

GUIDEBOOK & RULES



MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA

Promote. Preserve. Protect.

2023

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Code of Hunting Practices, 2022

Constitution & By-Laws; 2023

Directory of Recognized and Registered Hunts; published annually

Forming a Hunt: Considerations and Structure; 2003

Foxhound Kennel Notebook (5th Edition); 2022

Foxhound Kennel Stud Book of America; published annually

Introduction to Foxhunting; 2013

Guide for Hound Shows, Puppy Shows & Performance Trials; 2013

Guide to Being a Master of Foxhounds; 2015

Guide to Establishing a Foxhunting Camp; 1999

Guide to Kennel Standards of Care Checklist; 2013

Guide to Limiting Legal Liability; 1993

Guidelines for Developing a Plan to Manage Anti-hunting Demonstrations; 2015

Public Relations & Media Guidelines; 2021

Social Media Guidelines; 2022

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RULES, REGULATIONS and PROCEDURES
adopted by the
MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH
AMERICA
with information on
CUSTOMS, USAGES and TRADITIONS
of the sport of mounted hunting with hounds.

The rules and customs of mounted foxhunting are difficult to set out in detail, for they are so heavily impacted by history, traditions handed down for generations and the ever changing political and habitat requirements of the 21st century. To define them completely is as difficult as completely defining what is “good, sensible or practical”, but like “good”, there are well-accepted standards and guidelines that, if followed, will result in maintaining the best possible traditions of foxhunting. This guidebook is not intended to be definitive in every detail, but it does contain rules, regulations and procedures that the Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America (MFHA) has adopted in an effort to guide its members (this includes Masters, ex-Masters and individual members) and its member hunts toward achieving that objective. It also contains information on procedures and provides some insight into their purpose. This guidebook contains the minimum standards and objectives to which Masters, member hunts and all members of the MFHA should and, in some cases, shall adhere. Hunts that do not continue to meet the standards set forth in these rules, or that act in a manner contrary to the best interests of the sport, may be dropped from the roster of recognized and registered hunts by majority vote of the board of directors or be subject to warning, fine, probation, suspension or reduction in status.

The MFHA is the governing body of mounted hunting with hounds in the United States and Canada. Among its activities are the promotion of the sport, the publication of a “Foxhound Stud Book” and the recognition of organized hunts that have met its standards. It records

countries and boundaries for organized hunting establishments and extends registration of hunts as a preliminary step toward recognition. Masters of recognized hunts must be members of the MFHA, must adhere to its rules and should adhere to its guidelines. The participation of hunts as member hunts is voluntary, but once a hunt has accepted registration or recognition, it must adhere to the rules and should adhere to the guidelines of the MFHA and pursue the sport according to the best possible customs and traditions. Masters are responsible for ensuring that their paid and honorary staff adhere to the rules and guidelines

Pursuant to a Constitution and By-laws (which may be amended by the board of directors any time deemed appropriate), the MFHA is governed by a board of directors consisting of a president, one or two vice presidents, a secretary-treasurer (or secretary and treasurer), one representative from each district in the United States and Canada, and the three (3) past presidents. All directors shall be Masters of Foxhounds. The president can, at his or her discretion, appoint an additional director at large. A Director of Hunting and a Director of Operations are appointed by the board of directors and are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the MFHA. The Director of Hunting is also known as the “Keeper of the Stud Book”. The officers and directors are selected by the Nominating Committee and confirmed by the Master membership at the annual meeting.

To properly carry out its purposes and disseminate its policies, the MFHA requires that the current Masters of each of its recognized and registered hunts be current members of the Association and that these member hunts report to the MFHA and respond promptly to inquiries from the Director of Hunting, the Director of Operations, applicable District Director or the board. Unless otherwise stated, these Guidelines and Rules apply equally to Masters and their member hunts. Masters and member hunts are responsible for the actions of their huntsman and staff. Violation of these requirements may lead to the termination of a member hunt’s recognition or registration.

(A) QUALIFICATIONS OF HUNTS

Organized hunts are *REGISTERED* or *RECOGNIZED* by vote of the board of directors of the MFHA. Recognition and registration are granted on an annual basis. The status of each hunt is reviewed annually, and each is re-recognized or re-registered for the following year by the directors.

The MFHA maintains minimum standards and requirements that must be met by newly formed hunting establishments, or hunting entities desiring recognition, before their applications will be considered. Once a hunt has been granted registration or recognition, it must maintain standards and performance at or above the minimum condition or be subject to disqualification.

The following sections set forth the *minimum requirements and procedures* for applications. Further rules and requirements set forth elsewhere in this book, or hereafter adopted by the MFHA, should also be consulted.

1. REGISTRATION OF A HUNT

Registration is the preliminary step that all groups interested in forming and operating a recognized hunting establishment must take. Current Masters must sign an agreement to be bound by the rules and regulations of the MFHA.

Before a hunt can be registered, all of its individual members must be individual members of the MFHA.

Registration is provisional for one (1) year from the date granted and acts as a probationary period to test the character and permanence of any organization wishing to establish and properly maintain a pack of hounds. During the registration period, hunts must build up their organization to meet the requirements of the MFHA.

The procedure for applying for registration is to obtain an application form from the MFHA office. The Director of Hunting will send the applicants a copy of the “MFHA Guidebook & Rules” as well as the “Code of Hunting Practices” to assure that all involved parties are fully aware of the MFHA requirements. The form must be executed and signed by the Masters of the applicant hunt and returned to the MFHA office. The application must be accompanied by a *Foxhound Kennel List*, as described in section (F), and a map clearly outlining the boundaries of the hunting country which the organization plans to hunt or is hunting and for which application is being made to record with the MFHA. The map should conform in size and scale to the standards set forth in section (B).

In the recording of country by a new hunt, the application shall be *provisional* and shall be made permanent only by vote of the Board of Directors of the MFHA not less than twelve (12) months after the date of registration. Only country that is not recorded to a registered or recognized MFHA hunt will be considered for recording by the applicant.

A minimum of one (1) year must elapse from the date when a hunt is granted registration status to the date when it becomes eligible to apply for recognition.

The expiration of the provisional year of registration does not entitle a hunt to recognition but merely makes a hunt eligible to apply for such status. The granting of recognition depends on the hunt having fulfilled all requirements of the MFHA.

If application for registration as an organized hunt and for recording of country has been granted, the standard fee (and an initiation fee) for such registration and recording shall be paid within thirty (30) days, and such standard fee shall be paid annually so long as the applicant hunt remains provisionally registered and recorded. All Masters of newly registered hunts must sign a statement that they will comply with all rules and adhere to the guidelines of the MFHA as well as the portions of the Code of Hunting Practices preceded by shall, will must or the like.

2. RECOGNITION OF A HUNT

When a registered hunt becomes eligible to apply for the status of recognition, an officer or a Master(s) of the registered hunt shall write a formal letter applying for recognition to the Director of Hunting of the MFHA. This letter shall state that the applicant hunt feels it is qualified for recognition and that it has fulfilled all requirements for such status.

The Director Hunting of the MFHA shall give the application to the representative of the district in which the applicant hunt is located, with the request that he or she inspect the applicant's hunting establishment and hunting activities. The district representative should hunt with the applicant hunt. After the inspection, the district director shall report a recommendation to the board of directors for appropriate action.

If a hunt is notified that it has been recognized, it shall pay the standard fee within thirty (30) days, and each year thereafter shall pay an annual re-recognition fee.

3. INACTIVE PERIOD OF A HUNT

The inactive period of a member hunt shall be reviewed by the executive committee annually during which time it will be considered an “inactive registered” hunt. The hunt can be dropped from registration and its claim to recorded country be declared expired at any time if the board of directors does not see progress toward active status.

Application for inactive or reorganizational status must be submitted to the MFHA Director of Hunting for action by the board of directors and should set forth the reasons for inactivity, the date when the hunt became inactive and what disposition, if any, has been made of its hounds.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR PACKS OF FOXHOUNDS

These requirements apply to both registered and recognized hunts. Full compliance with the intention of all requirements, however, may not

necessarily be expected of a newly established hunt at the time of its initial registration.

PACK

A minimum of ten (10) couple of entered hounds shall be maintained by a live-quarry hunting pack; a drag-hunting pack shall maintain a minimum of six (6) couple of entered hounds. The ten (10) couple rule refers to entered hounds. During the off-season, a live-quarry pack may include unentered hounds to be entered the next season when determining compliance with this rule.

- a) The minimum number must all be registered or eligible for registration in the MFHA “Foxhound Stud Book” and shall be the property of the hunt unless otherwise stated in a written agreement.
- b) Hounds must be well mannered, pack-trained, and obedient to voice and horn. All hounds should be accounted for at the end of a day’s hunting or hound exercise. Hounds left out should be the exception rather than the rule. If hounds are left out, staff should look for them by all means available until accounted for.
- c) Hounds should be trained to chase only accepted quarry; however, should riot occur, the huntsman and his staff should be able to stop them promptly.
- d) A hound breeding program is recommended for each member hunt to ensure continuity and should have a range of age classes. As an alternative to breeding their own hounds, hounds being given by a recognized hunt may be a better option. Hounds are always given, not sold.

Hunts are urged to cooperate by making stallion hound services available at no charge and by making gifts of MFHA registered hounds to registered or recognized hunts that need them.

- e) All hunts must comply with rules governing the registration of hounds in the “Foxhound Stud Book” as set forth in section (F) page 23.

THE FIELD

Members of the hunting field should be turned out in proper attire as noted in section (J), ride safely, stay off crops and behave in a friendly manner toward all others, especially landowners and the general public. Field members not in compliance may be sent home at the discretion of the Field Master or Master(s).

HUNT STAFF

- a) Must be capable of training and handling hounds as set forth under the PACK section above in paragraph (b) page 6.
- b) Must be turned out in suitable hunting attire.
- c) Must know and comply with the “Code of Hunting Practices”, the “Public Relations & Media Guidelines”, the “Social Media Guidelines” and the “Guidelines for Developing a Plan to Manage Anti-hunting Demonstrations”.

MEETS

A minimum of two (2) hunting days a week must be scheduled. Phone answering machines or email notifications of such meets are sufficient.

SEASON

The hunting season will begin and end in compliance with state or provincial laws and at the discretion of the Masters.

COUNTRY

- (a) All parts of a country recorded for a member hunt by the MFHA (not including reserved country for future expansion) should be

hunted a minimum of twice a season. Trails should be passable and jumping panels and gates should be placed where needed.

- (b) Every effort should be made to further the good will and interest of landowners, farmers, the public and other hunts in the area.

KENNELS AND HOUND CARE

Kennels shall only be established in the hunt's recorded hunt territory and shall be adequate for the proper and humane maintenance of a pack of hounds. Hounds must be well cared for and healthy. Kennels shall not be located in a recorded country of another hunt unless that hunt gives written permission or cedes the territory to the other hunt. The MFHA "Guide to Kennel Standards of Care Checklist" laminated poster should be displayed in an appropriate location in the kennel.

The essentials for adequate hound kennels and care are:

- (a) At least two (2) separate covered lodging rooms, each with a connected outside run of appropriate size and substantial fencing.
- (b) Separate lodgings and connecting outside runs for whelping and raising puppies, for the care of sick hounds and for the isolation of bitches in season.
- (c) Suitable raised sleeping benches, preferably with escape space beneath if it is not provided elsewhere in the kennel.
- (d) Adequate light and drainage, with a proper waste disposal system that complies with local, county and state laws.
- (e) Fencing and runs that will contain hounds, keep them separated, and be of sufficient size for the number of hounds. If a daytime turnout yard is used, it must be substantially fenced, of sufficient size for the number of hounds and have fresh water and shade.

- (f) Clean, sanitary kennels and feed room protected from adverse weather, rodents, disease and feed spoilage.
- (g) An adequate preventive medicine program, including internal and external parasite control, with immunization and medical attention. Hounds must receive all vaccinations required by applicable regulations. Written records must be kept of the above and made available for inspection by the district representative if requested.
- (h) A watering system that assures that hounds have clean water available at all times.
- (i) Hounds should be exercised regularly, which includes walking out mounted or on foot or bicycle. Walking out is the act of taking the pack out of the kennel and having them under control as they move through an area.

CONDUCT OF A DRAG HUNT

- (a) Mounted drag hunting should simulate a live foxhunt. The art of laying a drag line requires one to know how live quarry runs in order to simulate the actions and paths of its natural environment.
- (b) When hounds first arrive at the meet, they should be allowed to empty and settle around their huntsman before moving off. Hounds must not be laid on the line at the place of meeting but should be moved off some distance and cast to pick up the line in a natural hunting-like manner. This procedure should be repeated after each check where the drag scent ends.
- (c) The drag should be of sufficient length to require at least one (1) check. At the end of day, hounds should be gathered around their huntsman to be counted, praised, watered and allowed to settle before being trailered or kenneled.

GENERAL

- (a) Each member hunt is required to file an annual report on a questionnaire supplied by the MFHA office. This requirement is considered the official hunt record and is used to edit the annual directories of recognized and registered hunts. Its timely return is a requirement for annual re-recognition or re-registration.
- (b) Any change in the mastership of a member hunt that occurs after the annual report has been filed shall be reported promptly to the MFHA office with the full name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of any new Master. The date when a new Master assumes office or when a retiring Master leaves office should also be reported.
- (c) Major changes in the organization of a member hunt, the ownership of its hounds or its kennel location must be reported promptly. At the discretion of the MFHA, such changes may require application for re-recognition or re-registration by the board of directors. In the case of substantial changes in the hunt, the board of directors, at its discretion, may choose to put the hunt into “inactive or reorganizational status” to allow the hunt time to meet MFHA standards again while not losing registered status.
- (d) Changes in the recorded country of a member hunt require application to the board of directors through the Director of Hunting and District Director in accordance with section (B) page 12-15, for recording by the board of directors.
- (e) Changes in the recorded name of a member hunt or any merger with member hunts or non-member packs require application to the Director of Hunting and re-registration or re-recognition by the board of directors.

- (f) It is advisable to register the colors and buttons of a member hunt with the MFHA. The MFHA does not grant exclusive right to any color registered with it.
- (g) Organized hunting shall be conducted in a manner that provides fair chase and a positive image on an equal, unselfish basis to the members of the field, landowners, followers and friends of the member hunt
- (h) Each member hunt, with the possible exception of a privately owned pack or subscription pack, should have a hunt committee whose function is to assist the Master(s) in formulating hunt policy, maintaining the hunt country, establishing good relationships with landowners, ensuring that the hunt is financially sound. promoting a responsible breeding program and providing the best possible sport. Although the by-laws of member hunts may differ, the hunt committee should be a supportive council made up of people knowledgeable about hunting.

The PACK (formerly Subscribing Membership)

The Pack membership(s) is an associate membership with the MFHA. It focuses on country-oriented people who wish to become more involved in and support field sport issues. It is an opportunity for them to belong to the MFHA and take part in helping to secure the future of hunting with hounds and country lifestyles. It is not limited to foxhunters but is open to anyone interested in foxhounds, beagles, bassets, bird dogs or pet dogs. It is open to anyone who cares about the future of country lifestyles and wants his or her voice to make a difference. It is strongly recommended that hunts require all of their members to be individual members of the MFHA. Hunts founded after 2004 must require that all members are Pack members of the MFHA.

(B) COUNTRY

1. RECORDING OF COUNTRY

Territory should be hunted regularly before application to record is sent to the MFHA, unless it is to be requested as reserved country. The proposed territory may then be set aside for a limited time until the hunt meets registration requirements. No request for registration of initial or additional territory shall be considered until a hunt has started to develop and hunt that country.

- (a) **SIZE.** The area of a hunting country should be such that it can be reasonably paneled, maintained and hunted.- It is not necessary to actively hunt reserve country. More than one area may be recorded to a member hunt, and these areas need not be contiguous. Drag hunts do not require as much territory as live hunts.
- (b) **MAPS AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY.** All applications for recording hunt country, whether new country or changes to an existing recorded country, must be accompanied by a detailed map, at a scale of one-quarter inch to the mile, clearly showing the boundaries of the territory. A USGS map on a 1:250,000 scale or a county map is suitable. The boundaries should be roads, railway lines or rivers that can be recognized in the field. Political boundaries, such as counties or townships, or straight lines drawn between two points on the map are not acceptable. Cities and large towns should not be included in recorded country. The member hunt's kennels must be noted on the map and "reserve" country shaded or outlined to distinguish it from the actual territory hunted.

The application also must be accompanied by a state map with the territory shaded to ascertain the hunt's general location in relationship to other hunts, if any.

(c) SHARING A HUNT COUNTRY. The board of directors will not normally record the same piece of country to two member hunts even though the current Masters wish to hunt it jointly.

2. LOAN OF COUNTRY

The Master(s), with the written consent of the necessary parties, may lend a portion of its country to an adjoining member hunt. The loan agreement must be made on the MFHA *Loan Agreement Form*, which is available on the MFHA website.

The term of the loan should be for a period of not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years. At the termination of the loan period, all of the Masters of both hunts shall sign a new loan agreement if they wish to continue the arrangement. A signed copy of the loan agreement must be filed with the MFHA, voted on affirmatively by the board of directors and recorded before the agreement becomes effective.

3. ABANDONED COUNTRY

If an entire hunt country, or a portion of hunt country, has not been hunted at least once each and every season, it may, at the sole discretion of the board, be determined that the country in question has not been fairly hunted and that it has been abandoned. The board of directors may or may not re-record the abandoned country to another member hunt. This does not apply to reserve country.

4. HUNT FIXTURES

Upon request from the district representative, Masters may be required to provide, on an annual basis, a map showing the number and locations of their meets. As a courtesy, it is appropriate to send a fixture card, or email, to Masters of neighboring hunts and the District Representative.

5. RESERVE COUNTRY

Reserve country is an accommodation to a hunt to allow future expansion. If a new hunt desires that country and the member hunt has never developed or specified in writing a plan to develop such country, the board has the right, but not the obligation, to reassign it.

6. NEW HUNTS IN OR NEAR RECORDED COUNTRY

It is the policy of the MFHA to protect the recorded country of recognized and registered member hunts, provided that the recorded country accurately represents the territory that is being fairly hunted, plus a reasonable reserve for future expansion.

It is also the policy of the MFHA to promote the sport of mounted hunting with hounds by encouraging the formation of new hunts. This may involve the registration or recognition of a new hunt near or adjacent to the boundaries of an established member hunt. Under these circumstances, the board of directors will protect the recorded country of the established member hunt unless the member hunt's recorded country is deemed to be abandoned or their reserve country is thought to be excessively large.

The MFHA will not register or recognize any new foxhunting establishment organized within the recorded boundaries of a registered or recognized member hunt unless those responsible for proposing the new hunt have obtained the written consent of the Masters and/or the hunt committee, if existing.

Consent having been given, an agreement shall be signed by the Masters and Chairman of the hunt committee of the established member hunt and the new hunt, to the effect that the new hunt is permitted to hunt within certain specified boundaries only during the period of the agreement. A copy of this agreement must be filed with the Director of Hunting of the MFHA and recorded only after affirmative vote of the board.

7. NON-FOXHUNTING PACKS

The National Beagle Club does not recognize any new Beagle or Basset pack organized within the boundaries of an already established hunt (Beagles, Bassets, or Foxhounds) until those responsible for the proposed new hunt have obtained the consent of the Master(s) of the existing hunt.

8. TERRITORY DISPUTES

Disputes between member hunts tarnish the image of mounted foxhunting and are not in the best interests of the sport. Disputes, when they do arise, must be settled as quickly and quietly as possible and in a courteous manner. If the Masters involved believe they cannot settle the dispute themselves, they should ask their district representative to mediate the dispute. If the district representative is one of the parties of the dispute, they may also contact the MFHA Director of Hunting to request help. The district representative and/or Director of Hunting will gather the facts and provide them to the president and the executive committee.

When a dispute cannot be solved or has reached the point that it could be detrimental to foxhunting's image, the president, in his or her discretion, may appoint a committee to try to mediate a decision. That committee normally will consist of knowledgeable, experienced foxhunters of neutral persuasion that may or may not be on the board that will investigate and interview both sides. If the committee cannot obtain a solution agreeable to both sides, the aggrieved parties may request a hearing with the executive committee of the board of directors.

In that case, the executive committee will report its findings and conclusions to the board, which will decide the matter according to the laws of common sense and the rules and traditions of mounted foxhunting. In arriving at its decision, the board will consider the wishes of the member hunts in dispute, the landowners in the hunting country and most importantly what is best for the image and future of foxhunting.

9. HUNT SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

No registered or recognized hunt should schedule or conduct hunt-sponsored activities in another hunt's territory without first receiving permission from that hunt. All hunts are encouraged to be reasonable about and receptive to such requests. If either hunt feels that the other is being unreasonable about such a request, they may ask for the district representative's assistance. If an agreement cannot be reached, the board of directors shall make the decision.

(C) THE QUARRY & HOT PURSUIT

1. The hounds of any recognized or registered pack shall not be hunted in the territory of another hunt except by invitation or by mutual arrangement previously made with neighboring Masters. However, if the quarry is properly found in the home territory of the hounds being hunted, and if they should carry the line over the boundary into country recorded to another member hunt, it is proper to continue to pursue the hunted quarry. Should the quarry go to ground in neighboring country, no attempt shall be made to continue the chase or to find another quarry in that country. The hounds should be taken back to their own territory immediately.
2. The hunting of "dropped" quarry, or any other practice that does not give the animal a sporting fair chase chance, is contrary to all traditions of the sport—and is not sport at all. It is inconsistent with the true principles of mounted hunting with hounds and is strictly forbidden.
3. Comply with the rules and adhere to the guidelines of the MFHA.

(D) FOXHOUND TRAINING PRESERVES (fox or coyote large high fenced areas)

While the MFHA does not endorse the use of Foxhounds Training Preserves (FTP), also known as a fox pen, if a member hunt uses one occasionally, they must abide by our rules. The following rules apply to any member hunt of the MFHA that uses a FTP.

RULE #1:

A FTP is for limited training of hounds.

RULE #2:

FTPs are not to be used as a fixture, and as such, shall not be listed on a fixture card.

RULE #3:

Training in a FTP is for Masters and staff only. The field should not be invited to participate.

RULE #4:

Any hunt using a FTP should ensure that the facility meets all local, state and federal standards and regulations.

(E) HOUNDS

No Master(s) should allow puppies of his or her hunt to be walked, exercised or raised in the country of another hunt without the consent of the Master(s) of such other country.

Any Master giving hounds to any person in a recorded hunting country other than his own should first obtain the consent of the Master(s) of such other country.

It is customary for Masters to allow each other the free use of any hounds in their kennels for stud purposes. However, the usual practice for a Master sending bitches to be bred at an outside kennel is to send the huntsman a gratuity for any trouble he or she may have been put to. This should not be regarded as a requirement.

No Master(s) shall help, encourage or give hounds to a new pack of hounds forming in the recorded country of an established member hunt. To do so is acting in a manner contrary to the spirit and rules of the MFHA and said Master will be subject to discipline by the board. Where there is uncertainty concerning areas recorded by registered or recognized member hunts, the MFHA office should be consulted.

1. GUIDE FOR GIFTING HOUNDS

No hound may be gifted to a hunt that is not a member of the MFHA without first checking with the MFHA Director of Hunting to ascertain said hunt's status with the MFHA. Hounds may not be drafted to unsanctioned hunts. Gifted hounds are the property of the receiving Hunt not the huntsman or Master(s) unless otherwise agreed in writing.

As the practice of gifting hounds to other hunts is common, the following guidelines are provided to minimize problems that may occur. Normally, once a hound is given to a hunt, the subsequent disposition of that hound is the receiving hunt's responsibility. If there are stipulations attached to the hound, they should be clearly delineated in writing to the respective

Master(s) at the time of transfer. However, if a hound is not suitable for the new owner, it is common courtesy to offer to return the hound to its original owner in a timely manner with transportation fees paid by the hunt that was given the hound.

Hounds are normally given to a hunt. In the unusual event that a hound is given to a Master or Huntsman, it should be stated in writing to whom the hound belongs. It is imperative that the receiving Masters are notified in writing. In the absence of any statement to the contrary, it is assumed that the hound was given to the hunt. If the hound was given to a Master or Huntsman, the get from the hound are the property of the hunt unless a prior signed agreement as to the disposition of the get was made when the hound came into the kennel. The giving of hounds to the huntsman is discouraged.

Never draft hounds that are unhealthy. If a hound has a manageable physical or behavioral problem, make sure the new owner knows what it is. Hounds may not be drafted to night hunters or deer hunters in the territory of another member hunt. Always provide a five-generation pedigree for each drafted hound as well as a health and inoculation record.

2. OLD HOUNDS POLICY

All foxhunters love hounds, and a very difficult decision must be made when a hound gets to a point in life that it cannot or should not hunt any longer. What are the alternatives?

The MFHA has compiled guidelines for Masters to consider. The foremost concern should be for the health and welfare of the hound. A hound in pain or poor health that cannot be helped should be humanely euthanized.

- (a) Older, steady hounds are very helpful in a pack. Utilizing their abilities sparingly as they get older can prolong their hunting career. On bad scenting days, an old hound can find the quarry when others cannot and set the pack right if necessary.
- (b) Many hunts retire hounds to

member's farms or homes. They usually make good pets and are easy to house train. Do not give old hounds to anyone who cannot properly care for them or who doesn't have the room or time to give them proper exercise. Do not give old hounds, or hounds that are to be retired early, to anyone who will not keep them in a proper, secure facility. Make sure anyone receiving a hound understands that even very old hounds love to hunt and will do so if given the chance.

- (b) Some hunts have separate hound retirement facilities. These hounds must be cared for, supervised and given medical assistance when necessary. They must have adequate room to exercise, a healthy environment and good housing. Hounds that have severe medical problems, or do not socialize well, should not be considered for this alternative.
- (c) The kindest alternative may be euthanasia for hounds with severe medical problems or hounds that can no longer hunt and for good reasons are not adoptable and hounds for which there are no other alternatives. Humane euthanasia should be done by a veterinarian. The American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines on euthanasia should be followed.

The choice is the responsibility of the Master(s). However, the MFHA insists that actions be taken for the welfare of the hound. The decision must be based on what is best for the hound.

(F) THE FOXHOUND KENNEL STUD BOOK

1. RULES AND DEFINITIONS

- (a) **RULES.** The filing of breeding records on an annual basis with the MFHA's Keeper of the Stud Book is obligatory for all registered and recognized hunts and is the responsibility of the Master(s). Non-member hunts may also register their hounds in the

“Foxhound Stud Book”, providing that they qualify and adhere to MFHA rules for hound registration. There is a fee for the initial registration of the non-member pack in addition to the standard litter registration fee. The records comprise: (1) pedigrees for all hounds entered in the current year by each hunt according to the instructions provided, and (2) an annual foxhound kennel list of all foxhounds in the kennel with their year of entry, sire and dam.

If a non-member hound is registered in the “Foxhound Stud Book” it may compete in MFHA sanctioned hound shows “if” the show allows them to enter.

- (b) **ELIGIBILITY.** American, Crossbred, English and Penn-Marydel Foxhounds are eligible for registration or listing in the “Foxhound Stud Book”, provided that they meet the MFHA registration requirements (Prior to 2008, Penn-Marydel’s were identified as American in the “Foxhound Stud Book”).
- (c) **HUNTING.** All foxhounds registered in the “Foxhound Stud Book” and all sires and dams in the first and second preceding generations must be acceptably certified to have legally hunted fox, coyote, bobcat or drag.
- (d) **BREEDING.** Hounds bred by a person or organization not primarily devoted to hunting acceptable quarry (fox, coyote, bobcat or drag) will not be considered to have hunted for the purpose of qualifying with the provision of this rule.
- (e) **REGISTRATION.** Pedigrees must be on the form provided, or via the online form provided by the MFHA office and sent in before December 31st after all hounds for the current year have been entered. All hounds entered by each hunt must be registered, listed or recorded in the “Foxhound Stud Book” at the MFHA office. After a hound is entered on acceptable live quarry or drag, said hound may be registered or listed in the “Foxhound Stud Book”.

- (f) LISTING. Foxhounds with pedigrees containing not more than one (1) fault in the third generation (a hound that has an unknown sire or dam, unknown prefix or date of entry or a hound that did not hunt acceptable live quarry) may be listed in the “Foxhound Stud Book”, providing that a three-generation pedigree is submitted with a certification that the first and second previous generations have regularly hunted fox, coyote, bobcat or drag. The progeny will be eligible for registration in accordance with rules regarding the registration of American, Crossbred, English or Penn-Marydel foxhounds.
- (g) THE NAME of an entered hound is made up of three (3) parts: the prefix (name of the hunt that entered the hound, the given name and the year of entry). The prefix, name and year of entry do not change when an entered hound is drafted from one pack to another. A hound is entered when it has been hunted on a regular and systematic basis. The name of an unentered hound consists only of the given name with no hunt prefix or entry year even when the proposed future entry date is known.

FOXHOUND BREEDS

- (h) AMERICAN and PENN-MARYDEL FOXHOUNDS A foxhound with a coefficient of 50% Penn-Marydel and 50% American is registered American with the annotation of APMD in the remarks section. A Penn-Marydel/American hound with the coefficient of 51-92% is classified as a Crossbred foxhound.
- (i) ENGLISH FOXHOUNDS must have no more than one (1) outcross in the fourth generation or, in the case of hounds with Crossbred ancestors in more than one (1) line, not more than one sixteenth ($1/16^{\text{th}}$) total outcross. (This rule applies to hounds entered in 1978 or thereafter; for English hounds entered before 1978, the earlier $1/32^{\text{nd}}$ outcross rule was in effect.)
- (j) All hounds registered under these outcross rulings as American, English or Penn-Marydel hounds will be regarded thereafter as pure American, English or Penn-Marydel foxhounds in determining the type of their progeny.
- (k) CROSSBRED FOXHOUNDS are foxhounds that do not qualify under the fractional rulings as either American, English or Penn-Marydel foxhounds.
- (l) OUTCROSS. Outcrosses from other scenting breeds may be listed with the Keeper of the Stud Book, providing that a three-generation pedigree is submitted with a certification that the first and second previous generations have regularly hunted fox, coyote, bobcat or drag, with one such non-foxhound outcross permitted in the third generation. One-eighth ($1/8^{\text{th}}$) outcross is permitted for such listing. The progeny may be eligible for registration in accordance with rules regarding the registration of American, Crossbred, English and Penn-Marydel foxhounds.

FOXHOUND KENNEL LIST

- (m) Masters of all member hunts are required to send the Keeper of the Stud Book a list of all entered hounds in their kennels each year. The list should be on the form provided by the MFHA, either on the paper form or via the online form and should be sent to the MFHA office with the pedigrees for the registration of the current year's entry before December 31st. Any member hunt that does not submit its list by December 31st will be charged a fine determined by the board of directors. Hound lists published by hunts are acceptable.
- (n) THE FOXHOUND KENNEL LIST – ENTERED HOUNDS should give the hunt prefix (if different from the name of the member hunt submitting the list), name, year of entry and sex for each entered hound, and its sire and dam. It should be arranged chronologically by litter and year of entry. Within each litter, the hounds should be alphabetically listed, first dogs and then bitches. To indicate the breed, use the letters “A”, “CB”, “E”, “PM” for American, Crossbred, English, Penn-Marydel, respectively.
- (o) UNENTERED HOUNDS may be shown at the end of the list under a separate heading if they have been named.
- (p) DRAFTED HOUNDS (GIVEN) TO OTHER HUNTS. The Keeper of the Stud Book must be notified of any unentered hounds drafted to any hunt, including hunts in countries other than the USA and Canada. Normally this is done by listing them on a litter certificate noting the sex and to what hunt they were given. -

2. REGISTRATION FEE

There is a fee for the registration or listing of hounds. The fee is \$25 per litter. Upon registration, the Keeper of the Stud Book will provide an online electronic copy of registrations.

3. FORMS

Three-generation Pedigree and *Foxhound Kennel List* forms, as well as printed instructions for the preparation of pedigrees and the registration of hounds, are available from the MFHA office and on the MFHA website. These forms will be sent annually to the Master in charge of hound registrations. These are also available in digital form in the online Stud Book program. MFHA online hound search is available to assist with completing three-generation pedigrees.

4. STUD BOOKS

- (a) The “Foxhound Kennel Stud Book of North America” has been published annually since 1973. Prices and availability of all volumes may be obtained from the MFHA office. Each hunt is required to purchase a copy of the “Foxhound Stud Book.” All Masters are asked to purchase a copy of the annual “Foxhound Stud Book” to cover the publication cost of this valuable document. It is imperative that whoever is contributing to or making breeding decisions has a copy at their disposal.
- (b) PEDIGREE DATABASE SEARCH. The MFHA’s comprehensive online hound search program, available on the MFHA website, contains all registered foxhounds recorded with the Keeper of the Stud Book. It is updated annually and is invaluable in assisting serious hound breeders in their breeding decisions and hound research. English and Irish hounds have their own registry and they are not normally recorded in the MFHA “Foxhound Stud Book” unless they have been used as a sire or dam in North America. The English Foxhound Stud Book is available online with a link from the MFHA website.

(G) THE MASTER – DUTIES AND RIGHTS

- (1) When Masters are appointed, the specific duties and obligations of each Joint Master should be carefully delineated at the time he or she takes office.
- (2) All Masters of member hunts must be members in good standing of the MFHA. Masters in arrears of dues more than 90 days after billing will not be listed as Masters in MFHA publications or Baily's hunting directory in England. Masters Emeritus of member hunts who are not members of the MFHA are not listed as ex-Masters in any MFHA publication.
- (3) All Masters must know the "Code of Hunting Practices", "MFHA Guidelines & Rules", "Public Relations & Media Guidelines", and the "Guidelines for Developing a Plan to Manage Anti-hunting or Animal Rights Demonstrations". Copies of these publications are available from the MFHA office and online.
- (4) A change of mastership or of arrangements for hunting a country for the following season should be announced as early as possible.
- (5) Masters wishing to resign should inform their joint Master(s), the chairperson of their hunt committee and the secretary of their hunt to facilitate securing the services of the best replacement Master possible.
- (6) When a decision has been made at a meeting of a member hunt affecting the mastership or future arrangements for hunting a country, it is imperative, in the interests of mounted foxhunting, that the minority should loyally abide by the wishes of the majority of those present at the meeting and not attempt to reopen the question subsequently.
- (7) As soon as the arrangements for the following season are decided, the Director of Hunting and the District Representative of the MFHA shall be notified of the name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address

of the new Master, or name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address of the chairperson of the hunt committee when there temporarily is no Master. The first name of Master's spouses is requested for the membership directory.

(8) When a Master takes over a pack of hounds, both he or she and the hunt committee must have an accurate list of the hounds taken over.

(9) Hounds brought into a pack by the incoming Master in excess of the specified number he or she took over shall remain his or her property, but the progeny of those hounds bred in the country are the property of the hunt and are available to be selected to complete the specified numbers, as enumerated below.

(10) On giving up the mastership, the retiring Master shall leave in the kennel at least the same number of "entered" working hounds and unentered hounds as he took over, in approximately the same proportions of ages and sexes. In the event that there are not enough hounds, he or she must make good the deficiency. The retiring Master is expected to breed a sufficient number of bitches to produce enough whelps, in the ordinary course of events, from which to make the entry for the succeeding season.

(11) If an outgoing Master owned and hunted hounds, a representative of the committee, the outgoing Master and the incoming Master shall select the "entered" and "unentered" hounds to be left in the kennel.

(12) All hounds given to the hunt (drafted) are the property of the hunt unless the hounds were given to the huntsman or Master. That transaction must be documented in writing and signed by the Master(s) of both hunts. No hounds shall be given away without the written consent of the necessary parties during a Master's last season without the knowledge and written consent of the remaining Masters and the hunt committee. Huntsmen may only own hounds if there has been a prior written agreement signed by the Masters or hunt committee of both hunts.

(13) A Master of a pack of hounds, whether a membership, subscription or private pack, has the right to take hounds home when, in his or her judgment, so doing is in the best interest of the sport or of the hounds. If a Master or Field Master encounters a disciplinary problem, such as the field over-riding hounds, kicking a hound, dangerous riding, or riding over crops, the offender(s) may be sent home.

(14) It must be distinctly understood that in the absence of the Master, whether in the field or in kennels, the individual acting on his or her behalf during his or her absence carries the same responsibility, and the same authority as would the Master.

(15) If a Master is asked to bring his or her hounds into another hunt's country for a day's hunting, or joint meet, the words "By Invitation" should be inserted on the fixture card or email. If, on the other hand, a portion of a country is being lent for the whole season by written agreement, no such explanation is necessary.

(16) Autumn hunting before opening meet is entirely at the discretion of the Master, as is the decision as to whether a fixture card should be published. Autumn hunting is for training young hounds and not for entertaining the field. It may be reserved in whole or in part for hunt staff only.

(17) No Master should participate in any form of commercial advertising that in any way uses to advantage the fact that he or she holds the office of Master of Foxhounds, without the express permission of the MFHA Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Such advertising may be considered detrimental to the image of organized hunting. Any publicity concerning your hunt must be carefully considered and seeking guidance from the Director of Hunting is advised.

(18) Awarding of individual hunt colors and buttons is completely a Master's prerogative. The following guidelines are provided to assist Masters: Prerequisites should include hunting regularly to permit a proper

evaluation of the individual's qualifications. Assisting with the affairs of the hunt is important. Any member awarded colors should, in the opinion of the Master(s), be a person knowledgeable of mounted foxhunting etiquette and a proficient rider who, when hunting with any hunt, would not be an embarrassment to their hunt. Most hunts do not award colors and buttons to anyone who has been a hunting member less than two (2) seasons or to children younger than sixteen (16) years old.

(19) No Master(s) of another registered or recognized member hunt may negotiate for the employment of a member hunt's employee without first ascertaining that he or she has given notice. The proper way to determine an employee's eligibility is to contact the employee's Master(s) before talking to the employee.

Even though an advertisement may appear in a publication, soliciting employment by a member hunt employee, or by a hunt offering employment for a hunt employee, it is strongly recommended that the present Master(s) be contacted to verify that the employee has reached a valid point of termination of employment.

A Master who breaks the traditions of mounted foxhunting by giving mid-season employment to a hunt employee who has left his or her position during a hunting season without a satisfactory agreement with his or her employer is subject to censure by the board of the MFHA.

A hunt employee who does not honor his or her agreement to give proper notice and leaves in mid-season without agreement from the hunt shall not be eligible for any assistance from the MFHA.

(20) As it is only fair to give hunt employees as long as possible to seek a new situation, unless a hunt employee is dismissed for cause (contract violation or severe misconduct), a Masters should notify them of their re-employment or dismissal before January 1st. Hunt employees should, as a condition of their employment, be required to give notice before January 1st if they do not intend to stay for the next season, which normally begins May 1st. This gives a new employee time to prepare for

the hunting season. Giving notice in this way should be considered proper behavior and should not lead to any negative consequences.

(21) When a hunt employee is dismissed for reasons other than cause, it is appropriate to provide a reasonable severance package depending on the years of employment and reasons for dismissal.

(22) The term "unsanctioned pack" is used to describe a pack of hounds that hunt in a recognized or registered member hunt's territory without its permission and its actions are considered detrimental to the sport of foxhunting. An unsanctioned pack shall not be so labeled unless the board of directors has determined it to be necessary and voted accordingly at the request of the offended member hunt. Member hunts shall not have joint meets with, give hounds to or receive hounds from, or participate in events with unsanctioned packs. Member hunts should strongly discourage their memberships from hunting with unsanctioned packs.

(23) The term "farmer pack" traditionally refers to farmers or hound owners who hunt their hounds in territory registered to a member hunt with the permission of the latter. There are no restrictions for member hunts concerning farmer packs.

(24) The term "no status" refers to a hunt that the MFHA does not recognize in any manner or has no direct knowledge of.

(25) The term "unsanctioned person" refers to an individual that the board, after careful consideration, believes to be acting in a manner detrimental to the sport of foxhunting. Such person would not be invited to, or allowed to participate in, any MFHA membership functions. The MFHA recommends that an unsanctioned person not be allowed to hunt with or join any member hunt. An unsanctioned person cannot participate in any MFHA events held under the auspices of the MFHA.

(H) THE FIELD – OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE MASTER

The position of Master can be a thankless job. If a gentleman or lady hunts his or her own hounds, the pleasure derived from it makes up for many hardships. But to the average Master, there are occasional days of worry and disappointment and anything that any member of the field can do to help the Master(s) and show him or her that their efforts are appreciated will be most welcome. Do not think that because you are a newcomer, the Masters will not appreciate your thanks and notice that you are trying to help in any way you can. By so doing, you will increase your enjoyment of the sport and everyone else's as well.

Members of the field should carefully observe the following:

1. The Master(s), hunt staff and hounds should be given the right of way at all times. Always turn your horse so that its head is facing hounds, Master(s) or staff as they pass.
2. The Master(s) and hunt staff can enjoy members' conversation when they are not in the field with hounds, riders and hunting on their minds.
3. Calling out to and attempts at hunting hounds by members of the field are not only very bad manners, but apt to spoil sport for everyone. However, saying "ware hound" if a hound is attempting to come through the field warns other field members to give the hound the right of way.
4. If you take down a rail, put it back. If you open a gate, shut it. Leave everything as you found it.
5. If you break a fence or do any damage that you cannot repair, report it at once to the responsible officers of the hunt so that it may be

fixed. Always offer to help fix damage and or pay for costs incurred by the hunt.

6. Do not ride over crops and keep off all seeded fields.
7. Any non-member who wishes to hunt should contact the hunt secretary for permission as well as to acquaint himself or herself with local protocol. Most hunts allow a non-member to hunt three times and pay a capping fee after which membership must be applied for. You will be required to sign a release of liability before hunting.
8. If a member has been given permission to bring a guest, arrive early, introduce your guest to the Master(s) and the hunt secretary to sign the release of liability and pay the capping fee before hounds move off. You should assist your guest during the hunt.
9. No one should speak to a huntsman in the field without good reason to do so. The less a huntsman is spoken to, the more time he or she will have to attend to hunting the hounds.
10. Members should come to the meet on time and not anticipate the draw by joining the hunt after hounds move off. They should be particularly careful to refrain from going through or near any covert on the way to the meet.
11. Those who lag behind, late-comers, persons on badly behaved horses, those who talk loudly, leave gates open or break fences (without reporting the breakage or repairing it) are a constant worry to a Master. Talking at a check when hounds are at a loss is counterproductive to regaining the line. Arrive at the meet in time to be mounted before hounds move off. Members who arrive late should not try to find the field unless given permission by the Master(s). If granted, do not ride through coverts. Stay on paths and roads, if possible, and wait until you can join the field without disrupting the hunting in progress. If you must leave the hunt early,

get permission from the Field Master to excuse yourself, and take roads, if possible, to get back to the meet. Take care not to disrupt hunting or pass-through areas that are yet to be drawn.

12. Hill-toppers, second and third flights or fields, car followers and other interested persons can be helpful to a hunt. Their enthusiasm and support should be encouraged.
13. When a hunt has been given the privilege of riding over a landowner's property, it does not mean that members of that hunt, or anyone else, have the right to trespass without specific permission from the landowner, the appointed agent, tenant or farmer, whether hacking on non-hunting days, going to a meet, not keeping up with the field or returning from a hunt.
14. At the end of the hunt, when you leave the pack to go home, ride up to the Master(s) and say, "Thank you" or "Good night." It is the least you can do for the person whose one thought all day has been to show you a good day's sport. It means a lot.
15. Do not clean out your trailer at a meet. Pick up trash around your trailer whether it is yours or not. Try to avoid wet areas so that you do not cause damage.
16. Be courteous and friendly to the public. A smile, wave of the hand or tipping one's cap does wonders for the good of our sport. Do not impede traffic while on your horse. Public relations are everyone's responsibility.
17. Keep safety foremost in your mind. If you are on a run and the person in front of you fails to keep up, pass safely. Otherwise, stay in your position. If your horse refuses a jump even once, move to the back of the field.

(I) HOUND SHOWS

18. The MFHA encourages the participation of all member hunts in hound and puppy shows. Shows are beneficial, educational social occasions and give the Masters, staff and members of each hunt an opportunity to learn more about breeding and the importance of conformation in their packs as well as others.

19. Puppy shows can be held at individual hunts or among neighboring hunts. Suggestions for holding such events can be obtained through the district representatives and from a copy of “A Guide for Hound Shows, Puppy Shows & Performance Trials”.

20. The MFHA will recognize district or regional hound shows and allow the use of its seal provided that the show has been held two (2) consecutive years and that all other requirements for recognition have been met. The general requirements, hound eligibility and minimum class requirements, can be obtained from the MFHA office. Recognized shows are required to check the pedigree of entries and to have at least one (1) approved MFHA judge for each ring. In situations where two (2) judges are used, the MFHA approved judge must have equal or senior judge status. The MFHA’s online pedigree search program is available to assist show secretaries in the verification of hound registration, type and pedigrees.

21. No entered hound belonging to a pack registered or recognized by the MFHA shall be eligible to compete in foxhound classes at MFHA recognized hound shows unless said hound has been registered in the MFHA “Foxhound Stud Book”. Unentered hounds must be eligible for registration. Hound shows are not required to accept entries from unrecognized or unregistered packs.

(J) SUGGESTIONS FOR PROPER HUNT ATTIRE

The formal hunting dress below is given for guidance only. Over the years, it has proved to be practical, comfortable and comparatively safe, for which reason it has become traditional. Masters have always had the authority to insist on whatever degree of formality or informality of dress that suits their particular countries. These suggestions reflect decades of tradition and should only be deviated from for significant reasons.

When a hunt member with colors hunts with another hunt during the formal season, the proper attire is a plain black or navy coat without colors, unless it is a joint meet or you have been invited to wear your hunt's colors by a Master of the hunt with which you wish to ride. Most hunts allow you to wear your colors and buttons.

1. PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS

MASTER – LADY OR GENTLEMAN – FORMAL ATTIRE

Coat: Square-cornered, single-breasted frock coat, cut to suit the wishes of the owner, with no flaps on the waistline and no pockets on the outside of the coat except an optional whistle pocket. A Master who does not hunt hounds should have four (4) front hunt buttons. A Master who does hunt hounds should have five (5) buttons. There should also be two (2) hunt buttons on the back of the coat if it is a frock coat and two (2) or three (3) small buttons on the cuff of each sleeve. The material should be twill or Melton cloth. Scarlet (called “red” or “scarlet”) is the most traditional color for hunting, but if the regular hunt livery is of another color, that color should be worn. Many lady Masters prefer not to wear scarlet and prefer black or navy. The collar and lapels of hunt coats should be in conformity with the hunt's livery. No Master, whipper-in, huntsman or member should wear his or her hunt livery (scarlet coat, hunt colors or buttons) when hunting as the guest of another hunt in their country, unless given permission to do so. When scarlet is worn, both ladies and gentlemen should wear white breeches. It is correct but not

required to wear a black or dark coat when participating in a joint meet without your own hounds.

Breeches: Should be white with scarlet, tan, rust, canary or buff, cord, synthetic stretch twill or other material. Lightweight breeches of synthetic knits are acceptable. With a scarlet coat, ladies and gentlemen should wear white breeches.

Vest: Canary, tattersall or the appropriate color designated by the hunt.

Hat: Black or dark blue (when matching the coat) velvet safety helmet approved by the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM), with ribbons down or up, according to local custom. (Ribbons down traditionally indicate professional hunt staff, amateur huntsman or Master.) ASTM helmets are mandatory in most hunts.

Boots: With scarlet coats, traditional hunting boots of black calf with brown tops sewn on, well-polished, with tabs sewn on but not down. White or brown boot garters (to match breeches) may be worn. Ladies wearing black or navy may wear plain black boots or boots with patent leather tops with tabs sewn on but not down. Black rubber boots are acceptable in wet weather.

Spurs: Of heavy pattern with moderately short neck and no rowels. Spurs should be set high on the boot just below the ankle and the spur arms should be parallel to the ground. The buckle should be on top of the boot with the free end of the spur strap (relatively short) on the outside of the boot.

Gloves: Buff or brown leather. White string or navy wool gloves (when matching coat) are also acceptable.

Crop: Traditional hunting whip with lash.

Horn: Masters, huntsman or designated whippers-in only. The traditional hunting horn is carried either between buttons of the coat or in a leather case fastened on either side of the front of the saddle.

Wire Cutters: Wire cutters may be carried in a leather case attached to the saddle.

Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. Ends of the stock should be pinned down to remain tidy.

Flask and Sandwich Case: Gentlemen may carry either a flask or sandwich case (or both). Ladies may carry either a sandwich case or a combination flask and sandwich case. Not traditionally carried by a Master.

HONORARY (AMATEUR) HUNTSMAN

Turnout is the same as for the Master. There should be five (5) buttons on front of coat, and ribbon on hat should be down.

PROFESSIONAL HUNTSMAN

Same as Honorary Huntsman *except:*

Couplings: May carry one set of couplings fastened to dee on off side of saddle.

Crop: Traditional hunting whip and lash or white whip with white lash if in scarlet. The lash should be long enough to strike the ground.

Flask and Sandwich Case: Not permitted.

HONORARY WHIPPER-IN

Same as Honorary Huntsman *except:*

Couplings: May carry one set fastened to a dee on off side of saddle.

PROFESSIONAL WHIPPER-IN

Same as Honorary Whipper-In *except:*

Flask and sandwich case: not permissible.

Coat should have a large "hare pocket" on inside of skirt.

Stirrup leather may be worn outside coat over right shoulder, under left

arm, buckled in front with the point of the strap down.

Hat: Ribbon down.

Crop: Regulation hunt whip and lash or white whip and lash if in scarlet that is long enough to strike the ground.

GENTLEMAN MEMBER

Scarlet coat: should have rounded corners and three (3) buttons in front, two (2) on the back and two (2) or three (3) on each sleeve in brass with the insignia adapted by the hunt. Scarlet coats are worn only by members who have been awarded their colors and buttons.

Black coat: Black hunting coat or frock coat cut same as scarlet coat are preferable to a shadbelly coat. In hunts where the field wears black, members wear the hunt buttons on their black coats. If not awarded colors, buttons must be plain or black. There should be three (3) buttons on the front of the coat and two (2) buttons on back if frock coat. It is not customary to wear hunt colors on the collar of a black coat. It is customary that brass buttons on black coats are reserved for Masters and ex-Masters.

Vest: Canary, tattersall or appropriate color designated by the hunt.

Breeches: May be tan, buff or white (only with a frock coat), of cord, synthetic stretch twill or other material.

Hat: ASTM-approved safety helmet in black velvet with chin harness fastened is strongly recommended. Ribbon should be up. If you plan to wear a bowler, it is wise to check with the Master(s) of the hunt, as some hunts do not allow them due to safety concerns. Top hats, with optional

hat-guard, may be worn with scarlet coat, frock coat or shadbelly coat, but they are not recommended due to safety concerns.

Boots: Plain black leather boots without tops are worn with black hunting coats. Brown-topped boots should be worn with a frock coat. Black field boots with laces are not considered proper formal boots. White or brown boot garters (to match breeches) may be worn.

Hair: If long, it should be confined neatly.

Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. Ends of the stock should be pinned down to remain tidy.

Spurs: Same as for Master

Gloves: Buff or brown leather. White string or navy wool gloves (when matching coat) are also acceptable.

Crop: Traditional hunting whip and lash (white whip or lash are not appropriate).

LADY MEMBER (ASTRIDE)

Coat: Frock or hunting coat of black, dark blue or dark gray, suitably cut, with plain dark buttons. If she has been awarded colors, she may wear the hunt's buttons and collar. A frock coat should have rounded corners with three (3) buttons in front and two (2) on back. Hunting coats should have rounded corners and three (3) buttons on the front. Both should have two (2) buttons on each sleeve.

Vest: Canary, tattersall or the appropriate color designated by hunt.

Breeches: Buff, tan or canary (not white) cord or synthetic stretch twill material.

Hat: ASTM-approved safety helmet, black or dark blue velvet with chin strap, ribbon up. The MFHA does not recommend wearing a bowler or top hat in the hunt field..

Sandwich Case (or combination flask and sandwich case): Optional. Flask case is not customary.

Hair: Should be neatly confined in a hair net. Hair nets are advisable and correct.

Gloves: Buff or brown leather. White string or navy wool gloves (when matching coat) are also acceptable.

Spurs: Regular hunting spurs, same as for Master

Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. The ends should be pinned down to remain tidy.

Jewelry: No jewelry should be visible with the possible exception of small, gold stud earrings.

Crop: Light hunting whip with lash, smaller shaft than a gentlemen's (white is not appropriate).

Boots: Black leather hunting boots without laces. Black patent tops are appropriate with tabs sewn on but not down, especially with a frock coat.-

LADY MEMBER (SIDE-SADDLE)

Same as LADY MEMBER (Astride) *except:*

Habits: Black or navy Melton or other cloth, suitably cut.

Veil: Must be worn with a top hat, not a bowler.

Hat: Silk top hat to be worn with dress hunting coat (crown should be five to six inches); black bowler (derby) may be worn with plain jackets. Safety headgear in black with chin harness properly fastened is strongly

recommended with ribbon up. It should be noted the top hat and derby offer no protection to the head and some hunts do not allow them.

JUNIORS

It is not necessary for juniors to wear formal attire. Traditionally, juniors under the age of 16 wear ratcatcher. Whichever type of “turnout” is chosen, it should be clean and well-fitting, with an ASTM-approved safety helmet with chin strap properly fastened.

FORMAL ATTIRE: Same as for Lady Member (Astride). Junior’s may wear colors and buttons according to individual hunt customs.

Hat: A plain, properly fitting black ASTM-approved safety helmet with chin strap properly fastened is required-(ribbon up).

Crop: A lightweight hunting crop with or without lash.

Neckwear: A plain white stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin.

Hair: If long, it should be neatly confined, in a hairnet or be braided.

2. EXCEPTIONS TO THE SUGGESTED ATTIRE

INFORMAL or RATCATCHER ATTIRE: A tweed coat in a muted color (no reds), tan or brown breeches or jodhpurs, brown jodhpur boots, string or brown leather gloves, a plain or patterned muted-colored stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. A white stock is not correct. "Ratcatcher" shirts are also correct with a neckband or a man’s necktie. Muted-color turtleneck shirts are appropriate. Hat as stated under formal attire.

GENTLEMEN, LADIES & JUNIORS: In hunting countries where extremes of temperature occur, modifications to the foregoing suggested formal attire may be in order. Such modifications for extreme

temperatures may be made by the Master(s) of individual hunts as needed, particularly in cold weather when parkas and heavy jackets may be worn over regular coats. Likewise, in hot weather, jackets may not be required.

3. INFORMAL OR RATCATCHER ATTIRE

GENTLEMEN & LADIES

Hat: Plain ASTM-approved black or brown velvet helmet with chin strap is strongly recommended, ribbon up. Most hunts require it.

Coat: Tweed or wool in muted color, traditionally cut single or double-vented.

Shirt: Ratcatcher or other light-colored shirt. Stock tie (plain or colored) with horizontal pin, or man's necktie. A plain or patterned muted-color stock or necktie, with ends pinned down to remain tidy. White stock ties are not correct. Neckbands are also appropriate for ladies. Turtlenecks and collared shirts, usually reserved for children, are used in many hunts that experience hot temperatures during the hunting season.

Breeches: Buff, tan, gray or rust.

Spurs: Regular hunting spurs with no rowels.

Boots: Brown or black leather dress boots or brown field boots with laces. Formal boots with brown or patent leather tops are not appropriate. Rubber boots are acceptable, as are canvas-topped Newmarket boots, and jodhpur boots with either canvas or leather leggings. Three-buckle brown field boots are also correct.

Gloves: Brown leather or string gloves. White is not correct.

Wire Cutters, Flask, Sandwich Case: Same as in formal attire.

Crop: Regulation hunting whip. Thong or lash may be removed during autumn hunting. White whip or lash is not correct.

LADY MEMBER – SIDE SADDLE

Coat: Beige, brown or off-white; plain, tweed or salt sack.

Apron: Should coordinate with the coat.

Hat: Black velvet ASTM- approved safety helmet with chin harness fastened. Bowlers and velvet hunting caps without chin straps do not protect the head when hunting and are not recommended. Some hunts do not allow them.

Veil: Not appropriate for informal attire.

4. ACCESSORIES

Raincoats. In inclement weather, raincoats are allowed in most hunts. (muted colors: brown, black or dark green).

Eyewear. Sunglasses or tinted eyewear are not recommended unless specifically prescribed or recommended by a physician or allowed by the Master(s). This does not preclude prescription glasses.

5. TACK APPOINTMENTS

Horses should be well groomed and have pulled manes. Tack should be clean, polished and in good repair. It is a disservice to the landowners to do otherwise.

Bridle: Brown leather, either double or single. A cavesson (noseband) should be used. Colored or ornamental browbands are not acceptable.

Breastplate: Optional, plain or raised brown leather. Martingale attachment optional.

Martingale: Optional; if used, it should be plain/raised brown leather. A running martingale should have “stops” on the reins.

Saddle: Brown. Saddle pads should be saddle-shaped (white, buff, yellow). Numnahs or square saddle cloths are not proper. Stirrup irons with optional pads should be large, plain and clean. Safety equipment such as cruppers, grazing over-checks and safety stirrups should be used as needed.

Girth: Preferably brown leather, but clean neoprene, string and cloth girths are permissible, as are girth covers made of fleece.

Accessories: Accessories such as figure eight and flash nosebands, bell and shin boots, gel and cushion saddle pads, while not traditional, may be used for safety, comfort or health of the horse. Fly hoods and ear or muzzle covers are not appropriate in the hunting field.

Clipped horses: Clipping provides horses the ability to more effectively thermo-regulate their bodies. Full body clips with the legs left unclipped are recommended. Trace clipping is sufficient for horses that live out. Ornamental clipping is inappropriate. It is recommended that you not clip long, sensory hairs around the eyes or on the muzzle.

MFHA FOUNDATION AND HUNT STAFF BENEFIT FOUNDATION

The MFHA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization with the overarching mission to promote, preserve and protect foxhunting for future generations. The MFHA Foundation is dedicated to providing information and programs designed to educate and inform the public about the sport of foxhunting, promote the conservation of lands, facilitate the preservation of natural habitats, and support and encourage research on the health, welfare and training of hounds and horses.

The Foundation enables donors to give tax deductible funds to either the Foundation or the Hunt Staff Benefit & Development Foundation (HSBF). HSBF is a monetary assistance fund for hunt staff professionals and their families who are in dire financial need. HSBF is not a retirement fund, but provides aid in circumstances where health or other financial crises warrant special assistance. Masters and individual members as well as the board provide the funding. Legacy contributions by will are of utmost importance to this invaluable mission of the HSBF.

The Foundation can succeed in educating the public and professionals about foxhunting, preserving habitat and carrying out the other aspects of its mission only through the continued support and funding from individuals and organizations who also believe in preserving and protecting foxhunting for future generations. Donations are tax deductible.

HUNT STAFF BENEFIT & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (HSBF) FOUNDED IN 1938

Foxhunters, especially Masters, recognize and appreciate the very important part professional hunt employees play in the operation and welfare of mounted foxhunting. Their dedication to a lifestyle of mounted foxhunting has many intrinsic rewards provided by the love of hounds and hunting. Their lifestyle involves long hours in the field, kennels, stables, hunt country and in other related efforts. Most hunts in America and Canada employ professionals as huntsmen, whippers-in and kennelmen. The contributions of professional hunt staff to mounted hunting with hounds in North America are numerous and essential -

It is sometimes vital that these invaluable employees be provided a “safety net” of adequate financial assistance or other relief when periods of disability, emergency or significant financial inadequacies occur.

The HSBF provides monetary assistance to past or present hunt staff professionals and their immediate families who are in dire financial need and are eligible for grant consideration. Grants can take the form of helping with medical bills in unusual circumstances. Grants are sometimes provided to widows and close family members of deceased hunt professionals whose loss has devastated their lives financially.

Masters or knowledgeable person(s) should identify and apply in writing to the HSBF for benefits available to hunt employees so that deserving and eligible hunt employees, retirees or their families needing assistance are not overlooked.

Hunt employees must have been in the employ of a member hunt for a period of one (1) year or more and have commenced a second season. Taken into consideration are those applicants that are in need of financial assistance due to either physical or mental incapacity making them unable to perform their duties by reason of illness, accident, disability or old age.

Financial assistance or other relief may be given to widows and children of deceased persons who are qualified for and received benefits during their lives or were eligible to qualify but for the fact that during their lives they were not in need of financial assistance or other relief and were neither physically nor mentally incapable of performing their duties by reason of illness, accident or disability.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To be eligible for consideration, a hunt employee must file, or have filed on his or her behalf, the official *Hunt Staff Benefit Application Form* addressed to the HSBF chairperson, requesting financial assistance or relief. The application form is available from the MFHA office and on the MFHA website. The Master(s) of the hunt involved must approve the application when it is submitted by others. Preferably, a Master should make the application on behalf of the hunt employee. If the current Master is not familiar with the situation, the ex-Master who employed the person in question can submit the application. The applicant should include all factual information that might be pertinent or useful to the board in considering the case. In addition to any other information, the board may require, the application shall contain the following:

- (a) A complete copy of the applicant's most recent federal income tax return, with all attachments, or a notarized statement that the applicant's income was not high enough to require filing a federal income tax return.
- (b) A certificate from the applicant's doctor verifying that they are no longer able to continue in hunt service, or be otherwise employed because of illness, accident, old age or other physical or mental infirmity or disability.
- (c) A copy of extraordinary outstanding medical bills not covered by the hunt's insurance

The applicant will be required periodically upon request to submit continued substantiation of income by sending federal income tax forms, or to confirm that the medical condition still exists, to qualify for continued assistance.

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

The board shall, at their sole discretion, approve or deny applications for benefits and establish the amount, frequency, duration, termination or resumption of payments made to a beneficiary. Decisions are based upon the applicant's financial need in the light of personal circumstances, which may change.

REVIEW

The situation and status of any hunt employee or beneficiary may be reviewed at any time by the board. Likewise, requests for review or special action may be made at any time by submitting to the board all the necessary or useful information and stating the nature of the request.

MANAGEMENT

Management of the HSBF is vested in three (3) directors who are members of the MFHA and are elected at the annual meeting of the MFHA for staggered three-year terms. The Director of Hunting and the Director of Operations carry out the administrative functions of the Foundation.

The HSBF is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization devoted to hunt employees. Contributions to the Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation in the form of checks, cash, securities or property are tax-deductible.

The Foundation funds and administers the Professional Development Program. This program is a year-long course that runs from May 1 to May 1, in parallel with the traditional employment of hunt staff. Each participant receives an extensive library of hunting books, audiotapes, DVDs and pamphlets as well as in-person training, visits to hunts for further education, kennel tours and in the ring hound show experience. Professional staff participants receive a small monetary grant to assist with their expenses during the course.

The HSBF's capacity to help hunt employees is a function of its continuing growth and earning power, made possible through the collective efforts of the hunting fraternity. It assures a sound base for the flourishing of mounted foxhunting by encouraging future employees to come into hunt service and current employees to remain in hunt service.

FOXHUNTING HISTORY

Mounted foxhunting has existed in America since Colonial days, and the development of the sport kept pace with the progress of the United States as it extended its influence across the Appalachians to the West Coast. Hounds of various types were brought from Europe by the early settlers who reached these shores. By 1900, the American foxhound was the product of breeding their descendants with hounds that continued to be imported, especially from England, Ireland and France. The oldest continuing hunt in North America is the Montreal Hunt in Canada, established in 1826. The oldest continuing hunt in the United States is Piedmont Hunt, established in Virginia in 1840.

The earliest record of the importation of hounds to this country was on June 30, 1650 when Robert Brooke arrived in Maryland with his family, 28 servants and his hounds. By the early 1700's, mounted foxhunting was spreading rapidly in Maryland, Virginia and probably other colonies. Hounds were also used for other forms of hunting. Early planters with sporting English blood imported red foxes from England in 1730 and celebrated the event at Chestertown, Maryland. George Washington was born two years later and his diaries make it evident that, in adulthood, the favorite sport of his good friend Lord Fairfax, mounted foxhunting, was also his. The sport has grown ever since, but its formal organization, as with other sports, did not begin until some years after the Civil War.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America was formed in 1907 as a parent organization to be both custodian of the boundaries of each foxhunting territory and the medium through which hunting organizations could apply for territory, solve problems and have leadership.

The first step took place on the evening of February 14, 1907 when Messrs. Louis Baetjer, Westmoreland Davis, R. Penn Smith, Harry Worcester Smith, Henry G. Vaughan and Major W. Austin Wadsworth met at the old Waldorf Astoria Hotel on 34th Street, New York City, at the invitation of Mr. Harry

Worcester Smith. They adopted a “Constitution and By-laws”, which generally followed the lines of the British Masters of Foxhounds Association.

Major W. Austin Wadsworth was elected first President of the new Association. Harry Worcester Smith was made chairman of the hunt committee and Henry G. Vaughan, secretary-treasurer. These officers, together with Westmoreland Davis, Edward Crozier, R. Penn Smith, Thomas Hitchcock, Charles E. Mather, A. Henry Higginson and John R. Valentine, constituted the first hunt committee.

On the evening of May 15, 1907 Messrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Harry Worcester Smith, Henry G. Vaughan and Major W. Austin Wadsworth met at the Knickerbocker Club, New York City, and revised the “Constitution and By-laws”. The principal change was the substitution of an executive committee to manage the affairs of the Association in place of the hunt committee. The Association was incorporated in Massachusetts in 1926. The “Constitution and By-laws” adopted at that time provided for a board of directors, but it was known only as the "executive committee." Major revisions of the “Constitution and By-laws” were adopted in 1971 to conform to standard corporate procedures and revisions were made in 2023. Since then, the governing body has been called the board of directors.

Seven (7) members attended the Annual Meeting of the Association held on February 14, 1908, in the Cafe of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden. At that meeting, the Association voted to invite Canadian Masters to become members, to sanction the Third National Hound Show in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and to publish a “Foxhound Stud Book”. At the Annual Meeting held at the same location on February 12, 1909, the secretary reported that "there were eighteen members" and that "eight descriptions of hunt country and two maps had been filed."

The first known "recognition" of hunts began with the American Hunt and Pony Racing Association in 1893. From about 1899 through 1908,

recognition was granted by the Stewards of the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association, and from 1909 through 1933, by its hunt committee. Although the MFHA was founded in 1907 and immediately began to "record" hunting countries and later, to "register" hunts, it was not until 1933, under the Presidency of Henry G. Vaughan, that the prerogative of recognition was relinquished by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association. Since 1934, the registration and recognition of hunts has been under the exclusive authority of the MFHA.

Each year, the Master members of the MFHA elected a president, two (2) vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer (or secretary-treasurer) and an executive director, as well as three (3) or more directors. In 1971, the "Constitution and By-laws" were amended to impose a limit of four (4) successive one-year terms for the president and the two (2) vice presidents. There is a term limit of five (5) years for the secretary-treasurer and no limit for the services of the Director of Hunting and the Director of Operations. As of January 2021, the board of directors consists of all officers, fifteen (15) district representatives and four (4) directors at large (the three (3) past presidents and a director at large, if desired, appointed by the president). Directors, other than officers, are elected for three-year terms. The nominating committee consists of the three (3) past presidents and the current president. In case of a tie, the first vice president casts a vote. The nominating chairman is the most recently retired president. Mr. Henry G. Vaughan, during his long service first as secretary and then as president, from 1907 to 1938, did more than anyone to build up the Association in those early years. He devoted much time and thought to it and had the Association office in his law offices in Boston. After incorporation in 1926, his personal secretary, Miss Clara H. Sampson, served as clerk to conform to Massachusetts law requiring the clerk to be a resident of that State. She was succeeded in 1939 by Mr. Joseph J. Jones, who had worked in Mr. Vaughan's office since 1923 and had been Keeper of the Foxhound Stud Book since 1936. He ran the office most efficiently and was consulted frequently by all presidents until his retirement in 1973.

Dr. John B. Glass served as the Association's clerk from 1973 until his retirement in 1995. He instituted publication of the "Foxhound Stud

Book” annually and issued the Association’s first publication list. In 1984, he directed the installation of a computer system to manage the registration of foxhounds. Since then, the new litter registration certificates and camera-ready copy for publication of the “Foxhound Stud Book” have been prepared by computer. During his tenure, he edited 22 Stud Books and 23 sets of annual Hunt Directories. After his retirement in 1995, Dr. Glass and the MFHA cooperated in the publication of "FoxDog," an innovative computer program created and written by Dr. Glass. The program allowed Masters and huntsmen to consult the “Foxhound Stud Book”, retrieve pedigrees, determine get of sires and dams, prepare registration papers and manage kennel lists on a home computer. FoxDog has since been replaced by a more modern program that is available on the MFHA website.

At his suggestion, the title of clerk was changed and in 1993 his successor, LTC Dennis J. Foster (US Army, ret.), was designated executive director. Col. Foster added to the job description of the former clerk/secretary. He rode with member hunts and assisted them with their problems. He represented the MFHA on national and international boards that work with other countries to preserve, promote and defend hunting around the globe. He was a proponent of animal welfare (our obligation to care for and treat animals humanely) and is considered an international expert on animal rights organizations and their strategies whose political aim is a petless/meatless society. He retired in 2017 and was succeeded by W. David Twiggs until 2019. In 2019, the Association underwent a strategic planning process resulting in a structural change. In 2020 the traditional executive director role was separated into two: a Director of Hunting and a Director of Operations. Andrew Barclay was appointed the Director of Hunting and Billie-Jo Pearl was appointed the Director of Operations.

For many years the Annual Meeting has been held in New York City on the Friday before the last Saturday in January. The board of directors meets three (3) times a year. In addition to the day before the Annual Meeting, it also meets in late Spring, in conjunction with the Virginia Foxhound Club

hound show. The autumn directors' meeting has been held in different regions of the United States and Canada since 1973.

In 1980, the MFHA published a history of the Association written by Alexander Mackay-Smith, entitled "Masters of Foxhounds."

In 2003 during the Presidency of Daphne Flowers Wood MFH (first lady president) the HSBF purchased 20.5 acres in Millwood, Virginia and moved from the rented office and house for the Executive Director at Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia to an office and house owned by the HSBF. In 2022 the HSBF sold the Millwood property.

The MFHA celebrated its Centennial in 2007. In January of that year, there were 723 members of the Association, more than 5,000 subscribing members and 164 recognized or registered hunts in the United States and Canada. The year-long Centennial celebration was planned, organized and implemented by then President Mason H. Lampton, MFH, with the assistance of countless volunteers and people dedicated to the future of the sport. Hound shows, performance trails, field hunter championships, joint meets, art shows and memorabilia sales were held throughout the year to give everyone a chance to celebrate foxhunting. The year began with a Centennial Ball at historic Cipriani's in New York City, a lavish event attended by almost a thousand foxhunters from all over the USA and Canada and leaders of hunting with hounds from 11 different countries. Closing ceremonies were held at Morven Park in Virginia. Centennial events raised \$2.2 million to help secure mounted foxhunting for future generations.

In 2015 the MFHA Foundation purchased an historical building in Middleburg, Virginia to serve as the Headquarters of the MFHA as well as a museum showcasing various items to promote the sport of mounted hunting with hounds. The building was purchased under the Presidency of Dr. Jack van Nagell, MFH and was renovated under the Presidency of Patrick Anthony Leahy, MFH. The purchase and renovations were funded by generous donations from MFHA members. The Headquarters & Museum opened in 2018. The Headquarters houses the staff offices and is open to the public three days per week.