt, regardless of whether the hound was entered only in the field or only on the bench.
 - d. \$1.50 for each hound entered into a Gundog Division Regional Hunt, regardless of whether the hound was entered only in the field or only on the bench.
 - e. \$2.00 for each hound entered into a Gundog Division U.S. Championship,

- regardless of whether the hound was entered only in the field or only on the bench.
f. Gifts, fund-raisers, sales, etc...

III. Board of Directors

A. The Board of Directors will consist of:

1. The Board of Directors will be made up of all Gundog Division Presidents that hold either Gundog Pack and/or Gundog Brace sanctioned hunts, and members of the Executive Board.
2. If a Club President cannot be present, an alternate may vote with a written proxy letter signed by the Club President and presented to the Chairman of the Board in a sealed envelope at the time of the meeting.

B. Duties of the Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors will set all rules, policies, and procedures for all Gundog Pack and Gundog Brace competitions.
2. The Board will meet every two years unless sooner convened by the Chairman of the Board or ARHA/NKC President.
3. Members of the Board of Directors must be notified at least 10 days in advance of any meetings called.
4. A 2/3 majority vote of members present will be required to change any rule, policy, or procedure.
5. At the bi-annual meetings, the Board of Directors will elect a Chairman of the Board, Secretary, Treasurer, Member-At-Large, and the Watchdog Committee. It will also establish any committees it deems necessary to conduct activities for the Gundog Division for the next two years.
6. The Board of Directors must make all changes to the rules, policies, and procedures.

IV. Chairman of the Board

A. Duties of the Chairman of the Board

1. The Chairman will conduct all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board.
2. The Chairman will assist the ARHA/NKC President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ARHA/NKC State representatives in establishing new Clubs and assisting existing Clubs as needed.
3. The Chairman will, when possible, attend all State and Big 5 hunts as an ambassador of the ARHA/NKC.
4. The Chairman will serve on the ARHA/NKC President's cabinet which will consist of a Chairman from each ARHA/NKC Division.
5. The Chairman has the responsibility of taking the Division forward with the task of creating committees and monitoring the effectiveness of each.
6. The Chairman will serve as an ex-officio member of all Gundog Division committees.
7. The Chairman will appoint the chairpersons of all committees. The Chairman has the authority to remove and replace any of these appointees in the event of poor performance. The Chairman will inform the Executive Board in writing of the reasons for removal of any chairpersons or Committee member.

B. Compensation for the Chairman of the Board

1. The Chairman will receive an annual gift of not less than \$250.00 and not more than \$500.00 in December of each year if funds are available.
2. The amount will be set by the Executive Board and can be increased or decreased according to the funds available.

V. Secretary/Treasurer

A. Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer

1. The Board of Directors at the bi-annual meeting will elect the Secretary/Treasurer. This person will serve for two years.
2. The Secretary/Treasurer will maintain the financial records for the Gundog Division account. These records will be open for audit at all times and will

- be audited when directed by the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Board.
3. The Secretary/Treasurer will receive money from the ARHA/NKC office for dues payable to the Gundog Division. All money received will be deposited into the Gundog Division account. The treasurer will send quarterly statements regarding the Gundog Division account to the Chairman of the Board and the NKC / ARHA office on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.
 4. The Gundog Division account is an operating account and will be used as follows:
 - a. Return of money for upheld formal protests (\$50.00).
 - b. Reimburse authorized persons for expenses incurred upon presentation of applicable receipts and approval from the Executive Board.
 - c. Reimburse State Representatives for expenses incurred upon presentation of applicable receipts and approval from the Executive Board.
 - d. Pay other expenses as authorized by the Executive Board upon presentation of applicable receipts.
 5. The Secretary/Treasurer will keep Club Presidents informed of the actions of the Executive Board, the Board of Directors, and the Watchdog Committee.
 6. The Secretary/Treasurer will keep official records of the proceedings of all meetings. The minutes of those meetings will be published and distributed.
 7. The Treasurer will be bonded to protect the Gundog Division account. The bond fee will be paid from the Gundog Division account.

B. Compensation for the Secretary/Treasurer

1. The Secretary/Treasurer will receive an annual gift of not less than \$250.00 and not more than \$500.00 in December of each year if funds are available and if approved by the Executive Board. This amount may be increased or decreased depending upon funds in the Gundog Division account.
2. If there is one person acting as Secretary and one acting as Treasurer, the compensation amount awarded by the Executive Board is to be divided equally between each person.

VI. Watchdog Committee

A. Duties of the Watchdog Committee

1. The Chairman of the Board will appoint the Watchdog Chairman. This committee consists of the Watchdog Chairman, two members, and two alternates. The Watchdog Committee members/alternates will be elected at the bi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors. All members of the Watchdog Committee are to be licensed as Master of Hounds before they start their two-year term of office.
2. The Committee will enforce the rules, policies, and procedures of the Gundog Division as they pertain to formal protests or formal complaints of rule infractions at sanctioned hunts.
3. An alternate becomes a regular member of the committee if a regular member resigns or a member is removed for disciplinary reasons. The Chairman of the Board will decide which alternate becomes a regular member.
4. If a regular member or alternate is found to be in violation of the rules, the Chairman of the Board will remove him from his duties. This person will NEVER be permitted to serve on the Watchdog Committee again.
5. The Chairman of the Board and/or President of the ARHA/NKC has the right to request that the Watchdog Committee give an official interpretation of a rule if there is concern about the meaning of a rule. The Committee should give this interpretation as soon as possible so this ruling can be distributed to the Club Presidents and ARHA/NKC officials.
6. The Watchdog Committee has the right to investigate, intervene, and/or take action upon receipt of the filing of a formal protest with payment of the \$50.00 formal protest fee for rule violations, OR upon receipt of a formal complaint against a handler, judge, spectator or other person,

OR upon one of the Watchdog Committee members witnessing either a rules violation or unsportsmanlike conduct from a handler, spectator, judge, or other person.

7. A Watchdog Committee member, while attending a hunt, has the responsibility to privately inform the Master of Hounds of that hunt if the hunt is not being conducted according to the rules. If the Master of Hounds of that hunt refuses to comply, the Watchdog Committee member has the right to complete and submit a formal complaint to the Watchdog Committee.
8. The Chairman of the Watchdog Committee will inform the Chairman of Board, the Secretary, Treasurer, and the ARHA/NKC home office when an official ruling is made on a formal protest or a formal complaint.
9. The Chairman of the Watchdog Committee will send the official ruling to the person(s) or Club(s) being protested within 10 days of the final ruling by certified mail.
10. The Gundog Division will uphold the bans of other ARHA/NKC divisions. If a person or hound is banned from one ARHA/NKC division, she/he will be banned from all ARHA/NKC competitions. If a person appeals a decision by the Watchdog Committee it will be heard by the ARHA/NKC President's cabinet only.
11. The Watchdog Committee Chairman will act as the Master of Hounds at the U.S. Championship. If unable to attend, the Chairman of the Board will appoint another Master of Hounds for the U.S. Championship.

B. Formal Protests, Formal Complaints, and Verbal Protests

1. A **formal protest** is made in writing on the 'formal protest' form. A formal protest is for rule violations ONLY and must be accompanied by cash or check in the amount of \$50.00, payable to the NKC/ARHA, and must be presented to the Master of Hounds on the same day as the hunt in question.
 - a. The Master of Hounds is the final authority at the hunt. If a formal protest of his decision is made, it must be made at the hunt, on the same day, before the hunt closes using the 'Formal Protest' form. The 'Formal Protest' form must state the type of hunt, the rule the protestor feels was broken, date of the hunt, name of the host Club, and the name of the Master of Hounds.
 - b. The 'Formal Protest' form must be forwarded to the Chairman of the Board. The Chairman of the Board will notify the Chairman of the Watchdog Committee and the Club President of the Club involved, if applicable.
 - c. If the Watchdog Committee finds there was a rule violation, the person(s) who paid the \$50.00 fee will be reimbursed.
 - d. If the Watchdog Committee finds there was not a rule violation, the \$50.00 formal protest fee will be deposited into the Gundog Division account. This is called a disallowed protest.
2. A **formal complaint** is for an official to protest a rule violation at a sanctioned hunt without having to pay the formal protest fee. An official is defined as anyone actively judging at the sanctioned hunt in question, the designated Master of Hounds, the Chairman of the Board, any Watchdog Committee member, or any Judge's Committee member. If the situation was brought to the Master of Hounds in charge of the sanctioned hunt, and the issue could not be resolved, then a formal complaint can be completed by an official.
 - a. The formal complaint must be presented to the Master of Hounds on the same day of the hunt in question. The complaint must state the type of hunt, the complaint, the date of the hunt, name of the host Club, the name of the Master of the Hounds, and the signature of the person(s) filing the complaint.
 - b. If the Master of Hounds is presented with a formal complaint by an

official, she/he will forward the complaint to the Chairman of the Board. The Chairman of the Board will notify the Chairman of the Watchdog Committee and the Club President of the Club involved, if applicable.

3. A **verbal protest** is one that is brought to the Master of Hounds as appealing a decision that was already made in the field or on the bench. This protest does not involve a fee and is to be brought to the Master of Hounds on the same day as the hunt in question within 15 minutes of the Master of Hounds returning to the Clubhouse or staging area. The Master of Hounds decision is final-unless a formal protest and \$50.00 fee is paid regarding a rule violation or a formal complaint is filed by an official.
4. The Chairman of the Watchdog Committee may arrange a conference call or a meeting with its members to discuss either a formal protest or a formal complaint. The Committee members are to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred upon settling a formal protest or a formal complaint. Receipts are to be presented to the Treasurer.
5. No verbal protests, formal protests, or formal complaints can be filed as the result of an executive board or board of directors meeting.

C. Penalties

1. Penalties that can be invoked by the Watchdog Committee include:
 - a. The final decision of the Committee may effect a class, division, or the entire hunt results may be nullified.
 - b. If a rule violation is found, the results of the hunt can be treated as a non-licensed hunt. In this event, the hounds that placed will not receive ARHA/NKC or Hound of the Year points.
2. The Watchdog Committee has the authority to take any disciplinary action it feels is appropriate.

D. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct is any conduct which, in the opinion of the Watchdog Committee, amounts to cheating, sharp practices, or unsportsmanlike conduct. This conduct includes any person, handler, judge, or spectator who uses abusive language, threatens, strikes, or intimidates a judge, Master of Hounds, field marshal, another handler, spectator, or anyone attending a sanctioned field trial.
2. If physical conduct is involved, the individual that instigates the first physical contact is automatically banned for life; additionally, a person is allowed to defend himself/herself.
3. The Watchdog Committee can disqualify/ban any and all persons/hounds involved in unsportsmanlike conduct for a term determined by the Watchdog Committee. The term will be a minimum of one year. A person who has been banned cannot run his/her hounds in competition, even if they are sold to another person.

VII. Rules Committee

A. Duties of the Rules Committee

1. The Chairman of the Board will appoint the Rules Chairman. The Rules Chairman will appoint two regular members. The Rules Committee will serve a two-year term of office.
2. The Rules Committee will collect recommendations for rule changes. They will put the suggested changes in proper order and present them to the Board of Directors for discussion and vote at the bi-annual meeting.
3. The Rules Committee will only process those recommendations received from ARHA/NKC Gundog Division chartered Clubs or from the Executive Board.

B. Changes to Field Judge and Master of Hounds Tests

1. It is the responsibility of the Rules Committee to re-write or update the

tests for field judge and Master of Hounds when these tests are affected by changes to the rules.

2. These tests are to be approved by the Chairman of the Board and copies of the tests and answers are to be sent to the ARHA/NKC home office before they are put into use.

VIII. Hall of Fame Committee

A. Duties of the Hall of Fame Committee

1. The Chairman of the Board will appoint the Hall of Fame Chairman. The Hall of Fame Chairman will appoint two regular members. The Hall of Fame Committee will serve a two-year term of office.
2. The Hall of Fame Committee will accept nominations, make recommendations, and conduct a vote of the Board of Directors to elect the hounds and persons to be inducted into the Gundog Division Hall of Fame. Nominations should be mailed to the Hall of Fame Chairman.
3. All beagles meeting the entry requirements will automatically go into the Hall of Fame. Proof of having met the requirements must be received no later than December 31st in order to be honored at the next U.S. Championship banquet.
4. The committee will also accept nominations for beagles and beaglers that have not met the requirements. The committee, by unanimous vote, may select one beagle and one beagler to be put on the ballot each year. The committee is not required to select a beagle or a beagler each year.
5. Nominations for the beagle or beagler who have not met the requirements, will be accepted through April 30th each year. Ballots will be mailed to the Board of Directors during the month of June. Ballots must be returned to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame no later than July 31st in order to be counted. A nominee must be approved by a 2/3 majority.
6. Those beagles or beaglers elected to the Hall of Fame will be inducted on January 1st of the following year. They will be honored at the next U.S. Championship banquet. Once elected to the Hall of Fame, this honor cannot be taken away unless it is proven that it was illegally obtained.
7. Any beagle inducted into the Hall of Fame must be a Gundog Champion. Any beagle inducted into the Hall of Fame as a reproducer must have produced at least one Gundog Champion.

B. Hall of Fame Entry Criteria – Competition Hound – 50 pts required

All points must come from the Gundog Division. Points can come from either Gundog Pack or Gundog Brace. There will be ONE Hall of Fame for the Gundog Division.

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENT</u>
10	Hound of the Year
5	Reserve Hound of the Year
10	Regional Hound of the Year
10	1 st at U.S. Championship
5	2 nd at U.S. Championship
7	Regional Hunt winner
3.5	2 nd Regional Hunt winner
5	State Hunt winner
2.5	2 nd State Hunt winner
4	Best of Show – U.S. Championship
3	Best of Show – Regional Hunt
2	Best of Show – State Hunt

7	Grand Rabbit Champion
5	Rabbit Champion
5	Grand Bench Champion
2	Bench Champion
1	1 st at any sanctioned hunt
-10	each time banned for off-game

C. Hall of Fame Entry Criteria – Reproducers – 125 pts required

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENT</u>
20	each son/daughter that makes GD Hall of Fame
15	each son/daughter that wins U.S. Championship
15	each son/daughter that wins Hound of the Year
10	each son/daughter that wins Regional Hunt
10	each son/daughter becomes Grand Champion
10	each son/daughter wins Regional Hound of Year
5	each son/daughter becomes Rabbit Champion
5	each son/daughter that wins State hunt
5	each son/daughter becomes Gr Show Champion
5	each son/daughter that is reserve Hound of Year
4	each son/daughter wins Best of Show @ U.S. Champ
3	each son/daughter wins Regional Best of Show
2	each son/daughter wins State Best of Show
1	each son/daughter becomes Bench Show Champion
1	each son/daughter wins a sanctioned Club hunt

D. Hall of Fame Entry Criteria – Beagler – 125 pts required

All points must come from the Gundog Division only. To total points, take the point amount and multiply it times the number of years you have served in that capacity. If a hound has more than one owner, the points must be divided according to the number of co-owners.

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENT</u>
20	President of ARHA/NKC
20	Recorded owner of hound makes Hall of Fame
10	U.S. Championship winner
10	Gundog Division Chairman of the Board
10	Gundog Division secretary/treasurer
10	Hound of the Year
7	Reserve Hound of the Year
7	Chairman of the Watchdog Committee
5	Watchdog Committee member
5	E-Board member-at-large
5	Chairman of any committee except Watchdog
5	Regional Hound of the Year
5	Grand Rabbit Champion
5	Grand Bench Show Champion
4	Regional Hunt Winner
3	Any National Committee Member
3	Rabbit Champion
3	Bench Show Champion
3	U.S. Champion Bench Show winner
3	State Hunt winner
2	active certified field judge
2	active certified bench judge
2	Board of Directors' member
2	President or Secretary of local Club
2	Master of Hounds of a Club
2	ARHA/NKC Field Representative

2	Regional Best of Show Winner
1	State Best of Show Winner
1	Winner of sanctioned Club level hunt
1	Any other Club officer, Breed inspector

IX. Judges Committee

A. Duties of the Judges' Committee

1. The Chairman of the Board will appoint the Judges' Committee Chairman. The Judges' Chairman will appoint two regular members. The Judges' Committee will serve a two-year term of office.
2. This Committee will monitor all judging for the Gundog Division
3. This Committee will be responsible for on-going training support of judges, judges' seminars, columns in the Rabbit Hunter, newsletters, videos, etc...
4. This committee will keep a list of all licensed judges. This list will assist the Clubs in obtaining judges for their hunts.
5. Any member of the Judges' Committee, while attending a sanctioned hunt, has the responsibility to privately inform the Master of Hounds and/or judges if she/he sees any violation of the Gundog Division rules.

B. Complaints against Judges

1. The Watchdog Committee and Judges' Committee will work together regarding any complaints against a judge or judges to determine the appropriate course of action.
2. Complaints against judges will only be investigated by the Watchdog Committee upon the filing of a formal complaint by an official or by the filing of a formal protest.
3. The Judges' committee will mentor, critique, teach, and discipline judges as needed, in conjunction with any action deemed necessary by the Watchdog Committee if there is a filing of a formal complaint or a formal protest.

Section 2: General Gundog Division Rules that apply to Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack

I. Licensed Sanctioned Hunts

A. Sanctioned Club Hunts

1. The date of the sanctioned hunt must be sent to ARHA/NKC/ARHA/NKC 90 days prior to the date of hunt. The hunt must be approved and licensed by the President of the ARHA/NKC.
2. Hunt cancellations must be in the Rabbit Hunter magazine 30 days prior to the hunt date unless it is an act of God (flood, ice, etc...) or loss of running grounds and then it is only with the permission of the ARHA/NKC home office.
3. Hunts in the Rabbit Hunter magazine must list the type of hunt, date, location, contact person, entry deadline, classes available, and if there will be a bench show.
4. Clubs may set their own field entry prices and bench show prices.

B. Big Five Hunts

1. N.E. Regional, N.W. Regional, S.E. Regional, S.W. Regional, and the U.S. Championships (Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack) are the Big 5 Hunts for the Gundog Division.
2. There will be State and Big 5 Hunts for Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack. If a State or Big 5 Hunt is not applied for, then it will not be awarded.
3. Host Clubs for State and Big 5 Hunts are set by the Executive Board. Applications for these hunts are to be sent to the Chairman of the Board no later than July 31st of the year preceding the hunt desired. A hunt must be

- applied for by the deadline or it will not be awarded.
4. Any run-offs for Hound of the Year will be on the weekend of the U.S. Championship hunt.
 5. Judges at the U.S. Championship will be paid for each cast they judge. Their meals will be provided for free at the Clubhouse.

II. Judges

A. Judge Qualifications

1. All judges must be ARHA/NKC Gundog Division certified.
2. A person wanting to be a judge must pass the Judges' test with a minimum score of 86%. The test material covers both Gundog Pack and Gundog Brace. If the test is passed, the license will enable the person to judge either Gundog Brace or Gundog Pack. The test is NOT open book and will be administered by the Master of Hounds, Club President, or Club Secretary.
3. A person wanting to judge must have 3 experiences as a judge at a fun hunt or as an assistant judge at a sanctioned hunt.
4. Judges must be at least 16 years of age.
5. Licensed judges are to keep their judges cards on their person at all times and are required to show it to the Master of Hounds if asked.

B. Judge's Duties

1. A judge will NOT judge his own dog.
2. A judge will NOT judge a hound belonging to anyone living in the same household.
3. A judge is responsible for making all calls in the field.
4. There will be a minimum of one judge per pack/brace. More than one judge can be assigned and is recommended during Big 5 Hunts, if available.
5. A judge's decision in the field is final. The decision can be appealed to the Master of Hounds on the same day within 15 minutes of the Master of Hounds returning to the Clubhouse or staging area.
6. A judge will inform handlers if a time out is called.
7. A judge will not avoid or attempt to cast hounds on off game.
8. A judge will tell handlers and spectators what they can and cannot do prior to casting any hounds in the field.
9. A judge will appoint a field marshal when the casting area is reached.
10. If a judge becomes injured or ill the pack/brace is to return to the drawing area to be assigned another judge by the Master of Hounds.
11. A judge that is abusive, does not judge by the rules, uses abusive or profane language, threatens or strikes the Master of Hounds, handler, or spectator will face whatever penalties are determined by the Watchdog and Judges' Committee.

III. Master of Hounds

A. Master of Hounds' Qualifications

1. All Master of Hounds are to be ARHA/NKC Gundog Division certified.
2. A person wanting to be a Master of Hounds must first be a licensed judge. The Master of Hounds test must be passed with a minimum score of 90%. The test material covers both Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack. If the test is passed, the license will enable the person to be Master of Hounds over both Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack. The test is NOT open book and will be administered by the Master of Hounds, Club President, or Club Secretary.

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B. Master of Hounds' Duties

1. The Master of Hounds will act as the final authority in the selection of hunting method, location of the hunting area, drawing the casts, and supervision of all functions of the hunt.
2. The Master of Hounds will assign judges using the judge's card to verify their license.

3. The Master of Hounds will resolve all protests arising from either the Bench or the Field.
4. The Master of Hounds will announce when entries are closed. Once the announcement of 'entries closed' is made, no entries for either bench or field will be accepted. **CLARIFICATION:** If there are a large number of entries, anyone already standing in line or measuring their hounds can enter their hounds for field and/or bench. Anyone arriving to the Clubhouse after the 'entries closed' announcement is made cannot enter their hounds.
5. The Master of Hounds will enforce all Gundog Division rules and policies.
6. The Master of Hounds will have a current set of Gundog Division rules at each hunt.
7. The Chairman of the Watchdog Committee will serve as the Master of Hounds for the U.S. Championship hunts. The Chairman of the Board will designate another Master of Hounds if: 1) the Watchdog Chairman is unable to attend or 2) if there is a protest regarding the Watchdog Chairman's hound.

IV. Field Marshals

A. Field Marshal Selection

1. The field judge will select a field marshal to assist with all braces/packs.
2. The judge can select more than one field marshal.

B. Field Marshal Duties

1. Field marshals will act as a guide for the judges and make sure the casts are taken to the judge in the field as they are called.
2. The field marshal will make sure that the hound the judge wants picked up, gets picked up, even if she/he has to do it.
3. The field marshal will make sure that when a hound is picked up, it is done quietly so as to not disturb the other running hounds.
4. The field marshal will make sure the handlers and/or spectators do not get in the judge's way.
5. The field marshal will make sure that the hounds are collared with different colored collars and that every hound in the field has a colored collar.

V. Breed Inspector

A. Breed Inspector Qualifications

1. The Breed Inspector will sign the ARHA/NKC registration form for all hounds needing to be registered with the ARHA/NKC on the day of the hunt. Hounds presented for registration must be presented for inspection to the Breed Inspector prior to the completion of the registration form.
The Breed Inspector will make the final decision as to whether a hound qualifies for ARHA/NKC registration as a pure-bred hound.
2. The Breed Inspector will be knowledgeable in ARHA/NKC Breed standards.
3. The Breed Inspector will have an official measuring stand available for use.

B. Breed Standards

1. The ARHA/NKC registers beagles, bassets, and harriers. However, each breed must hunt and compete against others of its own breed. (Example: beagles against beagles.)
2. The hound must be registered with the ARHA/NKC and can be registered on the same day of the hunt. . The fee to register a hound is \$15.00 and the check should be made payable to the ARHA/NKC.
3. In order to compete, the hound cannot be over 15" at the shoulder as measured by the Breed Inspector using an official measuring stand.
4. A hound that has measured over 15" at one hunt can compete at another hunt if it does not measure out there as well.

5. A neutered or spayed hound is permitted to compete in the field but cannot compete in the bench show.

C. Measuring Hounds

1. Hounds will be measured with an accurate, official measuring stand.
2. The measuring stand will be placed on the ground on a flat non-slippery surface.
3. When the hound is measured, it should be in a ‘natural’ posture position with its legs directly beneath it and the head held level. The shoulders should be directly under the bar. If the collar is in the way, remove it.
4. The bar should be dropped only once. A 2nd measurement can be taken if requested by the owner/handler and only if the 1st measurement was not read.
5. A Judge may drop the bar a 2nd time if she/he is not satisfied with the placement of the hound and only if the measurement was not read.
6. The measurement will stand once it is read by the Master of Hounds or by the Judge measuring the hound.

D. Breed Inspector Duties

1. Each Club will select a Breed Inspector for the hunt.
2. All hounds must be present at the staging area before they are taken to the field. A handler can challenge a hound’s size at this time only. The hound in question will be measured by the Breed Inspector and if the hound measures 15” or less at the shoulder, it will be allowed to compete. If the hound measures over 15” at the shoulder, it will be disqualified immediately.
3. A hound’s size must be challenged at the staging area. Once the hunt has started, no further challenges to the hound’s size can be made.

VI. Conducting the Hunt

A. Requirements

1. All Clubs must have a Master of Hounds, Breed Inspector, Field Marshal, and appropriate field and bench judges to conduct an ARHA/NKC sanctioned hunt.
2. At all hunts, checks are to be made payable to the Club hosting the hunt, therefore, each Club must have its own bank account.
3. Official ARHA/NKC forms are to be used as obtained from the ARHA/NKC home office or from the website (www.arha.com).

B. Collecting Entry Fees and Reporting Hunt Results

1. The Club Treasurer, or a person appointed by the Master of Hounds, will collect all money for entry fees and keep an accurate accounting of the money. The fees stated are per hounds entered regardless of whether the hound was entered only in the field or only on the bench. Any Club that does not pay the appropriate fees after each hunt to the ARHA/NKC and/or the Gundog Division will have the hunt results count as a fun hunt.

Make Check Payable to:	Sanctioned Club Hunt	State Hunt	Regional Hunt	U.S. Championship
ARHA/NKC	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.00
GUNDOG DIVISION	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.00

2. The Hunt Results must be turned in to ARHA/NKC within 30 days. If the hunt is during December, the Hunt Results must be turned in to ARHA/NKC within 10 days. A copy of the win slips are to be included with the Hunt Results. The complete name of the hound, NKC number and judges’ name is required on the Hunt Results.
3. Clubs can set their own field entry and bench show fees. A refund of the entry fee will not be permitted unless:
 - a. There is no field class or bench show class for a particular class or size.
 - b. A person, who is also a certified ARHA/NKC judge, drops his/her hound in order to assist the Club in judging the hunt.

4. All entry forms must be completed in **full**. The person taking the entry forms should make sure the following are completed **legibly**:
 - a. The hound's FULL registered name.
 - b. The hound's complete ARHA/NKC registration number or the word 'pending' if the hound was just registered.
 - c. The hound owner's complete name, address, and phone number.
 - d. Signature of the owner or owner representative.
 - e. The type of hunt, date of hunt, signature of the Club President or Secretary, and the place the hound won (if any).

C. Trophies and Prizes

1. If the hunt was a Gundog Brace format, each Club must present win slips to the top ten finishers in Open Class and the top winner for Champion and Grand Champion classes.
2. If the hunt was a Gundog Pack format, each Club must present win slips to the top five finishers of each class in Open Class and the top winner for each Champion and Grand Champion class.
3. For Club sanctioned hunts and State hunts: a Club can give out ribbons, plaques, or trophies to the top finishers in each class. More awards can be given out if desired.
4. For all Big 5 Hunts: a Club is required to provide a matching set of trophies for top finishers in each class. More awards can be given out if desired.
5. Awarding of prizes donated by dog food companies is left to the discretion of the Club.
6. No cash prizes may be awarded without the permission of the ARHA/NKC.
7. No Calcutta, shotguns, or other significant awards may be given.
8. Raffles are permitted.

VII. Assignment of Hounds to casts

A. Casts

1. No casts will be drawn until the Master of Hounds announces that the entries are closed.
2. Judges must be assigned PRIOR to hounds being drawn into casts.
3. Casts must be determined by random drawing (ex: bingo cages / numbers placed in a hat).
4. The Master of Hounds must draw or roll out the numbers.
5. The drawing of casts must be open to all handlers who paid an entry fee or the results are void.

B. Drawing Hounds into the Cast

1. The hound must run in the cast into which it is drawn.
2. Hounds cannot be rolled into another cast unless a judge has a hound put into his cast that belongs to himself or a member of his/her household. This hound is to be rolled.
3. If two or more hounds belonging to the same owner or handler draw out in the same cast, the hounds will run together. They cannot be rolled.
4. Separate drawings will be held for all classes (Open, Champion, Grand Champion).
5. Handlers should take great care in making sure their hound(s) run in the correct cast as drawn. A hound that runs in the wrong cast will be disqualified. The hound that should have run in that cast will also be disqualified. (Example: Hounds A and B run in Cast 3. Cast 3 should have hounds A and C. Both hounds B and C are disqualified.)

C. Rolling Hounds

1. When a hound's number is pulled and it is determined that the hound needs to be rolled, the hound's number will be held in plain sight until that judge's assignment is finished and casts are ready to be drawn for the next judge.
2. When the next group of hounds is ready to be drawn, the 'rolled' hound's number will be placed back into the pool to be redrawn at random.

VIII. Handlers

A. Definition / Responsibilities

1. A handler is anyone who takes a hound into the field for a hunt.
2. A handler may handle more than one hound at a hunt and/or in a cast.
3. A handler is not to encourage his hound or call his hound unless she/he is permitted to do so by the field judge.
4. A handler is to remain at a distance from the field judge and field marshal as determined by the judge.
5. After the hounds are released, a handler is not to touch his hound or another handlers' hound without the judge's permission unless:
 - a. instructed to do so by the judge
 - b. the hound(s) is in danger
 - c. in the event of a split on separate rabbits or a hound that has wandered away, the handler obtains permission to catch the hound and put it back into the cast
6. The handler is to remain quiet and will not direct any questions or comments to the judge unless requesting permission from the judge to handle a hound or request a time out. Permission will be granted at the judge's sole discretion.
7. The handler is not to comment on the running of the hounds or a hound's performance, regardless of whether those comments are positive or negative.
8. A handler is not to use any type of controlling device on a hound, unless instructed to do so by the field judge, including, but not limited to bells, whistles, whistling, hand signals, voice commands, hissing, shouting, and shock collars, etc...

B. Abusive Handler

1. Any handler found to be using alcohol or illegal drugs will have his/her hound disqualified and removed from the field. The handler will be asked to leave the premises. The handler will be reported to the Watchdog Committee.
2. First offense for any handler attempting to influence the judge in any manner will be a verbal warning. Second offense will cause the handler and his/her hound to be disqualified.
3. Any handler who uses abusive language, threatens, strikes, or intimidates a Judge, Master of Hounds, Field Marshal, another handler, or abuses his hound will be investigated by the Watchdog Committee and can be banned from all Gundog Division activity for a period of at least one year, regardless of whether a formal protest was filed or not.
4. If a handler is banned, or otherwise disciplined by the Watchdog Committee, his/her name will be reported to the ARHA/NKC. After one year, the handler can apply to the Chairman of the Board for reinstatement. This may or may not be granted. During the time the person is banned, none of his/ her hounds may compete-even if they are sold to another person.

IX. Spectators

A. Definition / Responsibilities

1. A spectator goes into the field to observe the hunt or a hound's performance.
2. A spectator is not considered part of the hunt. A spectator is strictly an observer.
3. A spectator cannot file a protest.
4. A spectator cannot be called in as a witness in a protest situation.
5. A spectator will not speak to a Field Judge in the field or attempt to assist the Field Judge in judging in the field.
6. A spectator will remain at the distance instructed by the Field Judge or Field Marshal.
7. A spectator may not touch, talk to, or handle a hound unless:
 - a. instructed to do so by the judge
 - b. the hound(s) is in danger
 - c. in the event of a split on separate rabbits or a hound that has wandered away, the spectator obtains permission to catch the hound and put it back into the cast

B. Abusive Spectator

1. Any spectator found to be using alcohol or illegal drugs will be asked to leave the premises. The spectator will be reported to the Watchdog Committee.

2. First offense for any spectator attempting to influence the judge in any manner will be a verbal warning. The second offense will cause the spectator to be removed from the field.
3. Any spectator who uses abusive language, threatens, strikes, or intimidates a Judge, Master of Hounds, Field Marshal, or another handler or spectator, will be investigated by the Watchdog Committee and can be banned from all Gundog Division activity for a period of at least one year, regardless of whether a formal protest was filed or not.
4. If a spectator is banned, or otherwise disciplined by the Watchdog Committee, his/her name will be reported to the ARHA/NKC. After one year, the spectator can apply to the Chairman of the Board for reinstatement. This may or may not be granted. During the time the person is banned, none of his/ her hounds may compete-even if they are sold to another person.

X. Running Rules and Procedures

A. Hounds

1. Hounds are to be marked with colored collars a minimum of 1" wide so the judges can identify the hound without the handler's assistance.
2. If the hound's 'regular' collar color is similar in color to the colored collar assigned, the 'regular' collar is to be removed so as to avoid any confusion, particularly when hounds are in a brushy area.
3. Hounds should be referred to by their collar color or field number.

B. Staging Area

1. The judge, handlers, and hounds will meet at a predetermined location before leaving the Club grounds. This is called the staging area.
2. If a hound is not present at the staging area, the missing hound will be disqualified.

C. Casting Site

1. All handlers and hounds must be present at the site where the hounds are released into the field. This is called the casting site.
2. If a hound/handler is missing, the Judge or Field Marshal will make one trip back to the staging area to search for the missing hound/handler.
3. If the missing hound/handler cannot be located, the hunt will continue and the missing hound will be disqualified.

D. Judging

1. Two judges per cast is desirable. However, the Master of Hounds can elect to use one judge.
2. Judges may use the same rabbit to judge as many casts as possible.
3. If a rabbit is spotted and that is the rabbit to be used for the cast, the judge can call all hounds to the track by using the term 'tally-ho.'
The term 'tally-ho' should not be used by a handler to call his/her hound since it can distract other hounds.
4. The judge's decision is final, except:
 - a. in the case of a rule violation. If there is a rule violation, the issue can be verbally protested to the Master of Hounds on the same day of the hunt within 15 minutes of returning to the Clubhouse or the staging area.
Information about protests can be found under the section titled **Watchdog Committee (page 5)**.
 - b. If returning to the Clubhouse is not expected, the Master of Hounds is required to go to the field with the casts to roll out further casts and settle protests.

E. Time Outs

1. Only the judge has the authority to call a time out. A handler or Field Marshal can ask the judge's permission for a time out.
2. During a time out, the Judge will tell the handlers to leash their hounds and no judging will take place.
3. Anytime a Judge has a handler leash a hound that has not been disqualified, a

- time out must be called. Once all the hounds have been leashed, the Judge may call ‘time in,’ cast the hounds, and resume hunting.
4. If a rabbit is jumped or struck during a time out, the judge can use this rabbit for the next cast.

F. Dead Track

1. After the hounds have come to a point of loss (breakdown), the Judge will announce to the handlers when he has determined that the track is dead and the chase has ended.
2. When the track is declared dead, the judge may request that the handlers leash their hounds to move to another area.
3. Once the track is declared dead and the hounds are leashed, all judging will cease and will not begin again until the judge announces that the hunt has started again and the hounds have been released.

XI. Running Traits

A. Desirable Traits – should be considered when placing hounds

1. Search (Hunt)

- a. A hound should search diligently in the most likely cover for a rabbit.
- b. A hound should never skirt cover because of discomfort.
- c. A hound that searches well may flush a rabbit from its setup (jump the rabbit). A hound that searches well should be rewarded over hounds that don’t search at all.

2. Handling

- a. A hound should work within a reasonable and controllable distance of its handler.
- b. A hound should come when called and should be easy to set on the line when a rabbit is jumped.

3. Line control

- a. Line control is simply accuracy in trailing. Speed is not an issue.
- b. The hound should pursue the rabbit as fast as the game and scenting conditions allow and still maintain line control and accuracy.

4. Desire

- a. Patience is a virtue. The hound should have the patience and desire to work out the hard checks and maintain the chase in pursuing the game.
- b. A hound should work the check from the inside out or in a circle fashion, thoroughly covering the check area until the line is recovered.
- c. The hound should gradually widen the check area until the line is rediscovered at which point forward progress should be made if the hound has truly found the line.
- d. A hound with desire will continue to search even when conditions are difficult or the game has played a difficult trick.

B. Undesirable Traits – definitions and penalties

1. Fighting: Hounds that are nipping, biting, scratching, barking or otherwise fighting in the field after the hounds have been released. The hound that starts the fight is to be disqualified. If it is not known which hound started the fighting, then all of the hounds involved in the fight should be disqualified and removed from the field.
2. Interfering with the hunt: A hound or several hounds that continually interrupt the hunt by distracting or literally obstructing another hound’s ability to hunt. This would include, but not be limited to, females in heat, a male hound that continually mounts other hounds (male or female), a young dog nipping at another hound. The hound(s) causing the interference should be disqualified and removed from the field.
3. Homemade or Manufactured Checks: A hound that is attempting to run more line faster than what scenting conditions allow. If this appears to be a pattern with a hound, the hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
4. Lack of Search (Hunt): A hound that fails to make any attempt to hunt during

- any ten minutes of any cast at any time during the hunt. The hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
5. Running Off Game: A hound that runs any four legged animal other than a rabbit, hare, or swamp rabbit.
 - a. Judges should make this call based more on fact than assumption.
 - b. Judges do not have to see the 'off game' in order to disqualify the hound(s).
 - c. Any doubt about running 'off game' should go in favor of the hound(s).
 - d. A hound that runs 'off game' is to be disqualified, caught as soon as possible, removed from the field, and its field number told to the Club Secretary for report to the ARHA/NKC.
 - e. A hound that runs 'off game' three times in a calendar year will be banned from competition for a period of one year.
 6. Quitting: A hound who, for one reason or another, literally quits running the line or searching for the game. The hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 7. Backtracking: A hound, who after running the line one way, turns around and runs the same line in the opposite direction a distance of 50 feet or more.
 - a. Judges should watch for the rabbit to double on the line.
 - b. A hound that harks in on a backtrack a short distance, realizes his mistake and turns to progress the line forward will not be penalized.
 - c. A hound that backtracks on a line for a distance of 50 feet or more should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 8. Charging: A hound that must have the front end at any and all costs. A hound may pass another hound and go to the front. However, if a hound does this and each time he gets to the front he causes a breakdown or check, he is considered to be charging. This hound should not be placed higher than other hounds who are earning their place in the pack.
 9. Overrunning the Line: A hound that continuously has the rabbit turned behind him and is over the front of the line by more than a few dog lengths. The hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 10. Skirting Cover: A hound that goes around thick cover due to discomfort. The hound that makes an attempt to go through cover but cannot fit should not be considered as skirting cover. A hound that skirts cover due to discomfort should be disqualified on the second offense and removed from the field.
 11. Running Mute: A hound that, in order to gain a competitive advantage, finds the line and does not audibly claim the line until he is a distance from the the rest of the pack. When this is done in the check area, it is called 'slipping the check.' The hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 12. Swinging / Gambling: A hound who comes into a check area and makes a wide loop around the point of loss rather than stopping and working the check from the inside out. This hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 13. Whipping / Weaving: A hound that runs on one side of the line and then runs the other side of the line in a 'back and forth' type of motion. Keep in mind windy conditions may produce the same type of effect. This hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 14. Cold Trailing / Ghost Trailing: This is a hound that barks on an old line without producing the game or making forward progress. Once the Judge is certain that this is a pattern with the hound, the hound should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 15. Loose Barking / Popping Off / Babbling: A hound that barks just to bark in the field or in the check area. The hound that continuously barks without producing game or making forward progress should be disqualified and removed from the field.
 16. Losing the Rabbit: In most situations hounds that lose their rabbit should

not be placed higher than other hounds who kept their rabbit until time was up or until they were caught. Hounds that lose more than one rabbit should not be placed.

XII. Bench Show: The Gundog Division follows ARHA/NKC Bench Show Rules and Procedures

Section 3: Rules that apply to Gundog Brace only

I. Conducting a Gundog Brace Hunt

A. Number of Hounds Required

1. Minimum of 10 Open Class hounds to conduct an Open Class hunt.
2. Minimum of 2 Champion hounds to conduct a Champion Class hunt.
3. Minimum of 2 Grand Champion hounds to conduct a Grand Champion Class hunt.

B. Casts

1. Hound will run in a cast of 2 hounds.
2. If there is a large number of entries, the Master of Hounds can elect to run the first series as trios (3 hounds to a cast).
3. Hounds will be placed into casts without discrimination as to size or sex.
4. With an odd number of entries, the last cast drawn will have 3 hounds.

C. Series for All Classes (Open, Champion, Grand Champion)

1. First Series

- a. Time limit: Up to 20 minutes from the time the hounds are released.
Exception: If a hound finds a rabbit within the last 5 minutes, the Judge has the option to extend the running time by 5 minutes in order to accurately assess the hounds.
- b. In first series, the Judge can bring back all one or none of the hounds.
- c. In the event that two judges cannot agree on the hound(s) to be brought back, all hounds in that brace/trio will be brought back.

2. Second and Succeeding Series – except Final Series

- a. Hounds will continue to run and be drawn according to the above rules for First Series until the hounds have been eliminated to up to 10-14 hounds.
- b. Time Limit: Up to 30 minutes from the time the hounds are released.
Exception: If a hound finds a rabbit within the last 5 minutes, the Judge has the option to extend the running time by 5 minutes in order to accurately assess the hounds.

3. Final Series

- a. The final series consists of up to 10-14 hounds.
- b. Six of the hounds will be placed 5th – 10th according to their performance.
- c. Judges can run as many series as needed in order to determine 5th – 10th.
- d. The same judge(s) must judge the final series so that placement of 5th – 10th can be made. Any hounds disqualified during this series are not to be replaced which means it is possible a Club will not actually have a hound for all places.
- e. The Judge(s) of the final series of up to 10-14 hounds will select the top four hounds for the final round.
- f. Time Limit: Up to 30 minutes from the time the hounds are released. Exception: If a hound finds a rabbit within the last 5 minutes, the Judge has the option to extend the running time by 5 minutes in order to accurately assess the hounds.

4. Final Round

- a. The final round is the top 4 hounds from the final series. Any hounds disqualified during this series are not to be replaced which means it is possible a Club will not actually have a hound for all places.
- b. If necessary, the Judge(s) for the final round can be replaced if a judge has a hound in the final round or a judge asks to be relieved after judging the final series.
- c. The final round of 4 hounds are to be shot over while pursuing game. The shot used must be from a starter pistol that shoots blanks. Any hound

that appears gun-shy should be disqualified and immediately removed from the field. **EXCEPTION:** Champions and Grand Champions do not need to be shot over.

- d. The Judge(s) can determine the outcome of the final round in one of 3 ways:
 1. The hounds will be drawn into two braces of two hounds each. The judge(s) can select the best hound of each brace (brace winner) and run the brace winners against each other for 1st and 2nd place. The other two hounds would place 3rd and 4th.
 2. The judge(s) can select the best two hounds of the final four and bring them back to compete against each other for 1st and 2nd. The other two hounds would place 3rd and 4th.
 3. If one brace has an exceptionally good run, and the judge(s) are certain they can place the hounds 1st – 4th with confidence, they have the option to do so and end the trial.
- e. Time Limit: Up to 30 minutes from the time the hounds are released.
Exception: If a hound finds a rabbit in the last 5 minutes, the Judge has the option to extend the running time by 5 minutes in order to accurately assess the hounds.

II. Rabbit Champion

A. Qualifications for Rabbit Champion

1. To qualify for Rabbit Champion, a hound must place 1st in at least one sanctioned trial and earns a total of 250 points.
2. Points are awarded as follows:

PLACE	# OF POINTS
1 ST	100
2 ND	75
3 RD	50
4 TH	40
5 TH	30

PLACE	# OF POINTS
6 TH	25
7 TH	20
8 TH	15
9 TH	10
10 TH	5

3. Once a hound has earned the necessary points to become a Rabbit Champion, the owner of the hound needs to complete a Rabbit Champion application and submit it with copies of the win slips to the ARHA/NKC home office in Tennessee. If the owner wants a picture of his hound printed in the Rabbit Hunter magazine, a check for \$10.00, payable to ARHA/NKC, should be included with the application along with a picture of the owner and hound.
4. A hound must move up from Open Class to Champion Class by December 31st of the same year that the Rabbit Champion points were earned.

III. Grand Rabbit Champion

A. Qualifications for Grand Rabbit Champion

1. To qualify as a Gundog Brace Grand Rabbit Champion, a hound must have at least FOUR 1st place wins in the Champion Class competition in sanctioned hunts. One of the FOUR wins must be at a State or Big 5 hunt.
2. A hound may also qualify as a Grand Rabbit Champion by having THREE 1st place wins at a sanctioned hunt in the Champion Class and ONE 1st place win at the U.S. Championship.
3. Once a hound has earned the necessary points to become a Grand Rabbit Champion, the owner of the hound needs to complete a Grand Rabbit Champion application and submit it with copies of the win slips to the ARHA/NKC home office in Tennessee. If the owner wants a picture of his hound printed in the Rabbit Hunter magazine, a check for \$10.00, payable to ARHA/NKC, should be included with the application along with a picture of the owner and hound.
4. A hound must move up from Champion Class to Grand Champion Class by December 31st of the same year that the Grand Rabbit Champion points were earned.

IV. Hound of the Year

- A. Hound of the Year will run from January 1st through December 31st of each year and will be tallied on a per class basis (Open Class, Champion Class, Grand Champion Class).
- B. Points earned at any Gundog Brace sanctioned hunt will be considered for Hound of the Year scoring.
- C. The President of the ARHA/NKC will keep the rankings and standings for the Hound of the Year. His office, based upon recommendations of his office and the sponsor issuing the awards, will handle all awards and monetary compensation.

Section 4: Rules that apply to Gundog Pack Only

I. Pre-measure

- A. All hounds entered into a Gundog Pack sanctioned hunt will be pre-measured to determine which class they will compete in.
- B. Measuring hounds will be conducted in the manner described in Section #2 - General Gundog Division Rules that apply to Gundog Brace and Gundog Pack, under the heading 'Measuring Hounds' on page 13.

II. Size Lock-In Cards

- A. When a hound of 18 months or older is measured, and the measurement is to the owner's satisfaction, she/he can pay an \$8.00 fee, payable to the ARHA/NKC and obtain a permanent measurement card.
- B. The \$8.00 fee must be paid on the date of the hunt that the hound was measured.
- C. The owner will receive a permanent measurement card from the ARHA/NKC and the hound will not have to be premeasured at future hunts.

CLARIFICATION: Although a hound has a size 'lock-in' card, the card is valid for Gundog Pack only. If the hound's size is challenged at a Gundog Brace sanctioned hunt, the hound will have to be measured.

III. Conducting a Gundog Pack Hunt

A. Number of Hounds Required

1. Open Class: There is a total of 4 Open Class Sizes: 13" Males, 15" Males, 13" Females, and 15" Females. There must be a minimum of two hounds per class size in order to run that class size.
2. Champion Class: There is a total of 2 Champion Class Sizes: 13" Male and Female Combined and 15" Male and Female Combined. There must be a minimum of two hounds per class size in order to run that class size.
3. Grand Champion Class: There is a total of 2 Grand Champion Class Sizes: 13" Male and Female Combined and 15" Male and Female Combined. There must be a minimum of two hounds per class size in order to run that class size.

B. Casts

1. Hounds will be cast according to size and sex, with the exception of the Champion and Grand Champion class. A Judge can bring back any number of hounds for consideration unless the hound has been disqualified for an undesirable trait or for other reasons.
2. Separate drawings will be held for each Class (Open, Champion, Grand) and for each size (13", 15" etc...)
3. In the event a Class has a minimum number of hounds entered, this Class will run as a winner's pack.
4. Each cast is to be made up of a minimum of 2 hounds and a maximum of 5 hounds.
5. Hounds will continue to be drawn out and run in casts of two to five hounds until the hounds have been eliminated down to a winner's pack of up to 7 hounds.
6. There will be a maximum of 7 hounds in the winner's pack for each class size.

Clarification: If a class size has a total entry of 7 hounds, all 7 hounds will run as a winner's pack.

C. Series for All Classes (Open, Champion, Grand Champion)

1. First Series

- a. Time limit: Up to 30 minutes after the rabbit has been found.
- b. There is no time limit on any class size to find a rabbit.

2. Second and Succeeding Series – except Final Series

- a. Hounds will continue to run and be drawn according to the above rules for First Series until class sizes have been eliminated to a winner's pack of up to 7 hounds.
- b. Time Limit: There is no time limit on finding a rabbit or on running 2nd series and all succeeding series.

3. Final Series / Winner's Pack

- a. The final series is comprised of the winner's packs which is a maximum of up to 7 hounds per class size.
- b. Time limit: There is no time limit on finding a rabbit or on running the winner's packs.
- c. In the winner's pack:
 - 1. Hounds will be picked up for poor performance or undesirable traits first.
 - 2. The first hound picked up will be 7th, the second hound picked up is 6th and so on. The Judge(s) can pick up hounds as they see necessary.
 - 3. The Judge(s) can place hounds at any time if they can determine the best running hounds in the pack and the order that they should place.
 - 4. In the winner's pack, any hound disqualified for running off game will not be replaced by another hound, therefore, it is possible that a Club may not award all places.
 - 5. The Judge(s) will shoot over the hounds in the winner's pack for Open Class. The Judge(s) will shoot over the hounds as they pursue game using a starter pistol that shoots blanks. A judge has the option to shoot twice over the hounds. Any hound that appears gun-shy should be disqualified and immediately removed from the field. **EXCEPTION:** Champions and Grand Champions do not need to be shot over.

IV. Rabbit Champion

A. Qualifications for Rabbit Champion

- 1. To qualify for Gundog Pack Rabbit Champion, a hound must place 1st in at least two sanctioned trials and earn a total of 150 points.
- 2. Points in all Open Class sizes are awarded as follows:

PLACE	# OF POINTS
1 ST	50
2 ND	40
3 RD	30
4 TH	20
5 TH	10

- 3. Once a hound has earned the necessary points to become a Rabbit Champion, the owner of the hound needs to complete a Rabbit Champion application and submit it with copies of the win slips to the ARHA/NKC home office in Tennessee. If the owner wants a picture of his hound printed in the Rabbit Hunter magazine, a check for \$10.00, payable to ARHA/NKC, should be included with the application along with a picture of the owner and hound.
- 4. A hound must move up from Open Class to Champion Class by December 31st of the same year that the Rabbit Champion points were earned.

V. Grand Rabbit Champion

A. Qualifications for Grand Rabbit Champion

- 1. To qualify as a Gundog Pack Grand Rabbit Champion, a hound must have

at least THREE 1st place wins in the Champion Class competition in sanctioned hunts.

2. No more than TWO 1st place wins can come from the same Club.
3. Once a hound has earned the necessary points to become a Grand Rabbit Champion, the owner of the hound needs to complete a Grand Rabbit Champion application and submit it with copies of the win slips to the ARHA/NKC home office in Tennessee. If the owner wants a picture of his hound printed in the Rabbit Hunter magazine, a check for \$10.00, payable to ARHA/NKC, should be included with the application along with a picture of the owner and hound.
4. A hound must move up from Champion Class to Grand Champion Class by December 31st of the same year that the Grand Rabbit Champion points were earned.

V. Hound of the Year

- A. Hound of the Year will run from January 1st through December 31st of each year and will be tallied on a per class and size basis (Open Class – all sizes, Champion Class – both sizes, and Grand Champion Class – both sizes).
- B. Points earned at any Gundog Pack sanctioned hunt will be considered for Hound of the Year scoring.
- C. The President of the ARHA/NKC will keep the rankings and standings for the Hound of the Year. His office, based upon recommendations of his office and the sponsor issuing the awards, will handle all awards and monetary compensation.