Top Dog Kennel Club

P.O. Box 505

Hudson, In. 46747

423-368-7491 or 260-318-6568

topdogkennelclub@gmail.com

RULES & FORMAT

Adult Memberships are $10.00

Seniors 50 and over are $5.00

Kids 10 years and under are free

Kids 11 to 17 years old are $5.00

ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE GOOD FOR 1 YEAR FROM DATE OF PURCHASE

Dog Registrations are $20.00

Club Charters are $20.00. Good for 1 year from date of purchase

Clubs can hold 60,90, or 120-min hunts

**Championship Points are based of cast points and show points will be used to determine top 10 in each states race.**

**AMENDED RULES IN EFFECT APRIL 17,2023**

**IF A TIME OUT IS CALLED (30 MINS) FOR DOGS IN DANGER OR HARMS WAY ALL DOGS MUST BE HANDLED AND REJION THE CAST WITHIN THE 30 MINS. IF DOGS ARE NOT BACK WITHIN THE 30 MINS. THEY WILL BE SCRATCHED. DURING A TIMEOUT YOU CAN USE A TT-15.**

**IF DOGS ARE TREED AND A DOG IS FOUND TO BE RUNNING AROUND THE TREE WITHIN THE UMBRELLA OF THE TREE AND THE COON IS SEEN THE POINTS ARE PLUSSED.**

**WHEN DOGS ARE DECLARD TREED AND ARE FOUND TO BE SPLIT GREATER THAN THE (FIVE 5 FT) RULE AND THE COON IS SEEN IN EACH TREE THEY EACH WILL RECEIVE 125+ TREE POINTS.**

**IF DOGS ARE STRUCK IN, DOG A IS TREED, AND THE TREE IS SCORED, AND YOU WALK THE 1 MIN DOG A IS RECUT, DOG B IS THEN CALLED TREED, AND FOUND TO BE ON PREVIOUSLY SCORED TREE. DOG B’s STRIKE & TREE POINTS WILL BE DELETED.**

**ANY DOGS THAT GO BACK TO A PREVIOUSLY SCORED TREE, ALL POINTS WILL BE DELETED.**

**IF ALL DOGS ARE STRUCK IN, DOG A IS CALLED TREED, WHEN THE JUDGE ARRIVES AT THE TREE AND FINDS DOG B (WHO WAS NOT CALLED TREED) ALSO TREED ON THE SAME TREE, DOG B IS MINUSED HIS STRIKE POINTS.**

**OPTION TO RECUT**

**ALL DOGS ARE TREED, AND TREE HAS BEEN SCORED, YOU WALK YOUR DOGS THE ONE (1) MIN. YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO HOLD YOUR DOG ON THE LEASH UP TO 3 ADDITIONAL TREES SCORED. AT THAT TIME YOU MUST RECUT YOUR DOG. YOU CAN RECUT YOUR DOG AFTER SCORING THE TREE OR BEFORE THE 3RD ADDITIONAL TREE.**

**Hunt bracket**

0 or minus = 1pt.

1 to 199 = 2 pts.

200 to 399= 4 pts.

400 to 599 = 6 pts.

600 to 799 = 8 pts.

800 and up = 10 pts.

5 Cast Wins with Plus Points- Champion

10 Cast Wins with Plus Points- Grand Champion

30 Cast Wins with Plus Points- Hall of Fame

**General Rules**

The draw must be done in public. If there are more than 1 dog entered in the hunt by same owner, they should be split into separate casts when possible

No alcohol, illegal drugs or firearms are allowed at any TDKC hunts

TDKC is not responsible for any thefts, accidents or losses incurred at any TDKC hunt

Handlers must be registered with TDKC to compete in hunt. You can enroll your dog at 1 hunt and compete as a non-member after that you must be enrolled as a member. In order to receive points towards championship you must be a paid member at that time.

All handlers under 13 years old must be accompanied by an adult

All deadlines are to be strictly enforced. **There will be a 30 min grace period prior to entry upon a phone call to hunt director**

No entries will be accepted after the listed deadline

No scorecards will be accepted after the listed return time

TDKC has the right to refuse any membership on entry into a hunt

All two dog casts must have a non-hunting judge

**To receive cast win towards titling dog, the win must be with plus points. EXCEPTION Every club has the option to request a vote before casts are drawn to advance circle and minus point cast winners.**

 **At the world hunt the top (16) Sixteen (+) Plus cast winners advance (1st) first. After that In order to get the top (16) Sixteen we will advance cast winners with circle or minus points in order of the scores**

**Point System**

**Strike points** are 125 points for first strike, 75 points for second, 50 points for third and 25 points for fourth. After the first minute, dog must be struck in, on, or before the third bark. First offense - after not declaring dog struck by judge will issue a warning and dog must be struck on the next bark, if not struck on next bark dog will misused the next available strike position. Second offence dog will be misused the next available strike points and must strike dog on next bark or be scratched. Third offense is the dog is scratched. Handler striking wrong dog. 1st offence will receive a warning, 2nd offence handler will receive a warning and points will be minused.3rd offence you will be scratched.

**If dog comes into a closed tree the dog will receive minus strike points only automatically**.

**Tree points** are 125 points for first tree, 75 points for second tree, 50 points for third tree and 25 points for fourth tree. Any dogs declared treed at the same time the tree points shall be divided if on the same tree**. After 1 min’s dogs can only be treed for 25 points and after 2 mins the tree is dead**

**Points will be plus**

When dogs strike and tree a coon and coon is seen by majority of cast or by a non-hunting judge. **Tree shine time is (8) eight minutes.**

**Stationary Rule is 8 Minutes**

If the dog catches the coon on the ground and is declared treed will receive plus points on strike and plus points on tree

Trees within a (5) Five Foot radius from the base of original tree and coon is seen points should be plussed.

Thermals can be used to aid in locating the coon. But the coon must be seen by the naked eye and by majority of the cast in order to score. Cell phone can be used in a den or hole to take a picture of the coon ( However the coon must be positively identified by the majority of the cast to be able to score)

**If any off game is in the same tree, that also holds a coon, point’s will be plussed.**

**IF DOGS ARE TREED AND A DOG IS FOUND TO BE RUNNING AROUND THE TREE WITHIN THE UMBRELLA OF THE TREE AND THE COON IS SEEN THE POINTS ARE PLUSSED. JUDGES DISCRETION WHETER DOG IS TRAILING OR TREEING.**

**WHEN DOGS ARE DECLARD TREED AND ARE FOUND TO BE SPLIT GREATER THAN THE (FIVE 5 FT) RULE AND THE COON IS SEEN IN EACH TREE THEY EACH WILL RECEIVE 125+ TREE POINTS.**

**IF DOGS ARE STRUCK IN, DOG A IS TREED, AND THE TREE IS SCORED, AND YOU WALK THE 1 MIN DOG A IS RECUT, DOG B IS THEN CALLED TREED, AND FOUND TO BE ON PREVIOUSLY SCORED TREE. DOG B’s STRIKE & TREE POINTS WILL BE DELETED.**

**ANY DOGS THAT GO BACK TO A PREVIOUSLY SCORED TREE, ALL POINTS WILL BE DELETED.**

**IF ALL DOGS ARE STRUCK IN, DOG A IS CALLED TREED, WHEN THE JUDGE ARRIVES AT THE TREE AND FINDS DOG B (WHO WAS NOT CALLED TREED) ALSO TREED ON THE SAME TREE, DOG B IS MINUSED HIS STRIKE POINTS.**

**Points will be minus**

If dog is declared treed, after (2) Two minutes no additional dog can be treed on that tree. Any dog that is treeing on that tree that was not declared treed before the (2) Two minutes they will receive minus strike points. Regardless if coon is seen.

When dog is declared treed and the majority of the cast or non-hunting judge can plainly see that there is no coon both strike and tree points will be minus

Once a dog is declared tree at least one of the treed dogs must bark at least once every two minutes until the cast arrives at the tree. If the two is put on the treed dog(s) and they don’t bark those dogs shall receive minus points on the tree and the tree will be reopened

Any dog that trees off game or is seen running off game shall be misused, except at the world hunt or state hunt where they will be scratched.

**Babbling** dogs that are struck and determined to be babbling will be minus strike points. Dogs that are struck inside the first minute must carry out the track that they were on. If not will be minus strike points (judge’s discretion)

If dogs struck don’t continue to bark, the (8) Eight can be put on them and if they don’t bark within the (8) Eight minutes they will be misused

If dog is treed (judge’s discretion) to put the (8) Eight on them if dog is not treed in the (8) Eight minutes and found to be treed will be misused strike and first available tree points

**Circle points**

When dog strikes and trees on a tree or hole in the ground where there could be a coon, but the judge does not see it. At least (1) One Dog must show hole in ground.

If there is a split on the cast on whether to plus or circle a tree. You must have a majority vote or points will be deleted. Or you can use the Rival Judge option.

**Deleted points**

If half the cast votes to circle and half the cast votes to minus the tree the points will be deleted

If dogs are still trailing when time expires the points will be deleted

 If time out is called by judge because dogs are in danger points shall be deleted

 **Dogs will be scratched**

For fighting or attempting to fight during any point of the hunt

Handling your dog without the judge’s permission

For failing to hunt for 10 consecutive minutes

Any female dog smelling strong enough to attract other dogs, or any dog that is bad about bothering other dogs

 For running livestock includes poultry

 Anyone that fights or attempts to start a fight while on cast, abusive language at a hunt. Shall be scratched and report sent to TDKC to take further action

If a handler physically abuses their dog

 For toning or shocking dog during hunt

Any dog or handler delaying the cast for 30 mins.

**7) Judges**

All judges shall be picked by the hosting club or TDKC. Club has the option to have non hunting judges

Judge shall keep the cast informed of the scores and times during the hunt

Judge will keep a pace that can be handled by all members of the cast

The judge **must** be the first to the tree if he or she feels that there might be an aggressive dog at the tree.

 **Recasting dogs**

When dogs are pulled from a scored tree, they must be walked a maximum of one minute at which time the handler has the option of recasting their dog, if they choose so they must do it immediately. If not, they can’t recast their dog until the next tree is scored

The judge will tell you when to cast your dogs

Any handler cutting dog that goes hunting before the judge makes the call shall be scratched

**OPTION TO RECUT**

**ALL DOGS ARE TREED, AND TREE HAS BEEN SCORED, YOU WALK YOUR DOGS THE ONE (1) MIN. YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO HOLD YOUR DOG ON THE LEASH UP TO 3 ADDITIONAL TREES SCORED. AT THAT TIME YOU MUST RECUT YOUR DOG. YOU CAN RECUT YOUR DOG AFTER SCORING THE TREE OR BEFORE THE 3RD ADDITIONAL TREE.**

 **Handlers**

All owners and handlers must be registered with TDKC

Lights are to be used for walking only, except when directed by the judge

The handler must be on the grounds when the casts are drawn or will be scratched

All handlers shall know the rules and follow them

Handler shall only call their dog

Handler shall control their dog while on leash

Handler will listen to judge and follow their instructions on when to handle and cast dogs

Handler will be scratched for attempting to take a coon

 **Electronic devices**

Thermals and infrared devises can be used but the coon must be seen with naked eye to be scored

To be called struck or treed the dog must be heard by the majority of the cast or the non-hunting judge, they cannot be struck or treed solely by an electronic devise

Handhelds or locating devices for training or tracking may be carried during the hunt. Handhelds can be left on to keep track of your dog’s location, if you are caught trying to control, your dog (Shocked or Toned) you will be scratched, without any warning. In the event a dog’s life is in danger a time-out will be called and a TT-15 collar can be used with the judge’s approval to retrieve your dog. Time-outs cannot exceed more than (30) Thirty mins.

 **Scorecards**

Scorecards must be completed in the woods, unless a question arises in which case a MOH/HD can change the scorecard at the club

Handler’s signature verifies the hunting time, and scores are correct, and must be signed before bringing back to the club

Anyone refusing to sign the scorecard will be scratched.

**Ties**

Ties to be broken by least minus points, most plus tree points, most plus strike points, most circle tree points, most circle strike points. If no time to go back to the woods and hunt it off, all handlers can agree to flip a coin

**Complaints or questioning a judge**

Handler must first file a complaint with the judge in the field, the call can be voted on by the cast, the majority of the cast vote will overturn the judge’s call. If the handler still isn’t happy with the call a question will be put on the card and the question/complaint will go before the MOH/panel or hunt director. If the hander with the question is wrong there is a $25.00 fee, if the handler wins the question there is no fee ($15.00 for the club and $10.00 to TDKC.)

**Call or go get the master of hounds and request a rival judge. The fee for this is $50.00. If the coon is seen the handler is to pay nothing and the other handlers are to pay $25.00 each and are scratched from the hunt. If the handler is wrong, they are to pay the $25.00 and are scratched from the hunt. After 3 times of being scratched for this offence, the handler is suspended for 6 months. ($25.00 goes to the rival judge and $25.00 to TDKC.)**

**\*THESE RULES ARE FINAL AND WILL NOT BE CHANGED FOR THE 2023 YEAR. ANY CHANGES WILL BE ADDRESSED AND VOTED ON AT THE 2023 WORLD HUNT AND WILL GO INTO AFFECT ON JANUARY 01,2024\***

**TIME RULES**

**After 1 min’s dogs can only be treed for 25 points and after 2 mins the tree is dead**

**Tree shine time is (8) eight minutes.**

**Stationary Rule is 8 Minutes**

**If dog is declared treed, after (2) Two minutes no additional dog can be treed on that tree. Any dog that is treeing on that tree that was not declared treed before the (2) Two minutes they will receive minus strike points. Regardless if coon is seen. Dogs declared treed and stop barking the (2) Min will be put on the dog, If dog does not bark in the (2) Min it will receive minus points**

**If dogs struck don’t continue to bark, the (8) Eight can be put on them and if they don’t bark within the (8) Eight minutes they will be minsused**

**If dog is treed (judge’s discretion) to put the (8) Eight on them if dog is not treed in the (8) Eight minutes and found to be treed will be misused strike and first available tree points**

**IF A TIME OUT IS CALLED (30 MINS) FOR DOGS IN DANGER OR HARMS WAY ALL DOGS MUST BE HANDLED AND REJION THE CAST WITHIN THE 30 MINS. IF DOGS ARE NOT BACK WITHIN THE 30 MINS. THEY WILL BE SCRATCHED. DURING A TIMEOUT YOU CAN USE A TT-15.**

**NO HUNTS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE SAME DAY WITHIN 25 MILES OF ANOTHER CLUB. ALL HUNTS MUST BE SCHEDULED AND APPROVED BY TDKC 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE.**

**THIS GOES INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY**

**HOW TO DETERMINE THE CAST WINNER**.

**MOST PLUS POINTS**

**MOST CIRCLE POINTS**

**MOST CIRCLE POINTS WITH SUBTRACTED MINUS POINTS**

 **LEAST MINUS POINTS**

**TIE BREAKER**

 **LEAST MINUS POINTS, MOST PLUS TREE POINTS, MOST PLUS STRIKE POINTS, MOST CIRCLE TREE POINTS, MOST CIRCLE STRIKE POINTS, IF NO TIME TO GO BACK TO THE WOODS AND HUNT IT OFF, ALL HANDLERS CAN AGREE TO FLIP A COIN.**