

NKC Squirrel Hunt Honor Rules – September 1st 2023

The new rule under scoring of minus points for babbling dogs has been removed until further clarification can be made and the penalty for releasing a leash locked dog had been clarified.

NKC rules are to be used at all NKC sanctioned Squirrel Hunts!

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a) Club must state when the scheduling hunt if the hunt is open to All NKC registered dogs or if the hunt will be breed specific such as Cur and Feist type dogs only or a specific breed of dog such as Stephens Cur, Leopard Cur, etc. Club must specify when scheduling if a hunt is a special titled hunt (State, World, etc.) where all dogs compete for same title.
- b) Club shall post deadlines and furnish hunting or non-hunting judges.
- c) Casts shall consist of 3 dogs whenever possible. 2 dog cast to be used when necessary. Casts are drawn after close of entries.
- d) Senior citizens (55 or older) or physically handicapped may hunt together by dog's weight class whenever possible.
- e) Casts for youths (17 & under) and Ladies only allowed if host the club supplies an adult non-hunting judge.
- f) A multiple number of dogs entered by one owner or kennel will not be drawn in same cast whenever possible.
- g) Dogs will hunt in following weight classes: 1st 25 lbs. and under, 2nd 26 to 40 lbs., 3rd 41 lbs. and over. When above classes are not possible, dogs will hunt in another weight class that will be left to the discretion of the Master of Hounds. Dogs are subjected to be weighed prior to the start of each hunt. If the hunt is a State, World or titled hunt, all dogs may be drawn out together regardless of weight whenever possible, if there are 30 or more dogs entered in hunt that are drawn out together there will be 3-1st places and 3-champion wins awarded.
- h) Clubs may choose to award trophies, cash, etc.
- i) Entries will not be accepted after the deadline, unless waiting in line when deadline expires.
- j) If the club uses a Master of Hounds who wishes to hunt or has a dog in hunt, prior to the dogs being cast the club must form a Master of Hound committee (3 or more persons). There must be a unanimous vote by all registered hunters approving committee or the master of hounds cannot hunt or have dog in hunt.
- k) A dog must have plus points to win cast in regular hunt; however, in an elimination style hunt if a cast comes in with no plus points in the initial rounds, the dog with the highest circle points will advance to the next round. If in the following round the dogs with circle points do not have plus points or come in with dead casts, the winner of the hunt will be decided by the previous cast with plus points. The final round cast can only be won with plus points. Dog must have plus points to win hunt, with cast winners placing first.
- l) Cell phones may used for emergency purposes only. Anyone caught using a cell phone for non-emergency use will be disqualified from hunt and possible ban from future NKC events
- m) Hand held tracking systems may be carried and used during hunts including cell phone operated devices (Dogtra & Download training apps included). No training collars, dummy trainers, devices capable of stimulation or tone or altered collars may be used at any time. Inspections of collars should take place by the cast majority or non-hunting judge prior to starting the hunt. Anyone found to be using their tracking device to tree their dog will be scratched after a cast vote, or by a non-hunting judge. If a handler deems their dog to be in danger, they may ask for a cast vote for a time out after all dogs are treed or handled. If a majority is not reached the handler may withdraw then handle the dog due to safety concerns. If the handler has not returned to cast with the dog within the 30-minutes the dog will be scratched. Only 1 time out will be allowed per dog during the hunt for emergency purposes. Violation of these rules may result in disciplinary actions which will result in a band from competing in NKC sanctioned events.
- n) Lazer pointers and thermal devised may be used after tree is closed to locate squirrel. If a device is used, any findings from using device must be shared by all participants on the cast. This is to prevent one person from have an unfair advantage. If owner of devise isn't willing to allow other participants to share in the results of using the devise, the devise will not be allowed to be used on cast.
- o) 1 spectator per hunter for a total of 3 spectators will be allowed go with a cast. They cannot comment, make

suggestions or interfere with hunt; if they do, they must leave the cast.

- p) All club hunts shall be either a 2- or 3-hour hunt and should be posted. The only exception is for an elimination style hunt where the first round will be 90 minutes and all following rounds will be 1 hour. All hunting rounds will have a deadline given and will be written on the scorecard.
- q) A non-hunting individual may broadcast a play by play back to club house on the final round only of a hunt.

II. JUDGE AND HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) The Judge must keep cast together. Anyone found trying to distance themselves from Judge or cast to hunt from any type of electronic device will be scratched from hunt.
- b) The Judge must score dogs in the order they are declared treed. Hunting judge must tie his dog, if declared treed, and score dogs.
- c) The Judge should arrive at tree first.
- d) It is the handler's responsibility to inform the Judge of his dog's abnormal behavior.
- e) It is the responsibility of each handler to check for correctness before signing the scorecard.
- f) It is the responsibility of owner or handler to notify the entry taker of multiple entries.

III. SCORING OF PLUS POINTS

- a) Tree points awarded shall be: 1st 125, 2nd 50, 3rd 25.
- b) The Majority of the cast or non-hunting judge must see the squirrel (2 people in either a 2 or 3-dog cast.)
- c) Dogs declared treed may receive plus points if squirrel is seen timbering or on the ground. Even if squirrel goes into den, etc.
- d) When dog(s) are declared treed cast may move at a moderate pace close enough to see dogs working, but must wait 2 minutes after dogs are declared treed, unless all dogs are declared treed or hunt time expires before going to the tree. After 2 minutes tree is closed to other dogs. Dogs coming into declared tree after tree is closed must be leashed so not to interfere with treed dogs.
- e) Dogs will be considered leashed locked if all dogs on the cast are declared treed at the same time. If one dog is still hunting at large, dogs are not leashed locked and can be turned loose from leash to return to hunting. Penalty for turning dog loose while being leashed locked will result in -125(1st tree points).
- f) Squirrel must be seen in declared tree or tree that squirrel could have timbered to. Distance not to exceed 60 measurable feet from base of declared tree.
- g) 5 Minutes allotted to search tree even when hunt time has expired.
- h) Handler can tree their own dog at their own discretion, however if handler chooses not to tree dog to hold dog back from advancing, dog will be minused.
- i) Spilt trees awarded when dogs are declared treed; on separate trees 60 measurable feet from base of tree apart or when open space is large enough between trees so squirrel could not have timbered.
- j) If squirrel is caught, and not declared treed before, no points will be awarded.
- k) A dog must bark before it can be declared treed.
- l) Clapping, vine pulling and shaking is allowed ONLY after the tree is closed.

IV. SCORING OF MINUS POINTS

- a) When dog declared treed leaves tree before cast arrives and ties dog.
- b) When dog(s) are declared treed one dog must bark each 2 minutes until cast arrives within sight of the dogs.
- c) When dog is declared treed on a tree, that obviously contains no squirrel within 60 measurable feet of the tree or that squirrel could not have timbered from.
- d) If declared treed dog leaves tree and/ or quits hunting then goes back to same tree while tree is open the dog can re-treed. Dog will be minused for first points and then at place where it is called treed the second time.
- e) When approaching a closed tree, all dogs must show active treeing within 60 feet of the base of tree. If a dog isn't showing active treeing a 15 second rule may invoked meaning the dog has 15 seconds from that point to show active treeing or be given minus points that will be determined by the treed placement of dog.

V. SCORING OF CIRCLE POINTS

- a) When a dog is declared treed on a den, hole, or other tree where squirrel may be hiding.
- b) When dog(s) returns to previously scored tree and can be seen by the majority of cast or non-hunting judge, go to tree and lead dogs away. If points are recorded draw a line through the points.

VI. DOG (S) SHALL BE SCRATCHED

- a) If dog fails to hunt during any consecutive 45-minute period.

- b) If seen by non-hunting judge or majority of cast chasing domestic animals (first offense).
- c) If dog interferes with other dogs by growling, fighting, face barking, smelling females, or any other way.
- d) If dog becomes lost and delays cast for 1 hour (while timeout is called).
- e) If handler encourages, discourages or hits his dog. (This will be strictly enforced.)
- f) If dog has accumulated 450 minus points.
- g) If handler is drinking alcohol, taking non prescribed/illegal drugs or abusive in any way.
- h) If handler, owner or spectator conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- i) If scorecard is returned after deadline.
- j) If cast fails to hunt the full 2 or 3 hours as advertised by club.
- k) If dog is seen by majority of cast or non-hunting judge running game other than tree game (second offense).
- l) No female dog will be allowed to hunt if dog is in any cycle of heat.

VII. OFF GAME - No dog is to receive plus or minus points for treeing, holing, or catching off game such as raccoon, cat, opossum, ground hog, chipmunk etc. (normally classed as tree game). Just draw a line through score if any recorded. Flying squirrels are treated as a squirrel but they must be seen to be counted.

VIII. SCORE CARDS

- a) Should be completed and signed in woods. If there is a question of a judge's decision, place a "?" on the scorecard.
- b) Protests must be made within 20 minutes after cast reaches clubhouse, **The Master of Hound/Master of Hounds Committee has the final decision on any protest at a hunt.**

IX. TIES SHALL BE BROKEN IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Dog with least minus points; Dog with most plus first trees; Dog with most circle points; If there is still a tie, the Master of Hound's will toss a coin with the handler calling.

X. CHEATING – If a Club learns cheating has occurred all dogs involved will be scratched and no points given. The NKC must be notified of this action.

XI. CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS:

CHAMPION: To qualify as Squirrel Champion, a dog must have 100 points with a first place. Points awarded are: 1st-40, 2nd-35, 3rd-30, 4th-25, 5th-20, 6th-& 7th-15, 8th & 9th-10, 10th-5. Dog must have plus points to be a cast winner and to receive champion points. Cast winners place first then all other dogs with plus points to place.

GRAND CHAMPION: To qualify as a Grand Squirrel Champion, a dog must win five (5) champion hunts with plus points. Only one dog is given a champion win per hunt. (Unless the hunt is a State or Special Title Hunt, 30 or more entries and all dogs hunt together) If only one champion dog is entered, the club must furnish a non-hunting judge and the dog must have the highest overall score over the open class with plus points.

SUPER GRAND CHAMPION: To qualify as a Super Grand Squirrel Champion, a dog must have eight (8) Grand Champion Hunt wins with plus points. To receive a Super Grand Champion win, the dog must hunt with other squirrel grand champions or be the highest scoring, plus points, cast winner of all dogs entered.

XII. HUNTING DENIED – The Club has the authority to refuse entry of any dog without current NKC paperwork or if dog does not meet the breed standard for the breed they are registered as. Any dog, owner, or handler that has caused trouble at a previous hunt. Any handler or owner who physically or verbally abuses any person associated with the hunt, or dogs that have been reported for fighting 3 times will be barred from all NKC events for a period of 1 year to life. The Club must send a report to NKC office within 10 days.

XIII. ELIGIBLE ENTRIES – Any NKC registered dog may hunt unless the dog, owner or handler had been barred for previous misconduct. Dogs that are not NKC registered, must be registered at the hunt to participate in the hunt and receive championship points.

XIV. XVII. FILING REPORTS: Hunt Reports must be mailed to NKC within 10 working days. After 10 days a \$10.00 penalty is assessed.

XV. DUAL SANTIONED EVENTS: No other dog events licensed by other registries may be held the same day or weekend NKC licensed hunts or events are scheduled, except hunts or events by the Breed Association of a single breed. Clubs violating this rule may forfeit the right to sponsor any NKC events at the discretion of NKC. **Two sanctioned hunts cannot be conducted the same time.**