

THE MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
MOUNTED FOXHOUND PACK  
PERFORMANCE TRIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

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THE MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
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The Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) has adopted these rules in order to sanction open and invitational regional performance trials and a national championship. A select number of the best hounds from each of the sanctioned trials will then be eligible to compete in a national performance trial championship. In addition, any hound competing in a sanctioned performance trial and placed in the top 10 in HGA will be eligible to compete in a special performance trial division at MFHA sanctioned hound shows. The MFHA is publishing these rules in order to encourage the development of performance trials as an important and enjoyable means of measuring hound performance and enhancing hunts' foxhound breeding programs.

**ARTICLE I**

**Organizer**

The Organizer of performance trials conducted under the auspices of the MFHA in accordance with these Rules and Regulations shall be a Master or Masters of Foxhounds of any hunt Recognized or Registered by the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America (MFHA). Such organizing masters must be members in good standing of the MFHA. The masters of two or more hunts may associate to become an Organizer. Any hunts desiring to conduct mounted foxhound pack performance trials sanctioned by the MFHA must adhere to these rules. Such Organizer shall submit an application to the MFHA containing the following information and all shall be called MFHA sanctioned foxhound performance trials:

1. The name(s) of the Organizer, the hunt(s) hosting the trial and the name of the trial, specifying whether it is an open or invitational trial.
2. The location and dates of the performance trial.
3. A brief description of the fixture(s) where the trial will be held to include size and type of terrain and paneling, game to be hunted and suitability for judging. (Note: Performance trials may not be held in fox hound training preserves.)
4. A brief description of the stable, kennel, lodging and other facilities available to officials, participants and spectators.
5. Brief resume of the Trial President, Huntsman and Judges.
6. A brief description of the liability insurance to be in force at the performance trial together with a certificate of insurance and copies of release forms needed from participants and other necessary parties. The MFHA, participating hunts, landowners and sponsors must be named as insured parties on the proposed policy which must provide liability coverage of least \$3,000,000.00. (Note: The

Organizer shall appoint a person to coordinate all release, liability and insurance issues and communicate with the MFHA about these matters. Releases shall be retained by the Organizer, for a minimum of 2 years or for the applicable statute of limitations period for negligence actions in the state where the trial is held, whichever is longer. The MFHA may conditionally sanction a performance trial subject to the submission by the Organizer at least 60 days prior to the date of the trial, of a certificate of insurance from an insurer acceptable to the MFHA evidencing the issuance of liability insurance coverage as described in the initial application.)

7. A description of entry fees and procedures to include the name and address of the trial secretary, the last date upon which entries will be accepted and entry limits. In order to permit as many hunts as possible to participate, entries shall be limited to five (5) hounds per hunt at MFHA sanctioned trials unless otherwise approved by the MFHA; provided that, if the Organizer receives at least four (4) entries, but fewer than total entries permitted, each participating hunt may be permitted to enter more hounds. **An open trial shall be open to any MFHA recognized or registered hunt or farmer pack as stated in the MFHA Guidebook & Rules section G (23), which applies for entry;** provided that, the Organizer may elect to limit the number of participating hunts to the first nine hunts to submit entry applications. **The Organizer of an invitational trial shall describe the terms of the invitation which must include only MFHA recognized or registered hunts or farmer packs, as stated in the MFHA Guidebook & Rules, section G (23).** Invitational trials may be limited to named hunts, hunts entering a specific breed or bloodline of hounds, hunts within a designated district or geographical area or any other limits selected by the Organizer. At least four hunts must participate in open or invitational trials sanctioned by the MFHA. The entry form must be sent to the MFHA office. This form must include: Trial Secretary contact information, entry fee and cut off date for entries.
8. A limit of 5 hounds per hunt unless otherwise stipulated by the office. **No hound younger than 3<sup>rd</sup> season shall be permitted to attend a trial.**
9. A. An open trial shall be open to any MFHA recognized or registered pack. Organizers may limit the number of hunts on a first come first served basis.  
B. An invitational is just that, by invitation only. Must be MFHA and should have no less the 4 packs.

Applications for sanctioned Performance Trials must be processed by the MFHA office. The MFHA may sanction 2 trials for the same day so long as they do not interfere with each other. The MFHA shall process applications to conduct MFHA sanctioned performance trials in the order they are received. Priority will be given to sanctioning performance trials in diverse geographical regions with a view to making such trials available to as many hunts as possible. More than one performance trial will be sanctioned in one region if necessary to accommodate all interested hunts in the area and if the MFHA determines that Organizers of the multiple trials have coordinated their trial dates and other matters to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

Organizers must adopt such additional rules, regulations and procedures that are deemed necessary or helpful in conducting performance trials as determined by the MFHA. The decision of the Organizer in connection with all protest or other matters coming before the Organizer shall be made in accordance with these rules and such additional rules adopted by and the MFHA. Any such decision shall be final.

### **Trial President**

1. The Trial President may not have hounds in trial. President shall assume the role of Master of Hounds for the trial and may serve as a judge. The President shall be appointed by the Organizer. The Trial President may not be a member of a hunt entering hounds in the trial.
2. The Trial President shall call all meetings of the Judges and act as their secretary. The Organizer, may appoint a qualified person to assist the Trial President in the Judges' Meeting. Such person shall work under specific instructions of the Trial President.
3. The Trial President shall give the Field Master any information he may need to enable him to keep the field within reasonable distance of the hounds. He shall instruct all participants and spectators not to converse with, or in the hearing of judges, about the work done, or the merits or demerits of any of the competing hounds. Any and all infringements of this rule shall be reported to the Organizer. The offenders may be asked to leave the field at the discretion of the Field Master. During the trial the Trial President may elect to ride with the Huntsman or observe the trial from any other location the Trial President deems best. In any event, the Trial President shall assist the Huntsman and the other judges in every way possible.
4. It shall be the duty of the Trial President to notify the hour and Meet for the following day. This may be done electronically.
5. The Trial President shall have the authority to order the removal from the trial of any hounds affected with a contagious disease or any bitches in season. Or for any other legitimate reason.
6. The Trial President will help facilitate the painting of the numbers. However, it is up to each hunt to ensure they have enough help. The Trial President shall see that the numbers are painted or dyed distinctly on both sides of the entries and shall call off the number and check each entry before the start of each day's trial. Each participating hunt should be issued their hounds' numbers at the entry office not later than 5:00 p.m. the afternoon before the first day's hunting. Numbers will be obtained by drawing and shall not be in sequence unless so drawn. However, random numbers may be assigned to a hunt prior to the trial at the discretion of the Organizer if such early assignment facilitates the painting or dyeing of the numbers

on the competing hounds. However, knowledge by any Judge of the name or owner of any hound shall not disqualify the hound or the Judge from judging that or any other hound. If the Trial President is to serve as a Judge, he shall establish a procedure for assigning numbers which limits the Trial President's access to the names of the hounds in the same manner as provided for the other Judges.

7. The Trial President shall strictly prohibit all persons other than the Huntsman from blowing a horn until the hunt is over. On rare occasion the Huntsman or Trial President may ask others to blow their horns. This would only happen for hound safety.
8. The Trial President shall work with the Huntsman to place the Judges in the best position to judge the hounds.
9. The Trial President shall chair the Judges meetings, supervise the tabulation of scores and announce any elimination and the reasons, therefore. The Trial President may serve as a Judge and may vote on scores or eliminations.
10. The Trial President must not allow Judges to compare notes at any time prior to the Judges' Meeting. Any discussion of hounds must be after the hound's number is called in the Meeting by the Trial President and no hound shall be discussed by the Judges before that time.
11. The Trial President must be accurate in recording scores at the Meetings.
12. It shall be the duty of the Trial president to see that these rules are strictly followed, and trials shall be judged under these rules only. It shall be mandatory for the Trial President to review the Rules and Regulations at a Judges' Meeting prior to the beginning of a field trial.

### **Trial Vice Presidents**

The Organizer may appoint one or more Trial Vice Presidents whose duties shall facilitate in every way the running of the trial and they shall work on specific instructions from the Trial President.

### **Huntsman, Whippers-in and Field Master**

1. The Organizer shall appoint the Huntsman. Ordinarily the Huntsman will be the huntsman at the fixture(s) where the performance trial is being held unless the host hunt is entering hounds in the performance trial. In any event, the Huntsman selected should have a good working knowledge of such fixture(s) or be provided with a guide who has such knowledge.
2. The Huntsman shall hunt the hounds entered in the performance trial and be exclusively responsible for all matters relating to such hounds from the time they leave the Meet.

3. The Huntsman's first responsibility is to take any action necessary to assure the safety of the hounds. The Huntsman's next responsibility is to hunt the pack in a manner he deems best suited to test and demonstrate the performance qualities being judged as described below.
4. The Huntsman may serve as a judge of the performance trial with no more or less judging authority than the other Judges. If the Huntsman serves as a judge, the Organizer may appoint a scribe to the Huntsman to ride with and under the direction of the Huntsman, to record the Huntsman's judging notes via a form of electronic recorder. The scribe shall refrain from engaging in any conversation that would influence the Huntsman's opinion as a Judge. If the Huntsman clearly observes or hears a hound engaged in an activity which the Huntsman desires to score, but the Huntsman does not see such hound's number, the Huntsman may ask the scribe for the number. The scribe may respond with the number when asked if the scribe is certain of the number of the hound the Huntsman is attempting to score.
5. The Huntsman may appoint the Whippers-in. However, if the Huntsman is a visitor, it may be advisable to have the organizers appoint knowledgeable Whippers-In. Once appointed the Huntsman is responsible to assign duties. . Likewise, the Whippers-in are responsible only to the Huntsman for the performance of their duties. Whippers- ins may not serve as judges of the performance trial. , the Whippers-in shall not offer an opinion to any Judge about any hound or any hound work. Whippers-in may provide information to the Huntsman by radio or otherwise to assist the Huntsman in hunting the hounds. Such information shall not be used by the Huntsman to score hounds., the Judge may ask the Whipper-in for the number. The Whipper-in may respond with the number when asked if the Whipper-in is certain of the number of the hound the Judge is attempting to score.
6. The Organizer shall appoint one or more Field Masters who shall be responsible for those riding to the hounds other than the hunt staff, Trial President and the Judges. The Field Master(s) shall coordinate their activities with the Huntsman and the Trial President with a view toward providing the field with the best view of hound work possible subject to the safety of the hounds and all persons involved. It is of primary importance that the field at no time interferes with the work or scoring of the hounds. The Field Master(s) shall be responsible for announcing and enforcing all rules of safety and etiquette adopted by the Organizer. Prior to the commencement of the first day of the trial, all persons

riding in the field must deliver their releases, capping fees and other documents required by the Organizer to the Field Master or his designee. Members of the field must be properly attired, mounted and present themselves to the Field Master(s) at least fifteen minutes before the commencement of each hunt.

### **Judges**

1. The Organizer shall appoint at least four Judges in addition to the Huntsman (or five Judges if the Huntsman is not serving as a Judge). Two of the Judges must be from a list of MFHA approved performance trial Judges; provided however this requirement may be waived by the MFHA upon application of the Organizer for good cause shown. In the event a waiver is sought, the application, verbal or written, shall be made by the Organizer to the Executive Director of the MFHA and the Chairman of the Hound Show and Performance Trial Committee of the MFHA. Whether a waiver is sought, or whether an independent panel of approved Judges is compiled by the Organizer, the emphasis shall continue to be upon the objectivity and fairness of the Judges, as well as the flexibility and fun of the sport form which is a performance trial.
2. Unless a waiver is sought, Judges are not entitled to enter hounds in the trial. No Judge may be a current member (active, social or otherwise) of any hunt entering hounds in the field trial. The Judges should not attempt to determine the name or owner of any hound entered in the trial. Judges may perform their duties in the field from horseback, vehicle, or on foot.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Rules and Regulations**

1. The Judges shall rank from one (1) to ten (10) the best hounds competing in the performance trial on a daily basis in four separate categories. The ranking shall be based on the scoring system described below.
2. No entries can be made except by a master of a Recognized or Registered hunt in good standing with the MFHA. Each master must certify that: (i) the hounds he enters in the performance trial are currently regularly hunting as part of his hunt's pack; and (ii) that the hounds entered comply with all health and safety rules applicable to entering hounds at an MFHA sanctioned hound show. Participating hunts may compete hounds from their packs which were entered in the MFHA Stud Book by another hunt. Each competing hound must be registered in the Stud Book maintained by the MFHA. Hounds listed in the MFHA Stud Book, but not registered, are ineligible to compete in the trial. No hound less than 3<sup>rd</sup> season may compete in an MFHA Performance Trial.
3. The Organizer shall determine the entry fee and the fee must be paid in full at time of entering hound(s).

4. There shall be no substitutions once the trial has commenced.
5. Each entry must have a collar with a nameplate attached. The Host hunt's name and phone number must appear on the collar of every entry. Tracking collars are strongly recommended.
6. All hounds must have plainly painted or dyed numbers on both sides and the number must correspond with that drawn at the entry office.
7. As soon as entries close for the performance trial, the Organizer shall make up a numerical list of the entries. Any list of hounds provided to the Judges shall contain the number and physical description of the competing hounds, but not their names, breeding or the name of the hunt that entered them.
8. Objections to or protests of any hound entered must be in writing by a master of a hunt participating in the trial to the Organizer. If an objection is made that cannot be substantiated, the hound under protest may continue to compete. Should the hound be disqualified, other hounds shall be placed the same as if the hound had not been in the trial.
9. The Organizer of an invitational trial may limit entries in any manner the Organizer deems appropriate.
10. No person or hunt which is guilty of misconduct in any manner in connection with the MFHA, shall be allowed to compete in any performance trial held under the auspices of the MFHA until such time as the MFHA reinstate such person or hunt.
11. Approaching a Judge or Judges to discuss or comment on the performance of any particular hound entered in a field trial prior to the time scores are posted each day of the trial is considered misconduct and any person engaging in such conduct can be reprimanded.
12. Any hound can be withdrawn without the express permission of the Trial President. Any hound withdrawn forfeits his score in the performance trial and is ineligible to compete in performance trial classes at hound shows – based on his performance at that particular event. If that hound earns a top ten slot at another sanctioned performance trial, he may compete in the performance trial classes at the hound shows.
13. It is the responsibility of each hunt participating in the performance trial to have its hounds available to the Huntsman at the Meet at the time appointed by the Trial President. Any hound failing to report on the first day shall be permanently eliminated.
14. Subject to the provisions of item 14 immediately below, on the subsequent day's hunting all hounds must answer Roll Call by the Trial President or be eliminated. No person other than the Huntsman and the Whippers-in shall be permitted to

attempt to get lost or separated hounds back into the pack being hunted by the Huntsman unless the safety of the hound is at stake in which case anyone's help is welcome.

15. A hound will be eliminated if it fails to complete any trial day's hunting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a hound is withdrawn from a day's hunting as a result of an injury after it has reported for Roll Call, it shall retain any score received prior to the injury. Any such hound is entitled to compete on subsequent days if the injury will permit. In any such cases of injury, the Trial President or his designee must inspect the injured hound to confirm the injury on the day that it occurs and re-inspect the hound for soundness if it is submitted for competition on a subsequent day.
16. A hunt may not make any substitutions of hounds after the commencement of the first trial day of hunting.
17. Any participant that exhibits poor sportsmanship will lose the right to participate in Performance Trials for a minimum of 12 months, or longer if deemed appropriate.
18. All Rules and Guidelines established by the MFHA must be followed at all times.

### **Article III**

#### **Hunting the Hounds**

No person other than the Huntsman and Whippers-in shall participate in any manner whatsoever in the hunting of the hounds. A violation of this prohibition shall be considered serious misconduct. If a pack splits both packs may be scored for trailing or FULL CRY provided the split consists of more than one hound. After being scored the pack not with the Huntsman shall be stopped and sent back to the Huntsman if possible. Hounds running deer or livestock will be eliminated in accordance with the rules set forth in Article VI, Item 4, below. Radio or other communication with the Huntsman in this regard is permitted. All damage done by a hound, horse or person at the performance trial must be made good by the hunt entering the hound or by the individual doing such damage.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Judges Work in the Field**

1. Judges shall use discretion in scoring or eliminating hounds and where reasonable doubt arises of either the good work or faults of hounds, the Judges shall question the scores of such hounds from all Judges until such time as they become convinced of the value of the work or extent of the fault. A hound may be eliminated for riot. The Organizer shall be entitled to adopt additional rules regarding elimination of hounds based upon any circumstances the Organizer deems appropriate. Any such

additional rules shall be announced to all competitors prior to the first day's competition. Deer running is probably the single most disruptive thing to happen at a performance trial. Please do not bring hounds that you even suspect run deer part time. **Any hound running deer will be eliminated and barred from competing for 24 months.**

2. Hounds must be given reasonable time to hunt on after being reprimanded by the Huntsman or any Whipper-in.
3. A hound that shows no inclination to hunt may be reported by the Judges at their Meeting and eliminated by majority vote of the Judges.
4. Unless approved by the Trial President, mounted Judges should not ride together, unless it becomes necessary to do so while following the pack running in full cry. In that event, the Judges should separate as soon as practical.
5. The minimum time for the trial hunting days shall be three (3) hours subject to earlier termination by the Trial President. Trial President shall determine, in his sole discretion, when each day's hunt is ended.
6. Judges' watches must be synchronized with that of the Huntsman and the Trial President each day prior to the commencement of the hunt.
7. When work or faults in the field are observed by a Judge, the exact time MUST be recorded and reported. The importance of recording correctly both the exact time and the work observed cannot be overstressed.
8. The Judges should acquire scores without interfering with the hunt.
9. When a hound speaks on a cold track, other hounds that cast wide, hunting for the warmer scent of the fox or coyote may be scored for Hunting. The judge must

note the time when recording a hound's work in order to avoid multiple scores for the same work.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Field Judging**

1. Judges are urged to use digital recorders to preserve an accurate, on the spot record of the scoring. Judges are encouraged to use the best and most reliable technology available to accomplish the mission of providing the most accurate scoring possible. This includes tracking collars and GPS mapping. These can help confirm where a hound was or was not at a particular time when there is doubt. All technology must be announced and approved by participating hunts prior to the first day's competition. A hound must be eliminated by any of the Judges for running riot. (deer or livestock). Judges must always note the time in the field that a hound ran deer or livestock.. Any such additional rules shall be announced to all competitors prior to the first day's competition. For example: in some performance trials, the consensus of the participants is that pigs are acceptable game to run and score hounds. In others the consensus is that hounds should be knocked off pigs as quickly and quietly as possible. In this event no positive or negative scores would be given to the hounds for pig running. This is a key issue to discuss at the judges and participants meeting.
2. Judges must allow game to leave the covert without heading it.
3. Judges shall routinely score hounds for four different kinds of good performance as set forth below in this Paragraph 3. (Note: Endurance point scores shall be calculated as a percentage of the total daily scores for the four types of performance, plus bonus points for Exemplary Performance (if awarded), all as described in this Article and Articles VI, below.) In addition, ranking of the ten (10) best hounds in each of the five categories (including endurance) and the High General Average (HGA) of all categories shall be calculated in accordance with Article VI, Paragraph 11 below.). Under exceptional circumstances the Judges by two-thirds vote may reward a hound for Exemplary Performance as described in sub-paragraph E, below.
  - A. **HUNTING:** A hound is 'hunting' if he is drawing. A hound should be scored on efficiency of drawing. A hound that persistently hunts for permitted quarry scent should be scored for hunting even if it does not find the scent. A hound may be scored for hunting with its head up or down depending on scent conditions. A harking, following or drifting

hound should not be scored as a hunting hound.

- B. **TRAILING:** The act of actually following the game at distance while giving tongue and making every effort to catch up to the game. A trailing score should not be given in any instance where solid running of game is in the immediate vicinity. However, hounds may be scored for trailing separate game at the same time so long as no part of the pack is involved in a chase in which FULL CRY scores are being given.
- C. **FULL CRY:** When a fox or coyote is started and the pack is running, the Judges should endeavor to get to the pack and score all hounds participating in a Full Cry chase.
- D. **MARKING:** Accounting for the quarry, bringing it to bay or causing it to go to ground and speaking at the earth after a chase shall be known for purposes of these Rules as “Marking”. The hounds causing or participating in Marking shall be given a Marking score in accordance with these rules. There are two types of Markings, Primary and Secondary, as described below. The first judge to arrive at a Marking shall be the Scoring Master for the Marking event being sure to note his time of arrival. Judges arriving subsequently shall assist the Scoring Master in noting Marking scores. In the event of inconsistencies at the Judges Meeting in the noted Marking Scores, the Scoring Master’s scores shall be given the greatest weight. It should be noted that occasionally hounds will mark quarry which has gone to ground without pressure from the pack. This shall not be considered to be an event for which Marking scores are to be awarded. Marking scores shall be awarded only when the judges determine the hounds forced the quarry to ground resulting in either a Primary or Secondary Marking. The best evidence of a Marking is when a chase precedes the Marking. However, it is not necessary for Full Cry scores to have been awarded to award scores for Marking because in some instances judges are unable to get to the front of the pack to award Full Cry scores before the Marking occurs.
- E. **EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE:** This is not a separate category for which HGA points are awarded. However, as more fully described in Article VI, below, the Judges by two-thirds majority vote may award an unusually brilliant hound up to 500 bonus base points for Exemplary Performance for an unusual quality not otherwise recognized by scores awarded in the four categories listed above. These Rules have been designed to objectively evaluate hounds performing in the field for qualities which experienced hound breeders and handlers have determined are the essential ingredients in a high quality pack of foxhounds. On the other hand, a particular hound may demonstrate an outstanding and essential quality which is not rewarded by the other category scores. Such a quality may be unusual biddability, courage, ingenuity, resourcefulness

or another quality seen in a hound by the Judges. Great care should be taken in making an award for Exemplary Performance. It is not expected that the award will be made at every performance trial. The award should be made only when the quality for which the award is being given has been observed by more than one Judge and then only after full discussion by the Judges. The Judges should be aware that while there are no HGA points directly associated with Exemplary Performance, an award of a significant number of Exemplary Performance bonus base points could have a major impact on the Endurance Scores and HGA points given for that category which is based on a percentage of total base points for all categories.

4. The Organizer may appoint a Home Plate Umpire who shall remain at the Meet and record the numbers of all hounds returning to the Meet. If any such hounds refuse to hunt or hark to the pack after the Home Plate Umpire has made reasonable efforts to get them to do so, he may crate them and recommend at the Judges Meeting that they be scratched. The Home Plate Umpire shall accurately record the time of his action. Under no condition shall a hound be scratched for returning to the Meet in less than 10 minutes after his return to the Meet. The Home Plate Umpire may allow the staff to remove hounds from his containment if their numbers are recorded on his scratch list. If any Judge reports that any such hound was observed hunting after it was removed from confinement, it shall not be scratched for refusing to hunt. Any hound scratched for refusing to hunt will not be allowed to hunt on subsequent days. The Home Plate Umpire shall not score hounds.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Judges Meetings**

1. The Trial President shall assemble the Judges, Home Plate Umpire, any scribes appointed and any other persons specifically authorized by the Trial President for a closed meeting as soon as possible after the end of the daily hunt. (Note: The Huntsman shall not attend the Judges Meeting if he is not serving as a Judge.) The Trial President shall preside at the Meeting and record the scores. He shall prepare a score sheet for posting and a duplicate, which he will retain in his own possession. The number of points in each hound's score for Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry and Marking shall be determined by majority vote of the Judges. An award of points for Exemplary Performance may be made only upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Judges. A hound's name or the hunt from which it comes shall not be disclosed or mentioned at a Judges Meeting. It is highly recommended that the computerized scoring program developed by the MFHA be used to tabulate the scores. Nevertheless, use of the

scoring program does not override the necessity for the Judges to meet and determine the scores and all other matters involving the performance trial by majority vote as the case may be.

2. When the daily scoring is complete, the Trial President shall post the sheet on a bulletin board or in a convenient location where masters, staff and the field can see it.
3. The Trial President shall record the scoring by the Judges in Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry, Marking and Exemplary Performance (if awarded). He shall also supervise the computation and recordation of the scores for Endurance and the High General Average. If the computerized scoring program is not used, two people must help record the scoring to be sure there are no mistakes.
4. The Trial President shall note any hound that is scratched or eliminated, why and when such numbered hound was scratched or eliminated. A hound will be eliminated by one of the Judges, there is zero tolerance to riot. Any hound observed running deer or livestock will be eliminated and removed from the pack at the first opportunity. Generally, hounds should be eliminated only for running deer or livestock, refusing to hunt or endangering the safety or orderly progress of the trial. A hound should be eliminated for refusing to hunt only if the Judges determine that it was given every reasonable opportunity to hunt. Behavior endangering the safety or orderly progress of the trial must be fully explained at the Judges Meeting. Any reasonable doubt about a hound's conduct which may warrant elimination for the reasons set forth herein should be resolved in favor of the h hunting. In this regard, the Judges may refrain from eliminating hounds which are determined by majority vote not to have been the leaders in or instigators of any activity which might otherwise warrant elimination. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Organizer shall be entitled to adopt additional more severe rules regarding elimination of hounds based upon any circumstances the Organizer deems appropriate. Any such additional rules shall be announced to all competitors prior to the first day's competition.
5. Hunting score - A hound may receive a maximum of 10 points only for hunting within the first hour after the first covert is drawn. He may receive a maximum of 15 points for the second hour, 20 points for the third hour and 25 points for the fourth hour. Finally, a hound may receive a maximum of 30 points for the fifth and any subsequent hour should the hunting continue beyond four hours. The score will only count once per hour per hound no matter how many Judges score a hound.

Recap of maximum scoring per hound per hour for Hunting: 5 Hour Total; score

allowed only once per hour (Note: 3 hours hunting minimum required subject to earlier termination by Trial President in accordance with Article IV, Paragraph 5.)

1 <sup>st</sup> Hour	10 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour	15 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour	20 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> Hour	25 Points (optional)
5 <sup>th</sup> Hour	30 Points (optional)

6. Trailing score - Each hour shall be divided into 3 segments of 20 minute each. No hound may be scored twice for trailing in any twenty minute segment. A hound may receive a maximum of 10 trailing points during each 20 minute segment within the first hour after the first covert is drawn. He may receive a maximum of 15 trailing points during each 20 minute segment for the second hour, 20 points during each 20 minute segment for the third hour and 25 points during each 20 minute segment for the fourth hour. Finally, a hound may receive a maximum of 30 points during each 20 minute segment for the fifth and any subsequent hour should the hunting continue beyond four hours. The score will only count once per 20 minute segment per hound no matter how many Judges score a hound.

Recap of maximum scoring per hound per hour for Trailing: 5 Hour Total; score allowed only once per 20 minute segment (Note: 3 hours hunting minimum required subject to earlier termination by Trial President in accordance with Article IV, Paragraph 5.)

1 <sup>st</sup> Hour	30 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour	45 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour	60 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> Hour	75 Points (optional)
5 <sup>th</sup> Hour	90 Points (optional)

7. Full Cry score - Each hour shall be divided into 6 segments of 10 minute each. No hound may be scored twice for Full Cry in any ten minute segment. Hounds are scored for Full Cry from front to back. No hound shall be scored unless the Judge gets the number of the first hound to cross. No hound shall be scored if running behind a hound whose number could not be read. It is critical to the accuracy of the trial that a Judge only score a hound if its number is clearly seen. As soon as a Judge misses the number, that Judge may not score the hound whose number was missed or ANY hound behind the one missed. While there may be normal spacing between hounds in the pack, no hound may be scored that is running behind and not a part of the pack even if no number has been missed. During the first hour of the trial, the first place hound in a Full Cry chase is awarded 35 Full Cry base points; the second place hound, 30 Full Cry base points, the third place hound, 25 Full Cry base points; and so on decreasing the Full Cry

base points by 5 points until the sixth place hound and any hounds scored below six place receive 10 Full Cry base points. During the second hour of the trial, the first place hound in a Full Cry chase shall be awarded 40 Full Cry base points; the second place hound, 35 Full Cry base points, the third place hound, 30 Full Cry base points, and so on decreasing the Full Cry base points by 5 points until the seventh place hound and any hounds scored below seventh place receive 10 Full Cry base points. During the third hour of the trial the first place hound in a Full Cry chase shall be awarded 45 Full Cry base points; the second place hound, 40 Full Cry base points; the third place hound, 35 Full Cry base points; and so on decreasing the Full Cry base points by 5 points until the eighth place hound and any hounds scored below eighth place receive 10 Full Cry base points. During the fourth hour of the trial and any subsequent hour, the first place hound in a Full Cry chase shall be awarded 50 Full Cry base points; the second place hound, 45 Full Cry base points; the third place hound, 40 Full Cry base points; and so on decreasing the Full Cry base points by 5 points until the ninth place hound and any hounds scored below ninth place receive 10 Full Cry base points.

Recap of scoring for Full Cry: Score every 10 segment giving each hound the highest score received within each segment. Each hound may receive only one score per time segment no matter how many Judges scored the hound within that period. Score from the quarry back.

Hour One:

1 <sup>st</sup> Hound	35 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hound	30 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hound	25 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> Hound	20 Points
5 <sup>th</sup> Hound	15 Points
6 <sup>th</sup> & Subsequent Hounds	10 points

Hour Two:

1 <sup>st</sup> Hound	40 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hound	35 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hound	30 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> Hound	25 Points
5 <sup>th</sup> Hound	20 Points
6 <sup>th</sup> Hound	15 Points
7 <sup>th</sup> & Subsequent Hounds	10 points

Hour Three:

1 <sup>st</sup> Hound	45 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hound	40 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hound	35 Points

4 <sup>th</sup> Hound	30 Points
5 <sup>th</sup> Hound	25 Points
6 <sup>th</sup> Hound	20 Points
7 <sup>th</sup> Hound	15 Points
8 <sup>th</sup> & Subsequent Hounds	10 points

Hour Four and later:

1 <sup>st</sup> Hound	50 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hound	45 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hound	40 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> Hound	35 Points
5 <sup>th</sup> Hound	30 Points
6 <sup>th</sup> Hound	25 Points
7 <sup>th</sup> Hound	20 Points
8 <sup>th</sup> Hound	15 points
9 <sup>th</sup> & Subsequent Hounds	10 points

8. Marking score – A “Marking Event” means the act of accounting for, bringing to bay or forcing to ground the hunted quarry. Note that it is not a Marking Event for the hounds to come across quarry which has gone to ground on its own. The first judge at the Marking Event shall be the Scoring Master for the Marking. If the Scoring Master is present at the Marking Event and knows which hound or hounds that actually cause the Marking event, such hound or hounds shall receive a score of 150 points. All hounds which arrive later at the Marking Event, but which did not actually cause the Marking, shall receive a score of from 25 points to 100 points, as determined by the Scoring Master, in 10 point increments depending on the intensity of the hound’s participation in the Marking and its contribution to the Marking Event. If the Scoring Master does not know which hound or hounds caused the Marking Event, the maximum score which may be awarded shall be 100 points. Each instance of Marking Event shall be judged separately and there shall be no limit to the number of Marking points per hour a hound may receive so long as each score is received for a separate Marking Event in a different location. It shall not be considered Marking for hounds to speak or dig at a hole, den or other refuge unless proper quarry has been forced by hounds into such refuge. The Scoring Master shall note (after consultation with the other judges present) whether each Marking Event is a “Primary Marking Event” or a “Secondary Marking Event”. A Primary Marking Event is one which occurs as a result of pursuit and pressure by the hounds upon the quarry. A Primary Marking Event normally follows one or more Full Cry chases after the quarry which is marked to ground. The judges must actually know which hound or hounds caused the Marking Event for it to be determined to be a Primary Marking Event. Knowledge of the specific hound or hounds which caused the marking simply provides the basis to award 150 Marking base points as opposed to a maximum of 100 Marking base points. Secondary Marking points are awarded when hounds mark and no judge sees the Primary Marking. 100 Marking base points are the

maximum that may be awarded at a Secondary Marking Event.

Recap of scoring for Marking: Score every Hound Marking. The hound or hounds known to cause the Marking Event at a Primary Marking Event shall receive a score of 150 points. Hounds not known to cause the Primary Marking Event, but participating in either a Primary or Secondary Marking Event, shall receive a score of from 25 to 100 points depending on intensity and the level of contribution to the event. Every hound at the marking event should normally be given an equal score for being there. However, the judges have the discretion to award unequal scores at a marking event if they determine by majority vote that one or more hounds deserve a higher or lower score than awarded to the majority of the hounds at the marking. Hounds drifting in to the Marking event - even 2 or 3 minutes later - should not be scored. Every effort should be taken by the judges to score only the first group of hounds at the marking event. The second and possibly the third judge on the scene should make note of the hounds straggling in so that they not be credited with any marking points in the possible confusion of the situation.

9. Exemplary Performance score - Up to 500 Bonus Base Points may be awarded by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the judges under the circumstances described in Article V, Section 3.E., above. Upon completion of the entry of the scores for Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry and Marking and before the tabulation of the Endurance scores, the Trial President shall ask if any judge wishes to propose that any hound be awarded Bonus Base Points for Exemplary Performance. Any judge who wishes to propose that a hound be considered for such Points shall fully describe the activity or quality of the hound he observed that he believes justifies the award. The award shall not be made if no other judge observed the activity or quality. However, the activity or quality need not be observed at the same time or on the same occasion during the hunt. The award shall be made only after discussion and full consideration by the judges as a whole.
10. Endurance score - The endurance score shall be computed by the Trial President and shown on the daily posted score sheet. A hound must score in either Hunting or Trailing plus Full Cry to receive an Endurance score. On the first day all such hounds shall receive 10% of their total daily base score in all categories as an endurance score. The same system for computing applies for the second day except that the percentage rate shall be raised to 20%. If there is a third day, the percentage shall be 30%.

Recap of Endurance score as a percentage of the total base scores for each day for Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry, Marking and Exemplary Performance (if awarded): To be eligible, a hound must score in either Hunting or Trailing plus Full Cry)

10% - First Day  
20% - Second Day  
30% - Third Day

11. Category ratings and High General Average (“HGA”) - On the final day of the trial (and on earlier days if special daily awards are given) after the daily scores for the Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry, Marking and Endurance Categories are tabulated, the Trial President shall add the base scores within each category for all days of the trial (or for the day if daily awards are given) to identify the first ten places for each Category. The HGA scores are weighted to reward those qualities necessary to perform well at Full Cry, Marking and Endurance. Less emphasis is placed on Trailing and even less on Hunting.

(a). The hound receiving the highest number of points for Full Cry shall receive 100 HGA points. The hound receiving the second highest number of points for Full Cry shall receive 90 HGA points. The hound receiving the third highest score for Full Cry shall receive 80 HGA points and so on with a reduction of 10 HGA points for each subsequent place down to 10 HGA points for the hound that receives the tenth highest number of Full Cry points.

(b). Hounds, participating in a Primary Marking Event and the hounds in first through tenth place in Endurance shall be scored for HGA in the same manner as the HGA scoring for Full Cry. That is, the hound at a Primary Marking Event with the highest number of Marking Points (including any Marking Points earned by this hound at a separate Secondary Marking Event) and the hound with the highest number of Endurance points shall each receive 100 HGA points and so on with a reduction of 10 HGA points for each subsequent place down to 10 HGA points for the tenth place hound at the Primary Marking Event and the tenth place hound for Endurance. The hound receiving the highest score awarded at the Secondary Marking Event shall receive a maximum of 75 HGA points if it did not receive Marking points at a Primary Marking Event. The hound receiving the second highest number of Marking points at the Secondary Marking Event if it did not receive Marking points at a Primary Marking Event, shall receive 67.50 HGA points and so on with a reduction of 7.5 HGA points for each subsequent place down to 7.5 HGA points for the tenth highest score for a hound not participating in a Primary Marking Event during the Performance Trial. It should be noted that if two or more Markings occur during a Performance Trial and at least one is a Primary Marking Event, all Marking points are to be combined to calculate the HGA Marking points. In that event, the HGA Marking Points for the hounds participating in the Primary Marking Event are to be scaled from 100 to 10 in increments of 10 points each. The HGA Marking Points for the hounds, if any, not participating in a Primary Marking Event are to be scaled from 75 to 7.5 in 7.5 point increments.

(c). HGA points shall be awarded for Trailing in the same manner as for Secondary Marking. That is, the hound with the highest number of Trailing points is to receive 75 HGA points and so on with a reduction of 7.5 HGA points for each subsequent place down to 7.5 HGA points for the hound placing tenth in Trailing.

(d). The hound receiving the highest number of points for Hunting shall receive 50 HGA points. The hound receiving the second highest number of points for Hunting shall receive 45 HGA points. The hound receiving the third highest score for Hunting shall receive 40 HGA points and so on with a reduction of 5 HGA points for each subsequent place down to 5 HGA points for the hound that receives the tenth highest number of Hunting points.

In the event of ties in the base score for Hunting, Trailing, Marking or Full Cry, the hound receiving the latest score in the category shall be declared the winner. In the event hounds are still tied in such Category after determining the time of the latest score for such hounds in the Category, the total base score in all categories shall break the tie. In the event of ties in the base score for the Endurance Category, the hound receiving the latest score awarded for the day, irrespective of whether such score is for Hunting, Trailing, Marking or Full Cry, shall be declared the winner. In the event hounds are still tied in the Endurance Category after determining the time of the latest score for the day, the hound receiving the highest score for Trailing for all days through the day being evaluated shall be declared the winner. After the rankings of the first ten places in each of the five Categories have been determined, the Trial President shall determine the first through tenth place hounds in High General Average calculating the total computed scores from the five Categories for each hound that completed all days of the trial. A hound which did not complete all days of the trial shall not be eligible for a High General Average award unless such hound was withdrawn for all or any part of a day due to injury as described in Article II, Item 14 above. Any ties in High General Average shall be broken using the procedure established for breaking ties within the Endurance Category. In the event that after applying all the rules set forth herein for breaking ties there remains a tie in any of the four Categories or in High General Average, the Judges by majority vote shall adopt such additional tie breaking rules as are necessary to break such remaining ties.

### **Examples**

12. The following examples are provided to demonstrate how the scoring system described herein is to be applied:

Example 1, determining the score for a hound for Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry, Marking and Endurance - Assume Hound # 1 was observed by the Judges to be Hunting in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hours of day One of the trial; In addition, he was observed Trailing in the first and third 20 minute segment of hour 2 and in the second 20 minute segment of hour 4 of the same day. He was recorded as the 3<sup>rd</sup> hound in a pack in one 10 minute interval of a Full Cry chase during hour 2, the 2<sup>nd</sup> hound in a pack in another 10 minute interval of a Full Cry chase during hour 4 and the 4<sup>th</sup> hound in a pack in the same 10 minute interval during hour 4 at a different location. He was also observed by the judges to be the only hound nipping at the quarry's heels as it ran into a hole at the base of a tree. For day One of the trial, Hound #1 would receive 30 points for Hunting, 55 points for Trailing, 75 points for Full Cry and 150 points for being the hound that caused a Primary Marking as depicted below. (Note: If the Judges did not know Hound 1

caused the Marking, the maximum Marking score the hound could have received would have been 100.) It should be noted that Hound #1 would not receive any points for being the 4<sup>th</sup> hound in the Full Cry pack which was observed during the same 10 minute interval in which he was observed to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> hound in the pack. Hound #1 would receive 310 combined total base points for Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry and Primary Marking. Therefore, he would receive an Endurance Score of 31 points since this was the first day of the trial. (Remember that to receive an endurance score, the hound must have been scored in either Hunting or Trailing plus Full Cry.) Had this been the second day of the trial, Hound #1 would have received 62 points for Endurance (20% of the combined Hunting, Trailing and Full Cry Scores).

Hound #1 - Record of performance for first day of trial.

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Time</u>
Hunting	10 Points	8:00 (1 <sup>st</sup> hr.)
	<u>20 Points</u>	10:10 (3 <sup>rd</sup> hr.)
Total Hunting	30 Points	
Trailing	15 Points	9:20 (2 <sup>nd</sup> hr.)
	15 Points	9:40 (2 <sup>nd</sup> hr.)
	<u>25 Points</u>	11:35 (4 <sup>th</sup> hr.)
Total Trailing	55 Points	
Full Cry	30 Points	8:30 (3 <sup>rd</sup> place)
	45 Points	10:11 (2 <sup>nd</sup> place)
	<u>0 Points</u>	10:15 (4 <sup>th</sup> place)
Total Speed & Drive	75 Points	
Primary Marking	150 points	N/A

Endurance Score Calculation: 30 Hunting + 55 Trailing + 75 Full Cry + 150 Marking = 310 x 10% = 31 Endurance Points.

Example 2, calculating Category ratings and High General average - Assume that the trial lasted for two days. On the first day Hound #1 received 30 Hunting points, 55 Trailing points, 75 Full Cry points, 150 Primary Marking points and 31 Endurance points as shown in Example 1. On day two Hound #1 received 15 Hunting points, 60 Trailing points 130 Full Cry points and 100 Secondary Marking Points. (Note: The Judges were fairly certain the pack had caused the Marking, but did not know which individual hounds caused the Marking.) Thus, he would have 305 points for the four Categories and receive an additional 61 Endurance points which is 20% of 305. This would give Hound #1: 45 total Hunting Points, 115 total Trailing Points, 205 total Full Cry points, 250 total Marking points and 92 total Endurance points for the two days.

Assume on the first day Hound #2 received 25 Hunting points, 50 Trailing points, 75 Full Cry and 100 Primary Marking points (He is the race for the quarry, but was a bit behind Hound #1 when he caused the Marking). Thus, Hound #2 would receive 25 Endurance points for the first

day, which is 10% of the total of his 250 points in the other four Categories. Assume on day two Hound #2 received 45 Hunting Points, 70 Trailing Points and 100 Full Cry points and 80 Secondary Marking points. Thus, he would have 295 points for the four Categories and receive 59 Endurance points, which is 20% of 295. This would give Hound #2: 70 total Hunting Points, 120 total Trailing Points, 175 total Full Cry points, 180 total Marking points and 84 total Endurance points for the two days.

Assume on the first day Hound #3 received 15 Hunting points, 20 Trailing points, 30 Full Cry points and no Marking points. Thus, he would receive 6.5 Endurance points for the first day, which is 10% of the total of his 65 points in the other four Categories. Assume on day two Hound #3 received 40 Full Cry points and 70 Secondary Marking points. Thus, he would have 110 points for the four Categories, but receive no Endurance points since he did not receive a score in either Hunting or Trailing in addition to his Full Cry points. This would give Hound #3: 15 total Hunting Points, 20 total Trailing Points, 70 total Full Cry points, 70 total Secondary Marking points and 6.5 total Endurance points for the two days.

Based upon the above assumptions, the computed scores and HGA rankings for each of the four Categories would be as follows:

	Base Points	Rank	HGA Points
<u>Hunting:</u>			
Hound #1	45	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
Hound #2	70	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
Hound #3	15	3 <sup>rd</sup>	80
<u>Trailing:</u>			
Hound #1	115	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
Hound #2	120	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
Hound #3	20	3 <sup>rd</sup>	80
<u>Full Cry:</u>			
Hound #1	205	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
Hound #2	180	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
Hound #3	70	3 <sup>rd</sup>	80

Marking:

Hound #1	250	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
Hound #2	180	2 <sup>nd</sup>	80
Hound #3	70	3 <sup>rd</sup>	60*

\*Note that Hound #3 did not participate in the Primary Marking on day 1 of the Trial. Thus, his 3<sup>rd</sup> place is scaled from a maximum of 75 rather than 100 Marking HGA Points.

Endurance:

Hound #1	92	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
Hound #2	84	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
Hound #3	6.5	3 <sup>rd</sup>	80

The rankings for the High General Average would be:

Hound #1	Hunting	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
	Trailing	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
	Full Cry	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
	Marking	2 <sup>nd</sup>	100
	Endurance	1 <sup>st</sup>	<u>100</u>
480 HGA Points (1 <sup>st</sup> place)			

Hound #2	Hunting	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
	Trailing	1 <sup>st</sup>	100
	Full Cry	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
	Marking	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
	Endurance	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<u>90</u>
470 HGA Points (2 <sup>nd</sup> place)			

Hound #3	Hunting	3 <sup>rd</sup>	80
	Trailing	3 <sup>rd</sup>	80
	Full Cry	3 <sup>rd</sup>	80
	Marking	3 <sup>rd</sup>	60*
	Endurance	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<u>80</u>
380 HGA Points (3 <sup>rd</sup> place)			

Example 3, the effect of an award of Exemplary Performance points – Assume all other base scores are as set forth above. However, after the entry of all scores for Hunting, Trailing, Full Cry and Marking on day 2, the Judges determine by two thirds majority to award Hound # 2 a total of 350 Exemplary Performance bonus base points because the Judges determined that this

hound single handedly turned what would otherwise have been a blank day into a good hunting day. This award is to be made before the calculation of the endurance scores for the day it is made. An award of 350 Exemplary Performance bonus base points would increase total base points for Hound #2 on day 2 from 295 as shown above to 645. In turn, this would increase the day 2 Endurance Score for Hound #2 from 59 to 129. This would move Hound #2 from second place to first place in Endurance and result in Hound # 2 being declared the champion hound of the performance trial.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Posting and Forwarding of Scores**

Except as provided in Article II, Item 14 above, only hounds completing all of the days hunting without elimination are eligible to be placed. Only the top 10 High General Average Hounds are eligible to show in performance classes at FCNA shows. Scores will be posted on the Daily Score sheets on all trial days prior to the final day of the trial. The calculations of the final scores shall be posted on a Final Score Sheet which ranks the hounds by High General Average. The Judges' Score sheets shall not be made available. As soon as practical after the trial, the Organizer shall submit the results of the trial setting forth the top ten High General Average hounds and any other relevant information to the MFHA.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Special Awards**

The Organizer may make such daily or final Category awards or other awards in addition to High General Average as the Organizer deems appropriate. The scoring for any such special awards may not to be used for determining High General Average which is to be based solely on the scoring of the categories described in Articles V and VI above.