

Barn Hunt® Regional Competition Rules

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Overview

Barn Hunt Regional competitions give competitors who intend to attend the Barn Hunt National a way to ensure a guaranteed entry into the National for their dog(s). At each Regional, there will be a guaranteed National entry, called a Bye, awarded to 3 Hurdles dogs, 2 or 3 Teams (up to six dogs) and 5 Grand National dogs. Regionals also provide the opportunity all eligible dogs to practice on Team and Hurdles as well as National-type courses even if they do not intend to compete at the National.

- Implementation will start in 2019, to feed the 2020 National. As such, Regionals will be scheduled to occur after June 1, 2019 and prior to June 30, 2020. The date span may vary depending on National date
- Regionals are not exclusive events. Dogs who will not be competing in the National can compete in Regionals. Dogs will not have to compete in a Regional in order to enter the National.
- Regionals will be held in at least 3 and a maximum of 5 locations.
- Byes are given to dogs, not handlers, and apply only to the specific dog earning the Bye and only for the class the Bye was earned in (e.g. a Team Bye cannot be used for a Grand National entry). Byes cannot be transferred to other dogs. All dogs receiving Byes will be able to enter the National class they earned the Bye in prior to any other entries being taken in that class. Dogs with Byes can be handled by one person at a Regional and a different person at the National.
 - Byes are not a paid entry. Handlers with Byes wishing to enter the National must still pay the National entry fee.
- Any dog with an Open title (RATO) or above may enter a Regional. Instinct, Novice, and Open classes will NOT be offered at Regionals.
 - Regular qualifying runs and titles in Senior and Master will be awarded at the Regional in addition to separate cumulative scoring for Grand National Byes.
- Any dog from any part of the country may be entered in any Regional or multiple Regionals. Any dog who has received a Bye from a previous Regional is not eligible to receive a second Bye but may still earn medals and placements at any Regional.
 - If a dog with a previous Bye enters a second (or more) Regional and earns a score eligible for a second Bye in that same class, the Bye is passed to the next dog down the line but the dog with the previous Bye keeps any medal earned.
- Unless otherwise outlined in this document, all regular Barn Hunt Association rules apply at Regionals.

Club Information

- All Regionals will be held over 3 days of competition:
 - Day 1 is Hurdles and Team ONLY. Two runs of Hurdles, one of Team
 - Days 2 and 3 are four regular titling Trials, with the exception being that only Senior and Master Classes will be offered. Senior A and B and Master A and B will be offered. Move ups and lateral moves will be allowed as usual.
 - For Regional Games day, 5 judges minimum are required. Six judges, with one judge acting as a Relief judge, will be suggested for events with large entries.
- For the two Regional Grand National days, the number of judges required will vary according to ring numbers and schedule. That number will be agreed upon between the hosting Club(s) and the BHA.
- Competitors entering all four runs of the Grand National qualifier are charged a single price for all four runs. Competitors entering Team + Hurdles + all 4 trials get a different bundled price. Competitors may enter any number of the Regular trials, but anyone not entering all four Regular trials will not be considered for a Grand National Bye. Competitors entering single trials are charged a price per trial.
- Competitors are not required to enter either Hurdles or Team and may enter only one of those games if preferred. All Hurdles entries are for two rounds of Hurdles.
- Hurdles entries are limited to 100. Team entries are limited to 50 Teams. Grand National entries will be set according to the number of rings and judges assigned but cannot exceed the number allotted for a normal judging day.
- Clubs may offer an extra day of full trials or Clinics/practices prior to, or after, the 3-day Regional event.

Regional Grand National Rules

- To be eligible for a Bye in the National, each dog must enter and compete in 4 classes over two days. Dogs enter the class they are eligible to enter; either Senior A/B or Master A/B.
 - Move ups and lateral moves are allowed as specified for regular events in the 2019 rules.
- All Regional Grand National course runs count toward regular Barn Hunt Senior or Master titles.
 - Only dogs who enter and compete in all four trials are eligible for Grand National Byes.
- Rules for Senior and Master as they are set forth in the 2019 Rulebook apply, with the following exceptions:
 - Ring sizes must be a minimum of 24 x 24 and may be up to 32 x 32 for both Senior and Master.
 - The bale number limit is waived for Senior and Master and any number of bales may be used.
 - Senior may contain a distance challenge as long as it does not block a majority of the course and one tunnel opening is accessible without the handler having to climb over bales.
 - Master may contain a distance challenge that blocks a majority of the course though there must be room for a competitor to move a minimum of 6 feet outside the start box in at least two directions. The Master distance challenge may block both ends of the tunnel.
 - Tunnels will be 3 turns for both Senior and Master.

Regional Grand National Scoring and Byes

- All scores from a combination of all four runs of each dog (100 points for a qualifying score plus one point for each second under time, rounded down to the nearest second). The top 5 dogs overall, regardless of height and regardless if they competed in Senior A/B or Master A/B, receive a Bye for the National.

Regional Team Rules

In Team, two dogs hunt for four rats hidden on a 32' x 32' Course. There are four litter tubes in addition to the four rat tubes. Bales are stacked no higher than three-high. The tunnel is 3 turns. 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 Event host will set a final date for any Team changes/substitutions. No changes will be allowed after that date.
 - For Regionals only, dogs can run FEO (for exhibition only) for Team. A dog may be used as an official Team member on one team, and as FEO on up to two other teams. Or, a dog who will not be attending the National may be used as FEO for up to three teams. Each dog running FEO must declare on the entry form which team will be their official Team for National Qualification, if any. All Team rules for regular competitors also apply to the FEO dog. FEO dogs must be assigned prior to the event, listed entry form, and noted in the Secretary's book. Owners of potential FEO dogs can inform the club of the availability of their dog.
- In the Team ring, there will be one large start area. 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 a minimum of two, preferred four Outside Rat Wranglers. A leash steward will be inside the course to aid in collecting and holding leashes. There will be one or more official tunnels.
- 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 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 can 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.

Regional Team Scoring and Byes

- 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 230. The cumulative Team score is only used for Team Byes. For Games awards, each dog's score is used (130 for each dog in this example).
 - FEO dog scores count toward the Team score, but FEO dogs are ineligible for Byes and any Byes earned by a FEO dog are not awarded and cannot be transferred. Any FEO dog earning a medal may keep the medal they earn.
- If all four 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 and the other dog completes its part of the task and all four 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 fewer than 10 Teams are entered in the Regional, the top two Teams get Byes for National Team competition for all non-FEO dogs. If more than 10 Teams are entered, the top three Teams get Byes for all non-FEO dogs.
 - When entering the National, any dog with a Team Bye can invite a dog without a Team Bye as a teammate and both will be entered in Team based on the one dog's Bye.

Regional Hurdles Rules

In Hurdles, The dog must jump over a series of five 4" tall hurdles made of PVC pipe (8" diameter pipe halved to create 4" high bump jumps) 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 wear a flat buckle, snap , or limited slip martingale collar. No chain collars, no choke or prong collars allowed.
- 2 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 without showing aggression).
- 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 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.
- 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 with set open hours and 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 a Bye.

Regional Hurdles Scoring and Byes

- 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.
- The top 3 Hurdles dogs, regardless of height, who competed in both rounds of Hurdles receive a Bye for Hurdles in the National.

Ribbons and awards

- Regional Qualifier ribbons will be provided for each competitor that receives a qualifying score in any class at a Regional. Those ribbons may not be dark brown. The final color and design/type for those ribbons will be decided at a future date. During Regular competition Senior/Master, competitors are also awarded brown Qualifying ribbons for their regular score.
- For Hurdles, in addition to Regional Qualifier ribbons, first through 4th are awarded in each height and each round, as well as a High Round 1 and High Round 2 ribbon.
- For Team, in addition to Regional Qualifier ribbons, first through fourth place dogs each get a ribbon (two ribbons per team).
- For both Hurdles and Team ribbons may be regular Barn Hunt Placement ribbons but must have tabs that say "Hurdles" or "Team." Alternately the club can choose to purchase special hurdles and team ribbons.
- High Regional Games Gold, Bronze, and Silver must be awarded plus each National qualifier receiving a Bye will get a rosette with streamers not less than 20" which states Barn Hunt National Qualifier. The style of medal and ribbon will be chosen by Robin Nuttall. Medals will be consistent across all Regionals, but ribbons may vary by location/vendor as long as they meet general parameters.
- For all regular classes (Senior A and B and Master A and B) all ribbons will be awarded as they would be at a regular Barn Hunt Trial, including regular High in Class ribbons.
- High Regional Grand National Gold, Bronze, and Silver must be awarded for the top three Grand National placers, plus Barn Hunt National qualifier ribbons for all 5 dogs receiving Byes.

List compilation and entering National

- Each Regional must keep a spreadsheet (to be created) for all Bye qualifiers in their event. That list must be sent to the person(s) running the National within a week of the completion of the Regional.
- Whatever club is running the National is responsible for keeping that list updated.
- Entries are to open to those with Byes first before any other entries and they are guaranteed a spot in the class they have a Bye for as long as they get their entry in within that time frame. A Bye winner can enter at any time the National is open for entries, but does not get special Bye privileges if they enter after the closing date for Bye entries.