

# Barn Hunt® National Competition Rules

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## Overview

The Barn Hunt National is a special, non-regular event. Dogs and handlers are tested on a series of unique courses over three days to determine which are the “Best of the Best” based on each dog’s cumulative score. Qualifying scores at the National do not count toward any regular Barn Hunt title. Gold medalists are awarded Grand National Champion, Games Champion, and Versatility Champion titles.

## Class Types

The Barn Hunt National consists of two major categories of classes:

- **Grand National**
- **Games (Team and Hurdles)**

Dogs may enter Grand National and/or Team Competition, Hurdles Competition, or both Games. To be eligible for the Versatility Champion title, dogs must be entered in both Games plus the Grand National.

## Entry Criteria, Limits, Opening and Closing Dates

Dogs must have an Open\* title earned prior to June 30, 2020 to be eligible for entry into the Barn Hunt National. **The title held on June 30 is the title level used to determine the opening dates below.** Attaining a higher level title after June 30 does not qualify the dog for an earlier entry date, or qualify dogs who do not have an Open title on June 30 for entry.

## Opening and Closing Dates

Entries will be accepted on a “First Received” system on the following Opening dates based on the dog’s title:

- Dogs with Regional Bys earned prior to June 30: August 1, 2020
- Dogs with Master Titles earned prior to June 30: August 15, 2020
- Dogs with Senior titles earned prior to June 30: September 1, 2020
- Dogs with Open titles earned prior to June 30: September 15, 2020
- Entries Close September 30

There are no guaranteed entries for dogs with lower level titles other than dogs who have earned a Bye. Invited Bye dogs for 2020 will take a maximum of 15 Grand National entries, 9 Hurdles entries and 9 Team entries (each Team slot consisting of two dogs). Bye dogs who miss their entry deadline for Regional Bys (August 14, 2020) must enter according to their title and are not guaranteed an entry. The event may fill Bye dogs plus Master or Master/Senior dogs.

## Entry Details

- Dogs who miss their reserved slot may still enter but do not get special consideration if entering at a later date.
- If necessary, a waiting list will be maintained.
- There is a separate entry form for Games. All entries for the same dog (Grand National plus any Games) must be in the same envelope.

## Special Team Entry Information

- If entering Team, all entries for both dogs must be in the same envelope.
- Team dogs may have different level titles (e.g., one dog has a Master title and one a Senior title).
- Team entries are accepted during the open date period for the dog with the highest title competing in the Team. If one dog is entering on a Bye, the other dog is also entered in Team.
- For dogs entered in Team, the Grand National and/or Hurdles entry for the dog with the lower level title will be set aside until the opening date for that level.
- Substitutions may be made for dogs competing in Team at any time before September 30. After September 30 and before the close of Check In on Thursday November 19, substitutions may be made only for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness, injury, etc), only with dogs already entered in the National, and only with the approval of the trial committee. No substitutions will be made after this time.
- No dog can be a member of more than one Team.

## **Cancellation/withdrawals**

- Cancellations/Withdrawals prior to the closing date of September 30 will be refunded in their entirety.
- After September 30 and prior to October 31, the entry fees of a dog who is withdrawn will be refunded only if there is a dog on a waiting list to fill that spot.

## **Entry Fees**

### **Grand National:**

- \$60 per dog (guarantees competition on at least Course 1 and Course 2)

### **Games:**

- \$40 per Team (\$20 per dog)
- \$30 per dog for Hurdles

## **General Rules**

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All general Barn Hunt Regulations apply at the National with the exceptions and differences detailed in the sections below. A Qualifying score is based on completing all elements and finding all rats on a Course without incurring non-qualifying faults.

All dogs must have an official measurement to compete in the National. Dogs who have a height card from another organization (AKC, UKC, NADAC, ASCA, USDAA, CPE, etc.) can use that as their measurement. They may include a copy of the height card with their entry or bring it to the National and present it at check in. Dogs who were measured at any previous National do not need to be remeasured.

## **Grand National**

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### **Description**

The Grand National is a series of four Courses over three days of competition. Dogs entered in the Grand National will compete on Course 1 on Friday November 20 and Course 2 on Saturday November 21 (1 course per day). The combined scores from Courses 1 and 2 of the top 50 dogs, regardless of size, advance to Sunday's competition. All dogs who advance will compete on both Course 3 and Course 4 to determine the Grand National Champion.

- All courses require a tunnel and a climb. There may be more than one official tunnel, but only one tunnel effort is required. Tunnels may be on the ground or elevated.

### **Entry Limit**

- Grand National entries are limited to 160 dogs.

### **Friday Course 1**

- Course 1 will be in a 24' x 24' ring (approximate). Tunnel(s) will have a minimum of one turn and a maximum of two turns. Bale heights will be a maximum of two-high. There will be two live rat tubes and three litter tubes on the course. Course time will be 2 minutes 30 seconds. All tubes may be elevated, on ground level, or any combination of elevated and ground level.

### **Saturday Course 2**

- Course 2 will be in a 24' x 24' ring (approximate). Tunnel(s) will have a minimum of one turn and a maximum of two turns. Bale heights will be a maximum of two-high. There will be three live rat tubes and three litter tubes on the course. Course time will be 2 minutes 30 seconds. All tubes may be elevated, on ground level, or any combination of elevated and ground level.

### **Sunday Course 3**

- Course 3 will be held in a 24' x 32' ring (approximate). Tunnel(s) will have a minimum of three turns and a maximum of **four** turns. There will be at least one place where the bales are stacked three high. There will be four live rat tubes and four litter tubes on the course. Course time will be 3 minutes 30 seconds. All tubes may be elevated, on ground level, or any combination of elevated and ground level.

### **Sunday Course 4**

- Course 4 will be held in a 32' x 32' ring (approximate). Tunnel(s) will have a minimum of three turns and a maximum of **four** turns. There will be at least two places where bales are stacked three-high. There will be a total of eight tubes on the course, one to five live rat tubes with the remainder being litter tubes. Course time will be 4 minutes 30 seconds. The competitor must declare the course "Clear" when all rats have been found, but may com-

plete the tunnel and/or climb after calling the course clear as long as time remains on the clock. All tubes may be elevated, on ground level, or any combination of elevated and ground level.

## **Grand National Scoring**

Scoring for the Grand National is as follows:

- **All Courses:** All elements must be successfully completed within course time and without disqualifying errors in order to receive a qualifying score. Scoring is cumulative from course to course, so a zero score on one course does not necessarily eliminate a dog from the overall competition.
- **Courses 1, 2 and 3:** 100 points for each Qualifying score plus one bonus point for each second under time, rounded down to the nearest second.
  - **Example:** A dog qualifies and finishes Course 1 in 2 minutes. His score would be 130 (100 points plus 30 bonus points for being 30 seconds under time). He then qualifies and finishes Course 2 in 2:15.25 seconds. Dog gets 100 points plus 15 bonus points for a total of 115 points for Course 2, resulting in a Cumulative score of 245.
- **Course 4:** 120 points for a Qualifying score. No bonus points will be awarded due to the varied number of rats on the course.
- If there is a tie for 50th place after Courses 1 and 2, all dogs in the tie will advance to Sunday's Courses. Dogs must have at least one qualifying score on Course 1 or Course 2 to be eligible to advance to Courses 3 and 4. If fewer than 50 dogs are eligible, only those dogs advance.

## **Grand National Awards**

- For each Course, first through fourth place ribbons will be awarded for each height category (small, medium, large). Ribbons will also be offered for each Qualifier. High Course awards will be awarded for each Course for the top score overall (all heights combined) for that course.

## **Grand National Medals**

- The single dog who completes all four courses with the highest score wins the gold medal and the title of Grand National Champion. The letters RGNC will be added as a prefix to that dog's name in the Barn Hunt Register. Silver and Bronze medals will also be awarded for second highest and third highest scores.

## **Games: Hurdles**

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### **Hurdles Description**

In Hurdles, The dog must jump over a series of five 4" tall hurdles made of PVC pipe to reach 3 tubes openly secured on the ground in front of a hay bale "stop." One tube will be empty, one will have litter and one will have a live rat. The racing lane will be a completely fenced area that is 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 80 feet long.

- Course time is 1 minute.
- Hurdles are placed evenly along the length of the track at 20', 30', 40', 50' and 60'.
- Dogs may run without a collar or may wear a flat buckle or snap collar. No chain, martingale, choke, or prong collars allowed.
- Two people are required for each dog – a handler and holding partner. The holding partner will restrain the dog behind the start line inside the fenced area/lane. The handler will be stationed behind the start line outside the fenced area.
  - All dogs entering Hurdles must be capable of being held by another person for release.
- The judge will call GO (or electronic timers signal GO), after which the holding partner releases the dog without bowling.
- Handlers may not cross the start line until the judge/timer says GO.
- Time starts when any part of the dog crosses the start line, and stops when the handler calls the rat and the judge stops the time.
- Handlers may run down the line with the dog to the end or send the dog ahead. Holding partners must stay behind the start line. There will be people on the grounds willing to help as holding partners in the event a handler does not have one.
- **Handlers cannot call a rat tube until the dog has crossed all 5 hurdles. Dogs who do not cross all 5 hurdles do not receive a qualifying score.**
- Knocking over a hurdle does not incur a penalty.
- Leaving the course (dog jumps out of the lane) will result in an NQ score.

Hurdles will have two rounds, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, with set open hours. Handlers may come to the hurdles course as time permits during those hours. Those hours will be announced prior to, or during, the event. Handlers who

miss the open hours for the first Hurdles run may run in the second round but only once (cannot make up the first round) and are ineligible for High Hurdles, Games Medals or Versatility Medals.

### **Hurdles Scoring:**

- 50 points for each Qualifying score plus one point for every second under time. The total score is the combined number of both rounds of Hurdles.

### **Hurdles Awards:**

- First through Fourth place ribbons will be awarded for each height category (small, medium, large) for each round of Hurdles (Saturday and Sunday). Ribbons will also be offered for each Qualifier. High Round 1 Hurdles and High Round 2 Hurdles ribbons will be awarded. High Hurdles will be awarded to the single dog with the highest score over the two rounds out of all heights. In the event of a tie score for High Hurdles, dogs will be re-run for the fastest qualifying score.

## **Games: Team**

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### **Team Description**

In Team, two dogs hunt for **six** rats hidden on a 32' x 32' Course. There are four litter tubes in addition to the **six** rat tubes. Bales are stacked no higher than three-high. Team pairs are chosen by the owners/handlers; no forced pairings are allowed in Team. Dogs making up teams must be able to hunt together. Either dog in the team may find any or all of the rats but even if one dog finds most/all of the rats, both dogs must actively hunt. For example, it is acceptable for one dog to honor, or back, the other dog's finds or be actively hunting but miss the find when the other dog gets there first. The individual judge for each dog makes the call on whether the dog is actively hunting. To be said to be actively hunting, the dog must be searching for rats for the significant majority of its time in the ring (rather than being idle, wandering aimlessly, or attempting to constantly engage the other dog in play).

- Course time is 4 minutes.
- Teams can consist of any height pairing (i.e., a large dog and a small dog, two medium dogs, a small and medium dog, etc.).
- The start box will be 4' x 8'. Each dog will have a handler, and each dog will have a judge, a scribe and a score sheet. There will be two inside Rat Wranglers on the course and four Outside Rat Wranglers. One or two Leash Stewards will be inside the course to aid in collecting leashes. There will be one official tunnel with at least a minimum of two and a maximum of three turns.
- Immediately prior to entering the ring each handler will draw to be assigned either a climb or a tunnel for their Team dog. If assigned a climb, that dog must complete a climb within course time. If assigned a tunnel, the dog must complete a tunnel within course time. It is acceptable for each dog to complete both a tunnel and a climb, but each must complete their assigned task.
- The timing judge, stationed outside the ring with the stopwatch releases the team. After the timing judge says "Go When Ready," any part of either dog or either team member exiting the box starts time.
- Team handlers handle the dog they bring into the ring. One team member cannot handle or command the other team member's dog.
  - A team member cannot tell the other team member's dog to tunnel or climb. If the dog does the tunnel/climb based on the command of the wrong team member, it will not count.
  - A team member may not call Rat for the other dog. If both dogs are on a tube simultaneously, either handler may call Rat.
  - After one Team member calls Rat, both team members may restrain their dogs if needed until the rat is safe.
- Any team member who faults (see scoring) must collect their dog and go back to the start box. They will be given their leash and must put their dog on the leash and wait as the other team member tries to complete the task.
  - Faults would include elimination in the ring, calling litter, not hunting, interfering with the other dog, etc.
  - If the fault is elimination in the ring, in most cases the other teammate will be allowed to hunt without stopping the ring for cleanup. That's a judge call. If the judge must stop the ring, the Team may be assessed an NQ score for both team members or allowed a re-run at the judge's discretion. If allowed a re-run, the draw for tunnel and climb from the first run will be the same for the re-run.
  - Aggression by either teammate results in a zero score for both dogs.
- Team members can freely communicate with each other verbally, and can verbally communicate even if they have faulted and are back in the start box.

### **Team Scoring**

- In order to receive a full Team score, the team must actively hunt, find all rats, and complete their assigned climb/tunnel within course time. If the team is successful, 100 points are assigned to each dog, and each dog gets bonus points based on the total number of seconds under time accomplished by the team. For example, if the team finishes all required elements in 3 minutes 30 seconds, each dog receives a score of 130. The cumulative Team Score is 260. The cumulative Team score is only used for Team awards and High Team. For Games and Versatility awards, each dog's score is used (130 for each dog in this example).
- If all **six** rats are not found, and/or both dogs are eliminated (failure to hunt, failure to complete assigned element, elimination in the ring, etc.) the cumulative Team score is zero and both dogs' individual scores are zero.
- If one dog is eliminated (failure to hunt, eliminates in the ring, failure to complete assigned task, incorrect tube called) that dog is leashed and taken back to the start area while the other dog continues to hunt. If the other dog completes its part of the task and all **six** rats are found, the cumulative Team score will be 50 points plus one bonus point for seconds under time. The dog who was not eliminated will also get an individual score of 50 points plus seconds under time. The dog who was eliminated will get a zero score.
  - If the dog who faulted had not completed its required tunnel or climb prior to the fault, the remaining dog does not have to complete that part of the course. The remaining dog must find all remaining rats but only has to complete the element it was assigned when first entering the ring.

### **Team Awards**

- First through Fourth place ribbons will be awarded to the top four Teams. Ribbons will also be offered for each Qualifying Team. First place is awarded High Team.

### **Games Medals**

- The single dog with the highest combined score for Hurdles and Team regardless of height receives a Gold Medal for Games and the title of Games Champion. The letters RGC will be added as a prefix to that dog's name in the Barn Hunt Register.
- Silver and Bronze medals are also awarded for second and third highest combined scores.

### **Versatility Medals**

- The single dog with the highest score including Grand National and both Games receives a Gold Medal for Versatility and title of Versatility Champion. The letters RVC will be added as a prefix to that dog's name in the Barn Hunt Register.
- Silver and Bronze medals are also awarded for second and third highest combined scores.