### General Judge Briefing

1. You must enter and exit the ring with the dog on collar/leash. You may not remove your collar/leash until you are in the ring and the gate is secured. You must replace your collar/leash before the gate opens for you to exit.
2. Dogs must run without collar/leash.
3. Toys/treats are never allowed in the ring.
4. If you are using a covered prong collar, you cannot leave it on the ground, it must be hung/handed off. You may put your leash in a pocket but it must be completely in the pocket.
5. Do not hand the judge the collar/leash or a rat tube.
6. When releasing your dog, do not bowl, shove or drop your dog. On the course, don't body block or push your dog with your foot/leg/body.
7. You must wait for the judge to release you with the phrase “you may go when ready.”
8. Time starts when any part of you or your dog leaves the start box. Deliberate lead outs are not allowed.
9. After the release of the dog, you may not touch your dog except as allowed in the Allowed Praise and Reward portion of the rules.
10. You may not touch any tube prior to calling the rat.
11. You must call the rat tube clearly and decisively and not form it as a question. Typically the preferred word is RAT.
12. Don't make the judge think! If the Judge asks “Where,” indicate the location clearly.
13. Allowing your dog to kick/pitch/maul any tube in a way that the rat could be harmed, a tug-of-war, or being generally unable to control your dog may result in Lack of Control NQ.
14. You may not deliberately touch or step on/over any bale except during the Allowed Praise and Reward portion.
15. You may not step on any Master Distance Challenge mat prior to calling RAT.
16. All dogs must be in the blind before a blind can start. You are responsible for getting to the blind when asked. Your dog and you must be physically inside the blind. Exceptions are not made for reactive/aggressive dogs.
17. When watching the trial be sure not to give away the location of the rats to any competitor in the ring. Caution your friends. Even things like clicking a camera as the dog nears the hide can give the rat away.
18. You are expected to treat your dog, your fellow competitors, the trial committee, and the judge with respect.
19. You can't time yourself in any way in the ring.
20. A copy of the rules is available at the Trial Secretary's table or at [www.barnhunt.com](http://www.barnhunt.com/)
21. Take a deep breath, smile, and have fun!