

American Hunting Basset Association

Rules, Policies, and Procedures

January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016

All rules, policies, and procedures listed in this document have been established by the AHBA Executive Board and the AHBA Board of Directors and are in effect from January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2016, unless revised by the AHBA Board of Directors.

It is the goal of the American Hunting Basset Association to promote quality Basset hounds that will be exactly the type of dog that you would select to take hunting. It is our intention that all AHBA clubs will conduct competition events in a uniform manner. More importantly, competition events shall remain a family fun event that is free from dissent and preferential treatment for any person or group.

Article I. Organizational Rules

Section 1.01 ALL AHBA CHARTERED CLUBS

- (a) Chartered AHBA clubs are to hold their elections by December of each year. An officer update form is to be sent to the AHBA office by January 1st, listing names, addresses, and phone numbers of all officers.
- (b) A new club must demonstrate to the satisfaction of 2/3 majority of the Executive Board, with a quorum of at least 6 members, that the club is capable of putting on a sanctioned AHBA hunt. **(Note: AHBA recommends that each club have at least 5 members consisting of two officers (President and Secretary/Treasurer) and 3 Board of Director members.)** . It is required that the club have access to a number of field judges and a bench judge, Master of Hounds, and a Breed Inspector at a minimum in order to put on a sanctioned hunt.
- (c) New clubs, chartered after January 1st, must comply with (a) through (c) before they conduct their first AHBA sanctioned competition.
- (d) If clubs fail to comply with rules (a) and (b), the AHBA Chairman will cancel the clubs hunts and/or cancel their charters.
- (e) Existing clubs or organizations joining as a chartered member club do not have to comply with section (c).
- (f) All AHBA hunts must be held on Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays, (but not Christmas or Easter).
Exception: The AHBA Chairman may schedule the World Hunt on a weekday.

Section 1.02 AHBA OFFICERS

(a) AHBA Chairman and Duties

- (i) The AHBA Chairman serves as an ex-officio member of all AHBA committees.
- (ii) The responsibility of the AHBA Chairman 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.

- (iii) After the election of the Watchdog Committee, or other elected committees, it shall be the duty of the AHBA Chairman to appoint (1) member to head those committees.
- (iv) The AHBA Chairman shall conduct all Board of Director Meetings and Executive Board meetings.
- (v) The AHBA Chairman shall assist all AHBA representatives in establishing new clubs and assisting existing clubs as needed. When possible, she/he shall attend State hunts and Big 6 Hunts as an ambassador of the AHBA.
- (vi) Concerning all committees and chairmen appointed by the AHBA Chairman, he/she has the authority to remove from office any of his/her appointees if he/she feels they are not fulfilling their duties in a responsible way. The AHBA Chairman shall give his/her reasons for removing chairmen or committee members in writing to the Executive Board.
- (vii) The AHBA Chairman has the responsibility to assign host clubs for the Big 6 hunts (including the World Hunt) and the State hunts.
- (viii) The AHBA Chairman will review the geographical boundaries for regions annually and make whatever changes as may be necessary.
- (ix) The AHBA Chairman shall receive a stipend from the AHBA Special Fund in the amount of \$200 per year.

(b) VICE CHAIRMAN and Duties

- (i) The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman as needed.
- (ii) The Vice Chairman assumes the authority and responsibility of the Chairman in his absence at any AHBA meeting or function.

(c) SECRETARY and Duties

- (i) The Secretary shall keep an official record of all proceedings at the Board of Directors and Executive Board meetings and shall publish minutes of these meetings.
- (ii) The Secretary shall prepare and hold the official, current copy of the AHBA Rules, Policies, and Procedures.
- (iii) The Secretary shall create and maintain an organizational chart showing all officers, committees, and members, showing line of reporting responsibility from the AHBA Chairman thru individual Club Presidents.
- (iv) It is the responsibility of the Secretary to keep Club Presidents informed concerning action of the Board of Directors, the Executive Board, and the Watchdog Committee.
- (v) Assist the AHBA State Representatives in establishing new clubs and in conducting judge training seminars.
- (vi) Accept all formal protests from persons who have the right to protest in accordance with the by-laws and rules. A copy of the protest is to be sent to each of the following: all Watchdog Committee members, each alternate member of the Watchdog Committee, the AHBA Chairman, all members of the Executive Board, and the President of the club that is being protested.
- (vii) The Secretary shall submit and hold the record copy for the incorporation of the AHBA.
- (viii) The Secretary shall receive a stipend from the AHBA Special Fund in the amount of \$100 per year.

(d) TREASURER and Duties

- (i) Maintain and administer the AHBA fund.
- (ii) Collect all charter fees from clubs and individual memberships, also registration fees for hounds and kennels.
- (iii) Collect \$3.00 per hound for each entry in the AHBA sanctioned hunts.

- (iv) Collect money from conducting the World Hunt and other fundraisers.
- (v) Collect and/or refund the \$25.00 protest fees.
- (vi) Reimburse authorized persons for expenses incurred in their duties for the AHBA, including phone, postage, and office supply costs, also the annual stipends for officers.
- (vii) Pay other expenses as approved by the Executive Board.
- (viii) The Treasurer shall receive a stipend from the AHBA Special Fund in the amount of \$100 per year.

Section 1.03 AHBA BOARDS

(a) Executive Board

- (i) The AHBA Chairman
- (ii) The Vice Chairman
- (iii) The Secretary
- (iv) The Treasurer
- (v) One At-Large member to be elected by the Board of Directors for a two year term.
- (vi) All chairpersons of other committees, whether these committees are elected by the Board of Directors or appointed by the AHBA Chairman.

(b) Duties of the Executive Board

- (i) The Board shall work as an administrative board to carry out rules, policies, and procedures that have been established by the Board of Directors.
- (ii) The Board shall approve expenditures from the AHBA Fund.
- (iii) In the event that an elected AHBA 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.
- (iv) The Board shall assist all existing committees in carrying out their duties.
- (v) The Executive Board may make recommendations to the AHBA Chairman concerning the appointment of State Representatives.
- (vi) The Executive Board shall have the authority to impeach and/or prosecute officers as deemed necessary.

(c) Meetings of the Executive Board

- (i) The AHBA Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board. In his/her absence, the Vice Chairman shall conduct the meeting. In the absence of both of the Chairmen, the treasurer shall conduct the meeting.
- (ii) The AHBA Chairman shall call all meetings, but all members of the Executive Board must be notified of the meeting at least 10 days in advance.
- (iii) Normal decisions are made by consensus if it is evident that the 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 shall be held. This includes votes taken by phone, email, or mail.
- (iv) If a formal vote is taken on an item, a 2/3 majority vote is required with at least 6 members participating in any vote.

- (v) In the event that it is impractical to hold an Executive Board meeting, the AHBA Chairman may solicit a vote by phone calls, e-mail, or mail to the members of the Executive Board
- (vi) The Secretary shall keep an official record of all proceedings of the Board and shall provide copies of the minutes to all members of this Board.

(d) Board of Directors

- (i) Members of the Board of Directors
- (ii) All members of the Executive Board
- (iii) All State Representatives
- (iv) The presidents of all member clubs
- (v) 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 person who was the elected representative and this must be presented to the AHBA Chairman when there is a meeting of the Board. State Representatives do not have proxy vote rights.
- (vi) Duties of the Board of Directors
 - 1) The Board of Directors shall set all rules, policies, and procedures for the AHBA and the conduct of all AHBA competition events.
 - 2) There shall be at least one bi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors, however, the AHBA Chairman may call additional meetings if there is a need.
 - 3) The AHBA Chairman must notify each member of the Board of Directors, at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.
 - 4) At the bi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board shall elect the AHBA Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, At-Large Member, regular and alternate members of the Watchdog Committee, and members of all other committees.
 - 5) The term of office for all elected officers and elected committee members is two years.
 - 6) Changes to the AHBA Rules, Policies, and Procedures may be made only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors except at the Biannual Board of Directors Meeting at which all current "annual members" in attendance may vote on rule changes.

Section 1.04 AHBA Fund

- (a) This fund is made up of money from the following sources, allocated money from charter fees, membership fees, registration fees, \$25.00 protest fees if the protest is disallowed, and \$3.00 for each hound entered in Basset sanctioned competition and other money making activities or donations.
- (b) The Treasurer shall keep the accounting for this fund and shall make an itemized financial report in writing at each Board of Directors and Executive Board meeting.
- (c) The Treasurer shall pay the reasonable expenses incurred in the normal operation of this association. Expenses that the Treasurer does not think are reasonable, large expenses (over \$500) or expenses for special projects must be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 1.05 State Representatives and Duties

- (a) Represent their state as a public relations person.
- (b) Promote new clubs and work with Beagle clubs to establish Basset hunts at their clubs.
- (c) Help new clubs get started.
- (d) Serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 1.06 Committees

- (a) The AHBA Chairman shall appoint one elected member as a chairperson for each committee.

(b) Registry Committee

- (i) Maintain records of hound registration and transfer of ownership. All Bassets are to be individually registered. Litter registrations are not allowed.
- (ii) Collect fees of \$10 for registration or transfer of ownership of a hound. When ownership is transferred, a dog's name cannot be changed by the new owner. Names considered to be inappropriate or offensive will not be allowed. An owner may appeal to the Watchdog Committee for a final decision on a registered name.
- (iii) Maintain records of all hunts, shows, and each hound. This shall include each hound's field, show, and HOY points.
- (iv) Verify the status and issue certificates. Collect kennel registration fees of \$15.

(c) Watchdog Committee

- (i) Enforce the AHBA rules, policies, and procedures as they pertain to protest of rule infractions at sanctioned hunts.
- (ii) If the protest of the Master of Hounds decision concerns a specific cast of hounds involves the running rules, the protest must be made 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. In addition, judges or other hunt officials may protest rule infractions by handlers or spectators.
- (iii) The Master of Hounds is the final authority at the hunt. If a formal protest is made, it must be made in writing within 20 days of the hunt to the AHBA Secretary using the AHBA Protest form. The protest must state that this was an AHBA hunt, give the date of the hunt, the name of the club hosting the hunt, the name of the Master of Hounds and the rule the protestor believes was violated, and a short description of the situation that led to this formal protest.
- (iv) After a decision has been made by the Watchdog Committee, the chairman of this committee shall notify the AHBA Chairman. The AHBA Chairman will then inform all other members of the Executive Board.
- (v) The person making the protest must deposit a check or money order for \$25.00 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 AHBA Fund.
- (vi) The decisions of the Watchdog Committee are final and cannot be appealed.
- (vii) The club that is being protested against must be notified of the protest by the Secretary by sending the president of the club a copy of the protest.

- (viii) The Master of Hounds at the sanctioned hunt makes the final decision concerning protests made at the hunt. The Watchdog Committee only becomes involved in the event that the Master of Hound's decision is formally protested.
- (ix) Penalties that may be invoked by the Watchdog Committee include:
 - 1) The final decision of the Watchdog Committee may affect one hound, a class, or the entire hunt results may be nullified.
 - 2) If the Watchdog Committee finds a violation of the rules, the results of that hunt may be treated as a non-sanctioned hunt. Example: Club A conducts a sanctioned hunt and a person protest 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 sanction for the hunt has been removed and that the hounds that placed in the hunt shall not receive AHBA or Hound of the Year points.
 - 3) The Watchdog Committee has the authority to take any disciplinary action it feels is appropriate.
 - 4) Note that if a person is banned from AHBA competition for a year, or more, that person cannot serve as a member club officer nor can he/she serve on the Executive Board or any AHBA national committee without the approval of the AHBA Executive Board.
- (x) The Watchdog Committee is made up of 3 regular members and two alternate members. All members are elected by the Board of Directors at the bi-annual meeting.
- (xi) If a regular or alternate member of the Watchdog Committee is found to be in violation of the rules, he/she shall be relieved of his/her duties by the AHBA Chairman and that person shall never be permitted to again serve on the Watchdog Committee.
- (xii) When the Chairman of the Watchdog Committee receives a protest, or he/she has another matter that needs to be discussed with 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.
- (xiii) An alternate becomes a regular member of the Watchdog Committee if a regular member resigns, or a regular member is removed from the committee for disciplinary reasons. The Chairman of the Committee decides which alternate becomes a regular member under these circumstances. Also, a regular member shall be replaced if he/she has an interest in the protest (Master of Hounds, handler, owner, or relative, etc.)
- (xiv) A member of the Watchdog Committee, while attending a sanctioned 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 AHBA rules.
- (xv) The AHBA Chairman has the authority to request that the Watchdog Committee give an official interpretation of an AHBA rule if there is a concern about the meaning of the rule. The Watchdog Committee has the responsibility to give the interpretation as soon as possible so that this information may be passed on to the club president and other AHBA officials.
- (xvi) In the event that legal problems arise from AHBA competition, that are not resolved by the Watchdog Committee, these must be litigated and resolved in the Superior Court of the state in which the AHBA hold incorporation documents.

(d) Rules Committee

- (i) This committee shall be a standing committee that during the year collects recommendations for rule, policy, or procedure changes. This committee puts the suggested changes in proper order and presents them for discussion and vote to the Board of Directors at the bi-annual meeting.
- (ii) All paid annual members of the AHBA shall have one vote each for rules changes at the biannual Board of Directors Meeting.
- (iii) The Rules Committee shall have the responsibility to rewrite or correct mistakes to the judges' test, Master of Hounds test, Bench judges' test, and other tests to reflect rule changes that have been made by the Board of Directors.
- (iv) The newly elected Rules Committee shall have the responsibility to rewrite or correct the field and show rules and all tests to reflect rule changes voted in at the rules meeting. The revised rules and tests shall be submitted to the Executive Board by November 1 for final approval.

(e) AHBA Hall of Fame Committee

- (i) The duties of this committee are to receive nominations and to verify that each individual or hound has met the criteria set forth in these rules. Note: the applications for nomination are to be sent to the Committee Chairman and the AHBA Chairman.
- (ii) All hounds meeting the requirements as set forth in the criteria shall be inducted into the Hall of Fame on December 31, following the date in which the hound gained the points necessary to go into the Hall of Fame. The name of whoever owns the hound, as far as the AHBA records show at the AHBA office at that time, shall go on the Hall of Fame plaque. Once a hound has qualified to receive an AHBA Hall of Fame title it cannot be taken from him/her unless it is proved that the title was given illegally.
- (iii) To nominate a person for the Hall of Fame, or a hound as a competition hound or reproducer hound, send information concerning this hound to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee so it is received by him/her no later than January 31st, also send a copy to the AHBA Chairman.
- (iv) The Hall of Fame hounds will be honored at the time of the World Hunt. If no hound meets the requirements in a given year, then no hound will be inducted that year. A hound must be a Grand Rabbit Champion to be inducted into the Hall of Fame as a Competition Hound. A hound does not have to be alive to be bestowed this honor as long as it has met the criteria. Note that if the hound is owned by more than one person the points earned by the hound are divided by the number of people whose names appear on the AHBA registration for this hound or the number of people who are part owners of a kennel if the hound/s are listed under a kennel name.
- (v) The Hall of Fame honor is presented to an individual (not a group of people) who performed service to AHBA and AHBA clubs and/or has Bassets that have achieved certain accomplishments listed in this rule.
- (vi) Basset competitors shall be nominated by a person or persons involved in AHBA Basset competition. All individuals meeting the requirements as set forth in the criteria shall be inducted into the Basset Hall of Fame on December 31. These individuals will be honored at the Basset World Hunt. This shall be an annual induction. If no one meets the requirements in a given year, then no one will be inducted that year.
- (vii) A person can also get Hall of Fame points for starting a Basset club if he/she helps an existing Beagle club or other organizations start running Basset hunts.
- (viii) Conditions for starting a club:

- 1) Works with people interested in starting the club and answers questions about AHBA and how the hunts are conducted.
- 2) Verifies that there are adequate running grounds available.
- 3) Writes a report to the AHBA Chairman recommending them for a charter.
- 4) Continues to be supportive of the new club as an advisor.

(ix) AHBA HALL OF FAME

1) Cutoff date for applying for any division of the Hall of Fame is January 31 prior to the World Hunt. Verification will come from the Hall of Fame Committee.

2) Hall of Fame – Individual, 100 points needed

To total points, take the numbers of points shown and multiply it by the number of years the person has done this. Add up the person's points to get the total. Induction into the Hall of Fame will take place at the World Hunt.

| | | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 10 | Points | AHBA Chairman |
| 7.5 | Points | Secretary |
| 7.5 | Points | Treasurer |
| 7.5 | Points | Vice Chairman |
| 6 | Points | Chairman of the Watchdog Committee |
| 5 | Points | Member of the Watchdog Committee |
| 5 | Points | At-Large member of the Executive Board |
| 5 | Points | Owner of Hall of Fame Hound (name on plaque) |
| 3 | Points | Alternate member of Watchdog Committee |
| 3 | Points | Chairperson of an AHBA committee (other than Watchdog Committee) |
| 2 | Points | Active Licensed Basset Bench Judge |
| 1 | Point | Active Licensed Basset Field Judge |
| 2 | Points | Board of Directors member that participated in Board of Directors Meeting |
| 2 | Points | President and/or Secretary or Treasurer of a club that holds AHBA Basset Hunts |
| 2 | Points | Licensed Master of Hounds for Basset hunts |
| 5 | Points | Make Hound of the Year |
| 4 | Points | Make a Big 6 winner in the field |
| 2 | Points | Make a Big 6 winner on the bench |
| 3 | Points | Make a Grand Rabbit Champion |
| 2 | Points | Make a Bench Grand Champion |
| 2 | Points | Make a Rabbit Champion |
| 1 | Point | Make a Bench Champion |
| 1 | Point | AHBA Basset State Representative |
| 1 | Point | Any other member club officer |
| 1 | Point | Help start an AHBA club (see NOTE below) |

NOTE: To receive Hall of Fame points for starting a club, the AHBA member must have prior authorization from the AHBA Chairman to assist the new club. Normally it is the State Representative who is assigned this task, or applies for this task, and has the above mentioned approval.

3) **Hall of Fame Competition Hound, 50 points needed** (A hound shall receive points for each occurrence)

| | | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 10 | Points | Hound of the Year (High Point Hound of the Year or Runoff Hound of the Year Winner |
| 5 | Points | Reserve Hound of the Year (Either High Point Reserve or Run Off Reserve Winner |
| 10 | Points | First Place in a Big 6 Hunt |
| 5 | Points | Second Place in a Big 6 Hunt |
| 6 | Points | Winning Best of Show in a Big 6 Hunt (any class) |
| 5 | Points | First in a State Hunt |
| 2.5 | Points | Second in a State Hunt |
| 2 | Points | Best of Show in a State Hunt (any class) |
| 1 | Point | State Hunt Bench Winner |
| 5 | Points | Making Grand Rabbit Champion |
| 2.5 | Points | Making Rabbit Champion |
| 4 | Points | Making Show Grand Champion |
| 2 | Points | Making Show Champion |
| -10 | Points | Running off game after April 1, 2015 |

4) **Hall of Fame Reproducer, 150 points needed**

| | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 15 | Points | Each son/daughter that is High Point HOY or HOY Run-off Winner |
| 15 | Points | Each son/daughter that is inducted into the AHBA Hall of Fame |
| 10 | Points | Each son/daughter that is Reserve High Point HOY or Reserve HOY Run Off winner |
| 10 | Points | Each son/daughter that wins a Big 6 Hunt |
| 10 | Points | Each son/daughter that becomes a Grand Rabbit Champion |
| 5 | Points | Each son/daughter that becomes a Rabbit Champion |
| 3 | Points | Each son/daughter that becomes a Show Grand Champion |
| 2 | Points | Each son/daughter that wins a Big 6 Show |
| 1 | Point | Each son/daughter that wins a State Hunt Show |
| 2 | Points | Each son/daughter that becomes a Show Champion |

Note: A hound can only use 75 points from each son/daughter.

Note: A hound can only use 30 points from bench wins total, not per son/daughter.

(f) Public Relations Committee

- (i) Public Relations Committee is charged with building awareness of the AHBA, what we do and why it is important. The committee exists to build relationships with our sponsors and recruit new members in order to expand participation in Basset Hound field trials and hunting with Basset Hounds. This involves advertising, attending events (e.g. dog or hunting themed events), getting the message out through social media and any other practical means.

Article II. General Rules for the Conduct of AHBA Sanctioned Hunts

Section 2.01 Sanctioned Hunts

- (a) All sanctioned hunts must be approved by the AHBA Chairman.
- (b) No two hunts will be approved for the same day if they are within 200 miles. No club may schedule two hunts on the same date.
- (c) The club must apply for hunt sanctioning using the appropriate hunt request form, to the AHBA Chairman. It is recommended that the request be made at least 90 days before the hunt, and not later than 60 days before the hunt date. All hunts must be listed on the AHBA website at least 30 days prior to the hunt date.
- (d) The club hosting the hunt must fill out and mail the official Hunt Request form making sure that all information is filled out accurately.
- (e) All hounds entered in the hunt must be AHBA registered.
- (f) The hunt must be conducted under all AHBA rules, policies, and procedures. All clubs must obtain a permit or authorization from any local authority, if a permit is required. Clubs that fail to do this are liable and responsible to pay for citations that are received by the participants.
- (g) There must be a minimum of five Open Class hounds to conduct an Open Class AHBA sanctioned hunt. There must be a minimum of 3 Rabbit Champion hounds to conduct a Rabbit Champion hunt. There must be a minimum of 3 Grand Champion hounds to conduct a Grand Champion hunt. If there are not enough Open Class hounds, and you have enough Champions and/or Grand Champions these hunts may be held.

Section 2.02 Hunt Limitations

- (a) Each member club must hold at least one sanctioned AHBA hunt in a calendar year.
- (b) A club may not hold more than eight AHBA sanctioned hunts in a calendar year. This number includes State and Big 6 hunts.
 - (i) The Big 6 hunts are: East Regional, South Regional, Central Regional, West Regional, North Regional, and World Hunt.
- (c) Three of the Big 6 hunts are to be scheduled in the spring and 3 are to be scheduled in the fall or winter.
- (d) Judges at the World Hunt shall be paid for each cast they work.

- (e) The host club for the World Hunt shall work with the AHBA Chairman to put on the hunt.
- (f) Firearms, weapons, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs are banned during all AHBA sanctioned hunts, meetings, and official events. Note this refers to the use of these by participants or spectators.

Section 2.03 Field Judges

- (a) All judges must be licensed by AHBA.
- (b) A licensed judge is one who has studied the rules and passed the written judges' test with at least 85% correct. It is recommended that new judges work as assistants until they have enough confidence to be head judges.
- (c) Judges shall not judge his/her own hounds. Further, he/she shall not judge a hound that is owned by a member of his/her immediate family. Definition of immediate family: husband, wife, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, or spouses of any of the above. Exceptions: In extreme circumstances where everyone has a hound, or no licensed judges are available, and it is approved by the owners or handlers involved, and the Master of Hounds, a judge who is a hound owner in the cast or has a family member's hound in the cast, can judge the cast.
- (d) A club must provide at least one judge per cast but may elect to have more than one judge per cast. If more than one judge is used, one judge is designated as head judge and his/her scorebook shall be the official scorebook. If a judge has an assistant judge working with him/her, this assistant must be approved by the Master of Hounds.
- (e) The judge shall be responsible for making all calls in the field and recording scoring on a scorecard or scoring booklet.
- (f) The judge's decision in the field is final, however, a handler may appeal the judge's decision to the Master of Hounds.
- (g) Before the hounds are cast in the field, the judge shall talk to the handlers and spectators and tell them what they can and cannot do during the hunt.
- (h) 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.
- (i) In the event that a judge cannot finish a cast due to sickness or injury, timeout is called and the cast will return to the place of drawing to be re-assigned another judge by the Master of Hounds. The scouring that has previously been compiled and the time elapsed will remain in effect. The new judge will complete the remainder of the unfinished cast.
- (j) At any time during the cast, the judge may call a timeout and have the handlers leash their hounds (or let the hounds continue to run without scouring) until he/she is ready to continue judging.
- (k) The judge shall not have hounds released in the near proximity of any herd or farm animal.

Section 2.04 Bench Judge

- (a) All Bench Judges must be licensed by the AHBA.

- (b) A licensed Bench Judge is one who has studied the rules and passed the written judges' test with at least 85% correct. It is recommended that new judges work as assistants until they have enough confidence to be head judge.
- (c) The Bench judge shall be responsible for making all calls on the Bench and recording the scoring on a scorecard.

Section 2.05 Scorecard and Protests

- (a) At the end of the cast the judge shall total the scores and offer the scorecard to the handlers for their initials.
- (b) The handler may lodge a protest by not initialing the scorecard.
- (c) When the handlers initials the scorecard he/she forfeits his/her right to protest unless changes are made to the scoring after he/she signs the scorecard.
- (d) If a handler protests and does not sign the scorecard, the other handlers who agree with the judge's decision shall initial the scorecard.
- (e) If no protest is made by a handler, all handlers must sign the scorecard.
- (f) All protests 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 witnesses to explain or substantiate what happened. No spectators shall be called as witnesses.
- (g) The Master of Hounds' decision is final, with the exception of the appeal (*formal protest to the Watchdog Committee*). The appeal must be sent to the Secretary within 20 days of the date of the hunt.

Section 2.06 Master of Hounds

- (a) Master of Hounds must be a Licensed Field Judge and Bench Judge (but need not be active.)
- (b) The Master of Hounds must be licensed by the AHBA, elected by the club members or appointed by the club and must pass the Master of Hounds test with a score of 85% or better.
- (c) The Master of Hounds shall act as the final authority in the selection of methods of hunting, location of hunting areas, selection of casts 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 judges' decisions. He/she is also the final authority concerning protests involving bench shows.
- (d) The Master of Hounds must announce when entries are closed and no entries shall be accepted after this announcement has been made. The exception is for hounds that have been pre-entered in the hunt.
- (e) The Master of Hounds shall make the decision on whether it is too dark (or dangerous weather) to continue the hunt. Unfinished events shall be completed the next day or at another time determined by the Master of Hounds.

Section 2.07 Breed Inspector

- (a) Each club is to select a Breed Inspector for the hunt. This person is to be knowledgeable concerning Basset breed standards. The Breed Inspector must be licensed by the AHBA. The Breed Inspector must be a licensed Bench Show judge.
- (b) 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 the hound. 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 and such hound must be measured before advancing any further in the hunt.
- (c) 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.
- (d) The Breed Inspector makes the final decision as to whether the hound shall be allowed to hunt.
- (e) The Breed Inspector has the right to measure all hounds that are entered in the hunt and to disqualify any hound that, in his/her opinion, does not meet breed standards, or is over 15 inches in the shoulder.
- (f) The Breed Inspector must have an official measuring stand available for use.
- (g) The Breed Inspector shall determine whether a hound qualifies for AHBA registration. The Breed Inspector shall check AKC registration papers for hounds being register and write the AKC registration number on the AHBA registration form.
- (h) The club secretary shall issue a form signed by the Breed Inspector stating that said hound has been registered with AHBA at the club on that date. This form shall be filled out in duplicate. One shall be sent to AHBA for registration. The second is to be given to the dog's owner to be presented at subsequent hunts until the owner receives the official AHBA number. No hound shall be entered without an AHBA number or the above proof of registration.

Section 2.08 Breed Standards for AHBA Sanctioned Hunts.

- (a) The hounds must be registered with the AHBA.
- (b) The hound may not be more than 15 inches at the shoulder as measured by the Breed Inspector.
- (c) In order for a hound to be single registered with the AHBA it must be, to the best of the person/s registering the hound/s knowledge a full blood Basset Hound and must appear to be a full blood Basset Hound. Any AHBA Breed Inspector that is found knowingly registering a hound that is not full blood Basset will have his/her license revoked.

Section 2.09 Membership

- (a) Annual
 - (i) Good for all hunts in one calendar year. \$10.00
- (b) Day of Hunt
 - (i) Good for day of the hunt only. \$1.00

Article III. Conducting the Hunt

- (a) All clubs must have a Master of Hounds and a Breed Inspector to conduct an AHBA sanctioned hunt.
- (b) The club treasurer, or another person appointed by the club must collect all money for entry fees and keep an accurate accounting of this money. He/she shall forward to the AHBA office all of the money that is required by the AHBA for sanctioned hunts.
- (c) All clubs must accept pre-entries. To officially pre-enter a hound, the hound owner must contact, prior to the hunt deadline, the club president or secretary, or other designated person listed in the Hunt Schedule and provide this person with the name/s of the hound/s, class of the hound/s, and the AHBA number/s.
- (d) At least one owner of a hound entered in a hunt must be an AHBA member at the time of the hunt.
- (e) Cast

Note: The word 'casting' is used in two different ways. In section (3), it means that the hound's names (numbers) are drawn out as the hounds are divided into casts. In section (4), 'casting' means taking the hounds to the field to 'cast' them.

- (i) No casting shall be done until the Master of Hounds has announced that the entries have been closed.
- (ii) All handlers and their hounds must be present when the casts are drawn out. Only hounds present at the time are considered to be entries.
- (iii) There are two methods that can be used for placing judges with casts.
 - 1) Judges for each cast may be assigned and announced before the casts are drawn. If a judge's hound (or hound designated in Rule III.e.6), the judge may have this hound rolled into a different series (those hounds not going out first) if it is known which casts are being sent out first and second.
 - 2) Judges for each cast may be drawn out after the casts have been drawn out in any series.
 - 3) Casts shall be determined by random selection methods to insure that all hounds have equal opportunity to win the event. The casts may be formed by placing the names of the hounds, or the assigned numbers, in a container with a non-hunting person, or the Master of Hounds, drawing the casts from the container. A Bingo selection method may be used. A computer program designed to distribute the hounds into casts may also be used.
 - 4) Separate drawings shall be made for each class.
 - 5) Each cast is to be made up of 3 to 6 hounds, without discrimination made on the basis of sex or size. An exemption to this rule is the final cast where there may be two to 6 hounds.
 - 6) If an owner (not handler) has two or more of his/her hounds drawn out in the same cast he/she may elect to leave all hounds in the same cast or have the name and/or number of the second hound drawn placed back in the container and drawn out into another cast. This process is called 'rolling the hound.' In other words, the owner need have only one of his/her hounds in a cast. If the owner has two or more hounds drawn out in the last cast of any series and he/she wishes to roll the hound (or hounds if 3 are drawn in that cast), the hound that was drawn out last is moved to the next to last cast and the last hound in that cast is moved to the last cast. If this procedure results in another owner having two or more of his/her hounds in one cast, he/she may also have his/her hound rolled using this method.

Note: If it has been determined, before any hounds are drawn out, which casts will be in the first series and which will be in other series, an owner may request to have his/her second or third hound drawn out in the first series 'rolled ' to the next series. Hounds cannot be rolled back to the first series in this situation.

Note: An owner is defined as a person whose name is on the AHBA registration papers. This may be more than one person. The registration papers may list a kennel name as the owner, in this situation, the owner is defined as any person who is part owner of the kennel.

- 7) The hound must hunt in the cast into which he/she was drawn.
- 8) The drawing of casts must be open to all handlers or the results are void.

(iv) Identification of Hounds in the Hunt

- 1) All hounds must be marked in such a way that the judge can identify each hound. This could be natural coloration or on inch colored collars.

(v) Awards

- 1) Each club that hosts a sanctioned club hunt must present a minimum of five awards to the top five finishers in the Open Class, but may present as many as they see fit.
- 2) At a sanctioned club hunt two awards must be awarded in the Rabbit Champion Class and one award in the Grand Rabbit Champion Class, but a club may award more if they see fit.
- 3) At a sanctioned club hunt, in the Bench Show, one award must be given for Best of Show in Open, Champion, and Grand Champion Classes. In the Open Class show Best Male, Best Female, and Best Puppy awards must be given.
- 4) In Big 6 and State hunts the following awards must be given:
 - a) **For the Field**
 - i) Open Field, 20 awards
 - ii) Champion Field, 5 awards
 - iii) Grand Champion Field, 5 awards
 - b) **For Open Bench**
 - i) Best of Show, Best Male, Best Female, Best Puppy, Second Male, Second Female, and Second Puppy
 - c) **For Champion Bench**
 - i) Best of Show
 - d) **For Grand Champion Bench**
 - i) Best of Show
- 5) The awarding of prizes that are donated by dog food companies is left up to the discretion of the host club.
- 6) No cash prizes may be awarded without the permission of the AHBA.
- 7) No Calcutta, shotguns, or other significant awards may be given.
- 8) AHBA does not prohibit raffles at hunts.

Article IV. Reporting Hunt Results to the AHBA

- 1) The host club shall issue the official AHBA winner 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 Classes. Certificates shall also be issued based on the Bench Show rules.
- 2) A Club representative must fill out the Hunt Report form completely. Hunt Report form and a check or money order for \$3.00 per hound entered in the field for AHBA must be mailed to the AHBA office within 30 days of the hunt.
- 3) The host club must keep a copy of the club's hunt results for a period of 3 months after the hunt or until the hunt results have been posted on the AHBA website.
- 4) If these procedures are not followed the results of the hunt may be void.

Section 4.02 AHBA BASSET RUNNING RULES AND SCORING PROCEDURES

- (a) All points are plus or minus points.
- (b) A rabbit is defined as a cottontail, hares, snowshoe hare, or swamp rabbit.
- (c) If it is determined by the judge that the hounds are running a rabbit, other than those mentioned above, the judge shall call timeout and move the hounds away from the area where they have been running. Any scoring on the scorecard that was recorded for this 'non-approved' rabbit shall remain on the scorebook and shall be included in the final score.
- (d) The judge does not have to see the rabbit to award points.
- (e) **Strike**
 - (i) Definition: A strike is 3 or more barks from one hound after the hounds have been released in the field.
 - (ii) Strike points must be awarded if a hound jumps the rabbit. Example: Hound A jumps a rabbit from its setup. Even though Hound A did not bark on the track before it jumped the rabbit, it is still awarded the strike points. In this situation, the hound shall receive 20 strike points and 20 jump points even though he/she did not open until after the rabbit was jumped.
 - (iii) A hound that opens on the track and is struck by the judge does not have to jump the rabbit to receive his/her 20 strike points, provided another hound jumps, or produces the rabbit within the allotted time of 3 minutes. Example: Hound A barks 3 or more times on a track. Hound B barks in and in the opinion of the judge produces a rabbit, Hound A will receive strike points.

Note: Producing a rabbit is defined as shown below. One or more of the following situations must exist before the judge scores a strike and awards plus points. Note that it is still the judge's decision on whether a rabbit is produced.
 - (iv) The judge or more than one of the handlers sees the rabbit.
 - (v) More than one hound is barking on the line and they are advancing the line.
 - (vi) Fresh rabbit tracks are seen in the snow, dirt, or mud and the judge determines that the hound/s are following these tracks and barking.
 - (vii) The hound barks 3 times or more and goes, even a short distance, directly to a hole or some other secure hiding place.
 - (viii) Strike points can only be given once on each rabbit.

- (ix) The hound that opened and has been struck by the judge shall receive ten minus points if no rabbit is produced within 3 minutes.
- (x) No strike points will be awarded to a hound for a rabbit that has been produced by a judge, handler, or spectator. When all hounds are present in the area the hounds can be put on this rabbit and the scoring begins on the first check. In this case no strike is awarded.
- (xi) After a hound has opened, 3 or more barks, and the judge strikes that hound, the judge shall give that hound a maximum of 3 minutes to produce the rabbit before he/she states that no rabbit was produced and asks the handlers to move their hounds to another area. In this case, the hound that was struck receives a minus 10 points.
- (xii) A hound that opens on a track and is struck by the judge shall be given a minus 10 points if that hound quits that track within 3 minutes. Example: A hound that is 'ghost tracking', cold scenting, or barking on 'trash', and then leaves the track is penalized 10 points.
- (xiii) The judge shall give the hound that is struck a full 3 minutes on that track no matter what the other hounds in the cast do unless that hound leaves the strike area or produces a rabbit.
- (xiv) The judge shall award 20 points for a successful strike.
- (xv) In a situation where the judge cannot determine which hound barked on the strike, he/she 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. These may be minus or plus points depending on whether a rabbit is jumped or produced within the allowed 3 minutes.

(f) Jump

- (i) Definition: A jump occurs when a rabbit has been flushed from a setup.
- (ii) A jump occurs only at the beginning of a chase. No jump points shall be awarded except at the beginning of a chase.
- (iii) Only one jump may be scored on each rabbit.
- (iv) 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 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 any points.
- (v) The judge shall award 20 points for a jump.
- (vi) The judge shall award 20 points per jump per rabbit, if he can determine which hound jumped the rabbit.
- (vii) The judge does not have to see the rabbit to award 20 points for the jump.
- (viii) The hounds that jumps the rabbit may receive strike, jumps and check points if he/she carries the rabbit by him/herself because the other hounds in the cast do not pack up and run the rabbit with him/her. At this point, the judge may instruct the handlers of the other hounds to bring their hounds and place them in the chase with the hound that first jumped the rabbit. Example: Hound (A) jumps the rabbit and follows the track. No other hound joins him/her in the chase so he is running this rabbit by him/herself.

Example: Hound (A) loses the track for more than 10 seconds, but then straightens it out and again tracks the rabbit successfully. Hound A shall receive 20 strike points, 20 jump points, and 20 check points. In this case, the judge shall continue to judge the hound on the rabbit, even if the other hounds never join the chase.

If hounds jump a second rabbit during the chase and the pack splits, the judge, if knowing which rabbit was the original rabbit he/she gave the hound strike points for, shall continue to follow that rabbit and request the handlers to catch the hounds that split and return them to chase the original rabbit.

- (ix) Any hound that does not hark in, or join the chase, once the rabbit is jumped, shall not be scored even if he/she produces another rabbit. The judge shall judge the hound that jumped or produced the rabbit first and the other hounds that are in the 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 first. Hound B is scored and Hound (A) is not scored.
- (x) If the judge does not see which hound jumped the rabbit he/she may, if he/she chooses, ask the handlers to identify the hound that jumped the rabbit but he shall not award any jump points unless the majority of the handlers agree on which hound jumped the rabbit.
- (xi) No jump shall be given on a rabbit that is jumped by the presence of a hound, if the hounds have to be put on the rabbit.
- (xii) In some situations, one hound will get the strike points and a different hound will get the jump. Example: Hound (A) has barked 3 times and is struck in by the judge. Hound (B) jumps a rabbit close enough to the strike area for the judge to believe it is the same rabbit that was struck in on. Hound (A) gets 20 strike points and Hound (B) gets 20 jump points.

(g) Checks

- (i) Definition: A check occurs when it is evident that the hounds in pursuit of the rabbit have lost it for 10 seconds or more. The hounds do not have to stop barking for 10 seconds in the check area for it to be considered a check, only lose it to where they cannot make forward progress with the rabbit for 10 seconds. A hound must claim the check by giving mouth and making forward progress.
- (ii) Any hound that pulls the other hounds away from the check area shall receive minus 10 points. Example: Hounds (A), (B), and (C) are searching the area where the rabbit was lost for more than 10 seconds. Hound (D) is several yards away from the check area and is barking. One or more of the hounds (A, B, or C) hark in on Hound (D) and the rabbit is not produced. Hound (D) receives a minus 10 points.
- (iii) The judge shall award 20 points for a check.
- (iv) The scoring of checks shall continue as long as the rabbit is running.
- (v) If the judge determines that the rabbit is holed up, or that the hounds have lost the rabbit and are unable to get it started again, he/she shall announce that the track is dead and ask the handler to move their hounds to another area.

(h) Scoring of Minus Points

- (i) If a hound opens and barks 3 times and no rabbit is produced within 3 minutes, the hound that opened first shall receive minus 10 points. If another hound jumps the rabbit or produces a rabbit within 3 minutes no minus points are given.
- (ii) Any hound that pulls other hounds away from the check area shall receive a minus 10 points.
- (iii) Any hound that accumulates 30 minus points during the cast shall be disqualified, regardless of how many plus points the hound has. Example: Hound (A) has 200 plus points but accumulated 30 minus points. Hound (A) is disqualified.
- (iv) Any hound caught backtracking on a trail 50 feet or more shall receive minus 10 points every time it is observed backtracking this distance. This backtracking does not have to be on different rabbits.

- 1) Definition of backtracking: When a hound is clearly running and barking in the opposite direction on a line that has already been run by a hound or hounds. Barking while returning to the point of loss is NOT backtracking.
- (v) Minus points must be subtracted from the plus points.
- (i) **Reasons a Hound may be disqualified**
 - (i) If a hound accumulates 30 minus points during one cast.
 - (ii) If a hound is fighting, or attempting to fight, with another hound in such a fashion that it prevents the other hound from hunting.
 - (iii) If the hound runs deer, fox, coyote, or elk. The judge does not have to see the deer, fox, coyote, or elk to disqualify the hound. A hound shall be barred from all competitions in AHBA sanctioned hunts for 1 year if he/she runs deer, fox, coyotes, or elk 3 times in a calendar year. It is not the intention of this rule to penalize the hound that is merely harking in on another hound, smells around, and then immediately returns to rabbit hunting. If the hounds are running deer, fox, coyote, or elk, the judge can stop the chase at any time but will take at least 10 minutes before he/she disqualifies any hound. When there is a question as to whether the hounds are running off-game or not, the handler cannot scratch his/her hound to prevent the judge from disqualifying his/her hound and turning it in for running off-game. If the handler scratches his/her hound under these circumstances, the hound will be turned in for running deer, fox, coyote, or elk.
Note: The reason for the 10 minute time period is to give the judge time to sort everything out; what hounds were involved in the chase? Check tracks to see if it was deer, fox, coyote, or elk etc.

Note 2: A hound is disqualified if he continues to run the line, even after he/she has smelled the tracks and knows what he/she is running even if he/she does not bark on the tracks.
- (iv) If a female is in heat and is distracting the other hounds.
- (v) If a male continues to try to mount a female that is not in heat, or tries to mount another male and interferes with that male's hunting.
- (vi) If the hound's handler is drinking alcohol, using illegal drugs, engages in abusive conduct or language, or interferes with the judge in his/her conducting the hunt. The handler and all hounds owned by him/her are banned from further competition in the hunt.
- (vii) A hound that has been inspected by the Breed Inspector and found to be oversized shall be disqualified. If a hound is disqualified because of measuring over 15 inches it is mandatory that the name, AHBA number, and owner of the hound be reported on the same page of the reporting form as the off-game runners are reported.
- (viii) All cast winners must be present and accounted for at the clubhouse, or place of cast drawing, when the second, or later, casts are drawn out if that hound has to run again. Any hounds not so present and accounted for will be disqualified even if he/she is the previous cast winner. In the event of this disqualification, the balance of the cast will be put down and run. No other hound will be brought up to take the place of the disqualified hound. This rule applies to hounds that still have to go back out to run. This does not apply to hounds that will be placed using the Progressionary Sequence Method.
Example: there are 5 hounds that qualify to run again but only 4 hounds are present when the cast is drawn out; these 4 hounds run for places 1 through 4. Places 6 through 10 are filled using the Progressionary Sequence Method.
- (ix) All hounds that have been spayed or neutered because of Brucellosis shall be prohibited from all Basset competition.
- (x) Anyone who knowingly brings a hound that has Brucellosis to an AHBA hunt shall be banned from AHBA competition for life.

Note: We strongly recommend that every Basset owner keep his/her hounds inoculated for all contagious diseases and have his/her hound tested for Brucellosis at least once per year.

- (xi) The judge may disqualify a hound if it is obvious to the judge that the hound is not hunting for a continuous 15 minute period of time any time during the cast.

(j) Time Outs

- (i) Only the judge has the authority to call a timeout, but a handler may request a timeout.
- (ii) During a timeout the judge shall tell the handlers to call in their hounds and leash them, and no scoring shall take place during the timeout. The judge does not have to wait more than 5 minutes for a handler to catch his/her hound before the judge has the other hounds release to hunt. The hound that is not present when the other hounds are released is not disqualified for not being present.
- (iii) If a rabbit is jumped, or struck, during a timeout the judge may use this rabbit for the next chase, but no jump or strike points are awarded.
- (iv) The amount of time used for a timeout shall be added to the total time of the cast. Example: A 1 hour cast started at 9:00 a.m. The judge called a 10 minute timeout. Instead of the hunting ending at 10:00 a.m., it will end at 10:10 a.m.

(k) Dead Track

- (i) The judge shall announce to the handlers when he/she has determined that the track is dead and the chase ended.
- (ii) When a track is declared dead by the cast judge, he/she should call a timeout, have the handlers leash their hounds and move to another area. If it is a short timeout the judge does not have to order the hounds leashed up, but may do so if he/she wishes. The scoring has stopped on that race. The judge will announce when the cast has continued and scoring started again.

(l) Handlers and Spectators

- (i) Anyone entering the field during an AHBA Hunt that is covered by AHBA liability insurance that is not an AHBA member must sign the official AHBA Waiver of Liability form.
- (ii) Definition of a handler: Any person who takes the hound/s into the field for a hunt.
- (iii) Distances between judge and handlers, and at times of spectators, is at the discretion of the judge.
- (iv) All handlers must stay in a group. If a handler does not stay in the group, he/she shall be warned by the judge and, on the second offense, the judge shall disqualify his/her hound/s.
- (v) The handler shall not direct any questions to the judge regarding scoring until the hunt has ended. The handler is to remain quiet unless the judge asks him/her a question.
- (vi) The handler shall identify his/her hound/s when asked to do so by the judge.
- (vii) The handler shall not tell the judge how to score.
- (viii) The handler shall not call or encourage his/her hound unless he/she is permitted by the judge to do so; however, when a handler's hound comes in to 'check in' the handler may acknowledge his/her hound.
- (ix) Any handler who uses abusive language, threatens or strikes a judge, Master of Hounds, or another handler shall be banned from AHBA competition for a period of time to be determined by the Watchdog Committee.
- (x) If a handler is banned from AHBA competition by the Watchdog Committee, his/her name shall be reported to the AHBA member clubs. At the end of the ban, this handler may apply to the Watchdog Committee for reinstatement, which may or may not be granted. If the handler who is banned is a hound owner, none of his/her hounds shall be allowed in AHBA competition during the time that the owner is banned. Even if the banned individual sells his/her hounds, the hounds still cannot compete until the banned time is up.

- (xi) After the hunt is over and the judge presents the scorecard, then the handler may ask questions about the hunt and the scoring of the hunt.
- (xii) If a handler does not agree with the judge and wishes to protest, he/she should not sign the scorecard. See Section 2.05 concerning protests.
- (xiii) If a hound is running a second rabbit, other than the one the pack is running, or the hound has wandered away at some distance from the other hounds, the handler may ask the judge's permission to catch his/her hound and put it back in the pack.
- (xiv) A handler is permitted to handle more than 1 hound in a cast.
- (xv) During the hunt the handler cannot use any controlling device to assist his/her hound in hunting. This includes whistles, using his/her voice (whistling, hissing, calling, etc.), or using hand signals to direct his/her hound. The handler may use these methods only if the judge tells him/her to call in his/her hound.
Note: Tracking collars are not considered to be controlling devices. During the hunt tracking collar search equipment can be taken into the field. Note 2: The handler is to report to the Master of Hounds before the hounds go out in the field that he/she plans to use a tracking collar. The Master of Hounds shall inspect the equipment. In the field before the hounds are release, the judge shall inspect the tracking collar. If a handler is caught cheating, and is using the collar as a shock collar, the owner of the hound/s and his/her hound/s will be banned from AHBA competition for at least 1 year.
- (xvi) A handler is not permitted to catch his/her hound/s and lift it over a fence, or other obstacle, unless directed by the judge to do this.
- (xvii) Definition of spectator: A spectator is a person who goes into the field to observe the hunt.
 - 1) The spectator is not part of the hunt. He/she is only an observer.
 - 2) A spectator who is abusive, uses abusive language, threatens or strikes a judge, Master of Hounds, handler, or other spectators shall be banned from attending all AHBA competition for a period of time determined by the Watchdog Committee.
 - 3) The judge shall instruct spectators as to where he/she wants them to be in relation to the handlers and him/herself.
 - 4) Spectators cannot be called as witnesses in a protest situation.
 - 5) A spectator cannot talk to the judge nor try to tell him/her how he/she should be judging the hunt.
 - 6) A spectator cannot touch a hound, talk to a hound, or in any way try to encourage the hound when it is in the field.
 - 7) With the permission of the judge, a spectator may help a handler catch his/her hound/s if the hound/s is in danger, if the hound is chasing a deer, fox, coyote, or elk, or at the end of the hunt.
- (m) **Running Time**
 - (i) Before a hound is declared to have placed (1st through 10th) in a sanctioned hunt and receive AHBA and Hound of the Year points, it must have been judged in active hunting for a minimum of 2 hours. Exception: In certain circumstances where weather conditions (heat, cold storms), or shortage of daylight, with the okay of the owners and the Master of Hounds, the second (or final) rounds can be lowered from one hour to whatever is agreed upon. Exception: If there are 6 or less hounds in the class; whether it be Open, Champion, or Grand Champion Classes, the hounds run only 1 hour.
 - (ii) All second place hounds, not cast winners, will be placed by their points using the Progressionary Sequence Method and only have to run the first cast (1 hour.)
 - (iii) All hounds entered in an AHBA sanctioned hunt must run a minimum of 1 hour in the first series.

- (iv) If a hound strikes with less than 3 minutes remaining in the cast and no rabbit is produced, the hounds shall receive neither plus or minus points. If a rabbit is produced during this time, scoring goes on for all hounds until the cast time is over.'

(n) Breaking the Ties

- (i) If no hound has scored plus points at the end of the run, the judge shall award 20 points to the hound that hunted and handled the best. The remaining hounds (tied at 0) will be placed 2nd through 6th in the cast cording to the judgment of the judge, based on their hunting and handling during the cast. A coin toss will not be used.
- (ii) If 2 or more hounds are tied with the same number of points at the end of a cast, the tie shall be broken as follows:
- 1) The hound with the fewest minus points. If this does not break the tie, go to #2.
 - 2) The hound with the most strike points. If this does not break the tie, go to #3.
 - 3) The hound with the most check points. If this does not break the tie, go to #4.
 - 4) The hound with the most jump points. If this does not break the tie, go to #5.
 - 5) The remaining hounds will be placed in the cast based on the judge's opinion for hunting and handling.
 - 6) Note that the only time that a coin flip is used is to break a tie when using the Progressionary Sequence Method to place the hounds.
- (iii) If 2 hounds (or more) are tied in the final cast (running for 1st place) and the tie breaker rules (#1 through #4) do not break the tie, the coin flip will not be used. The tied hounds shall be run for an additional 30 minutes. If they are still tied at the end of this time, the judge shall ask the handlers to leash their hounds and then ask them if they want to run a 10 minute overtime with the hound that scores first winning the cast. If the handlers all agree, all hounds shall be released at the same time. The hounds may all be put on a fresh track and the hound that gets the first check wins. If no fresh track is available, the hounds will all be released at the same time and the hound with the first positive strike is the winner. If 2 or more hounds are still tied, the judge must award 10 points to the hound that he/she feels hunted and handled the best and then rate the other hounds and place them in the cast.

Note: In relation to rule #3, if it is dark, or there is very severe weather (Master of Hounds decision) and the hounds cannot be run, the judge shall use the hunting and handling method to break the tie and not run the hounds 30 minutes and/or 10 minute overtime.

(o) Selection of Winners

- (i) Conduct a hunt where the first round casts run for 1 hour. After the first series, the winners of each cast advance to the second round of competition. If less than 10 casts in the first round, the places not filled with cast winners, shall be filled using the Progressionary Sequence Method.
- 1) In the second round of competition, the hounds must run 1 hour. In the remaining rounds of competition, the hounds can run a minimum of 15 minutes, if agreed upon by the Master of Hounds and all the handlers.
 - 2) Continue to run until a final cast of 2 to 6 hounds is left. The winner of this cast shall be declared winner with the remaining hounds in that cast placing in their order of finish.
 - 3) Should any hound/s be disqualified in the running of the final cast, places vacated due to disqualification shall not be filled. In the event that a hound minuses out on 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 (disqualified) for not hunting or running game, it should be disqualified from the hunt. Places vacated due to disqualification of a hound/s for not hunting or running off game shall not be filled.

Example: The event has attracted 35 hounds. The Master of Hounds elects to run 7 casts of 5 hounds. The 7 cast winners advance to the 2nd round to compete for places 1 – 7 and the second place hounds, by using the Progressionary Sequence Method, are used to fill places 8 – 10. The first place winners are drawn into 2 casts. One cast would have 4 hounds and the other cast would have 3 hounds. The winners of these 2 casts would run against each other for 1st and 2nd places. Third through seventh places would be awarded (using the remaining hounds from the 2 winner’s casts) by the Progressionary Sequence Method.

(p) Progressionary Sequence Method

- 1) This method is used to determine the place winners that have not been determined after the second (or third) round of competition.
- 2) The reasons for using this method are:
 - a) Some casts may find several rabbits and have high scores, while other casts may find very few rabbits and have low scores.
 - b) A hound that scored second in his/her cast should not be placed lower than hounds that scored third or fourth from another cast.

Example: In this example we are determining 3rd through 10th places.

| PLACE | CAST #1 HOUND | POINTS |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| 2 nd | Hound #25 | 150 |
| 3 rd | Hound #30 | 120 |
| 4 th | Hound #1 | 60 |
| 5 th | Hound #6 | 50 |
| PLACE | CAST #1 HOUND | POINTS |
| 2 nd | Hound #5 | 200 |
| 3 rd | Hound #9 | 100 |
| 4 th | Hound #18 | 80 |
| 5 th | Hound #20 | 40 |

i) Steps:

- i. Look at the 2nd place finishers. Hound #5 had the highest point total and is awarded 3rd place. Hound #25 is placed 4th.
- ii. Look at the 3rd place finishers. Hound #30 has the point total and is awarded 5th place. Hound #9 is placed 6th.
- iii. Look at the 4th place finishers. Hound #16 has the highest point total and is awarded 7th place. Hound #1 is placed 8th.
- iv. Look at the 5th place finishers. Hound #6 has the highest point total and is awarded 9th place. Hound #20 is placed 10th.

(q) Rabbit Champion and Grand Rabbit Champion Classes

- (i) To qualify as a Rabbit Champion, a hound must place 1st in at least 3 sanctioned hunts and earn a total of 100 points. Not more than two wins can come from the same club.
- (ii) To qualify as a Grand Rabbit Champion, a hound must have 5 1st place wins in a Champion Class in sanctioned hunts. Not more than 3 wins can come from one club.
- (iii) When a hound has qualified for Rabbit Champion or Grand Rabbit Champion, the owner of the hound may apply to the AHBA for the certificate, or the hound may continue to compete in the same class until the end of the calendar year at which time the hound must move up to the next class. Any hound that is moved up to the higher class may not compete in the lower class once it has competed in the higher class.

- (iv) In order to be awarded points toward Rabbit Champion, a hound must compete in sanctioned where there are at least 5 hounds entered.
 - (v) Rabbit Champions shall be allowed to compete in all sanctioned hunts where 3 or more Rabbit Champions are entered.
 - (vi) Grand Rabbit Champions should be allowed to hunt in all sanctioned hunts where 3 or more Grand Rabbit Champions are entered.
- (r) **Awarding of Points at AHBA Sanctioned Hunts**
- (i) Points toward the Rabbit Champion title are awarded based on the number of entries are as follows:

| ENTRIES | FINAL PLACING | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 10 or more | 40 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| 9 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | |
| 8 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | | |
| 7 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | | | |
| 6 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | | | | |
| 5 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | | | | | |

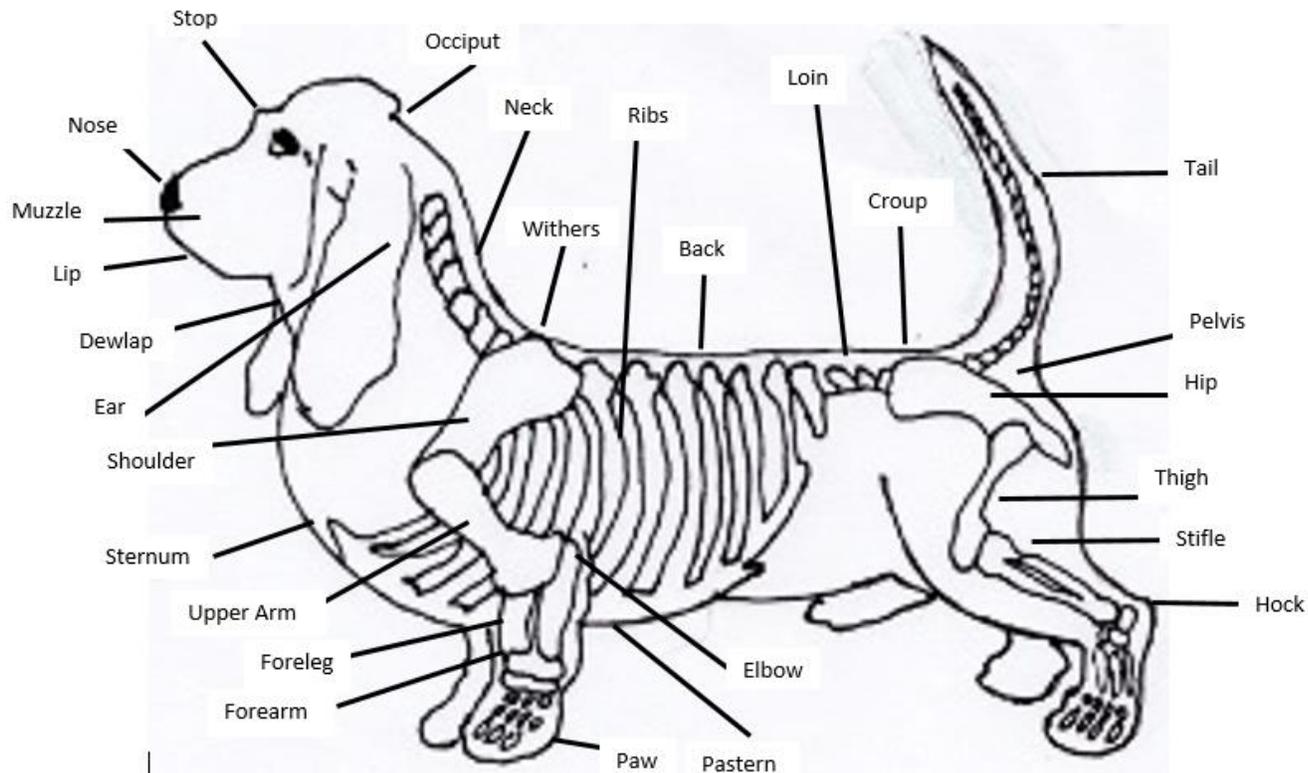
- (ii) A 1st place in any hunt may be used toward the title of Rabbit Champion.

Article V. Bench Show Champion and Grand Champion Titles

- (a) A Bench Show Champion is a hound that has scored 100 points in AHBA Bench Show competition and has a minimum of three (3) Best of Show award with no more than two Best of Shows in one club and from no less than two judges.
- (b) A Grand Bench Show Champion is a hound that has five (5) Best of Show wins in Champion Class Bench Show competition. Not more than 3 wins can come from the same club.
- (c) A hound must be entered in the hunt to qualify to be entered in the Bench Show.
 - (i) Exceptions
 - 1) Puppies
 - 2) Rabbit Champions and Grand Rabbit Champions may be shown on the bench without being entered in the field if no field class is established for them at that hunt.
 - (ii) A handler may not pay fees and enter his/her hound/s in the field competition and scratch the hound/s in order to compete on the bench. The hound/s must take part in the field competition.
- (d) Class Sizes
 - (i) Class in order to award AHBA Bench points for best in the class.
 - (ii) Open Class shall be divided by sex. Example: There are 3 males and 3 puppies entered but only 1 female. Points are awarded in the male class and puppy class, but not in the female class even if the female is judged and awarded a trophy. **Note:** The female can however compete and win and be awarded Best of Show points.
 - (iii) There must be at least 3 entries to have a class and there must be 2 classes to award Best of Show. If there is only 1 full class there can be a Best of Class awarded, but no Best of Show will be awarded.
 - (iv) A Bench Champion Class must have 3 or more hounds regardless of sex to award Best of Show.
 - (v) A Grand Champion Class must have 3 or more hounds regardless of sex to award Best of Show.

- (vi) There shall be an Open Class (includes puppies), Champion Class, and Grand Champion Class at all State and Big 6 Hunts if there are enough entries.
- (vii) The entry deadline for the Bench Show is the same deadline as the deadline for field entries.
- (e) Time for Bench Shows: This is a club option and the Master of Hounds determines the show time. It is best to judge the hounds during the day while the field trials are being held as this puts less pressure on the bench judge to finish the show as soon as possible and it gives the judge more time to examine each hound thoroughly. It is recommended (but optional) that the top two hounds in each class be brought back for final selection when there is no field action going on; such as at the end of the second series. At this time the judge picks first and second place in each class and awards the Best of Show. In the final selections the score sheet does not have to be used (but optional) to determine first and second in a class and Best of Show.
- (f) AHBA points toward Champion and Grand Champion may be awarded only at sanctioned hunts.
- (g) All protests from the Bench Show shall be handled by the Master of Hounds.
- (h) Handlers are reminded that protests shall be over rule infractions only. The judging itself is subjective and not open to protest.
- (i) A handler or the Bench Judge shall protest hound size to the Master of Hounds. This protest must be done at the time of judging, not after decisions have been made concerning class winners or Best of Show. In this case the Master of Hounds shall request the Breed Inspector to measure the protested hound.
- (j) Bench Show Area
 - (i) Clubs should attempt to provide a large enough area to allow the handler to circle the hound rather than walk him back and forth in a line. A circle with a 30 foot diameter is suggested.
 - (ii) Clubs should provide a stable bench, with a non-slick surface, wide enough to allow for comfortable posing and viewing. The bench top surface should be a minimum of 2 feet off of the ground, 18 inches wide and 4 feet long. Note: If the judge notices that the bench does not meet standards he/she should continue with the judging but should inform the Master of Hounds that this should be corrected before the next hunt and the judge should report this deficiency to the AHBA office.
 - (iii) Some Bassets are very uncomfortable and uncooperative when their feet are off of the ground; the handler has the option of showing his/her hound on the bench or on the ground.

(iv) Basset Conformity and names of parts



(k) Bench Show Judging Procedures

- (i) Gait – A hound's gait is a valuable tool in locating possible faults. However, since points are awarded in each specific area, no points are to be scored on the gait. Walking the hound for the judge is a recommended procedure for the judge to use to begin his/her assessment of the hound. The Basset Hound should move in a smooth and effortless manner. Normally it will walk with its nose to the ground but it is not a fault if it walks with its head in the air. In its gait there is good coordination between its front and back legs. The front and back legs should be in a line with each other. The hocks will be well bent and there should be no stiffness in the legs. The front legs should not sweep in or out but move in a line in forward motion. The leg recovery (when the leg is moved forward for another step) should be straight. The elbows should be close to the body. Going away the hind legs are parallel. If the judge wishes, he/she may request that the handler put the hound into a run. Sometimes a hound in a running gait shows faults or strengths that do not show up when the hound is walking.
- (ii) These are some of the flaws that the judge is looking for as the handler is walking his/her hound.
 - 1) Stiffness in front legs may indicate problems with the elbow hound, poor leg bone alignment, problems with pastern, etc.
 - 2) Front leg swinging may indicate a chest that is too broad or stiffness in shoulder joint. May also indicate that the feet are not properly formed.
 - 3) Bowed front legs, in or out, may indicate a lack of strength in the legs.
 - 4) Stiffness in back legs may indicate malformation of the hock or problems with the hip joint.
 - 5) Throwing outward of the back legs may indicate problems with the hip joint.

- 6) Front and back legs not moving in a coordinated way indicate elbow, pastern, hock, or hip problems.
 - 7) If the hound walks with a bouncing motion, it may indicate poorly formed feet or weakness in hips or shoulders.
 - 8) If the hound is tottering from side to side while it is walking, it may indicate that the feet are placed too far under the body or too far to the sides.
- (iii) Scoring of the head, total 30 points
- 1) Skull (10 points) The skull should be well domed and showing a pronounced occipital protuberance. A skull that is flat and broad is a fault. The length from nose to stop is approximately the length from stop to occiput. The sides of the head are flat and free from cheek bumps. Viewed from the side the top lines of the muzzle and skull are straight with a moderately defined stop. The skin over the whole head is loose and it falls in distinct wrinkles over the brow when the hound's head is lowered.
 - 2) Ears (5 points) The ears are extremely long, low set, and when drawn forward fold well over the end of the nose. They are velvety in texture, hanging in loose folds with the ends curling slightly inward. They are set back at the base of the skull and often appear to be set on the neck if the hound is sitting, high set, or flat ears are a fault. Short ears are a fault.
 - 3) Eyes (5 points) The eyes appear to be soft, sad, and slightly sunken. Eyes that protrude, are set either too wide or too close together are faults. Light colored eyes are a serious fault.
 - 4) Muzzle (10 points) The muzzle should be deep and heavy. The nose should have wide-open nostrils. The teeth are large, sound, and regularly spaced. The upper teeth should overlap the lower teeth just slightly (scissors bite) or teeth should meet evenly. Overbites and under bites are faults are faults. The lips are pendulous and fall squarely in front. Toward the back the lips hang in loose, hanging flews. Flaws are overly flat nose, short noes, tight lips, over and under bites, and narrow nose.
- (iv) Scoring of body, total 40 points
- 1) Neck (5 points) The neck is powerful and well arched. It should be well muscled and allow for free movement up and down and left and right. Flaws are a weak neck, thin neck, and restricted neck movement.
 - 2) Chest (10 points) The chest is deep and full. Prominent sternum that shows clearly in front of the front legs when looking at the hound's profile. The distance from the ground to the lowest part of the chest should be 1/3 of the height of the hound measured at the shoulders.
 - 3) Shoulders (10 points) The shoulders are well laid back and powerful. The top of the shoulders should be level with hound's rear and should be in proportion to the hound's total body that is, not overly wide or overly narrow.
 - 4) Back (10 points) The top line of the back should be straight and level. Sagging or roaching are faults.
 - 5) Loin/Rib (5 points) The rib structure is long, smooth, and extends well back. The ribs are well sprung, allowing adequate room for the heart and lungs. Flanged or flat-sided ribs are faults. The hound should be neither too heavy nor too thin but well-proportioned with the rest of the body.
- (v) Running gear, total of 20 points
- 1) Foreleg (5 points) The forelegs are short, powerful, heavy in bone with wrinkled skin. Knuckling over the front legs is a fault. The length of the forelegs is sufficient to keep the chest from sagging disproportionately.
 - 2) Hips (5 points) The hindquarters are very full and well rounded, and are approximately the same width as the shoulders. They should not appear slack or light in relation to the overall depth of the body.
 - 3) Hind Legs (5 points) The hound stands firmly on its back legs showing a well let down stifle and there is no tendency to sag or crouch. Viewed from behind the back legs are parallel to each other with the hocks turning neither in nor out. Cow hocked or bowed legs are serious faults.

- 4) Feet (5 points) The front paws are massive, very heavy with tough, heavy pads. The feet are rounded and inclined outward to balance the width of the shoulders. Feet down at the pastern are a fault. The toes are neither pinched together nor splayed. The weight of the fore body should be evenly borne on both feet. Dewclaws may or may not be removed. Hind feet point straight ahead. Feet are rounded.
- (vi) Coat, total of 5 points
 - 1) There is no color preference in the coat. The coat is hard, smooth, and short. It should be dense enough to protect the hound in colder weather. The skin is loose and elastic. An excessively long coat is a fault.
- (vii) Tail, total of 5 points
 - 1) No docking of the tail. The tail is a continuation of the spine. There should be a slight curvature in the tail and should be carried high. The hair on the underside of the tail should be coarse. The tail must be proportional to the body.
- (viii) Color, (no points) Any recognized hound color is acceptable and the distribution of color and markings are of no importance.
- (ix) Height (no points)
 - 1) It is expected that the Basset will measure approximately 14 inches, however, any height up to 15 inches is acceptable. If the hound is over 15 inches, it is disqualified. The Bench Judge may ask the Master of Hounds to have the Breed Inspector measure the hound if he has any doubts about the hound's size. The Breed Inspector makes the final decision about a hound's size.