

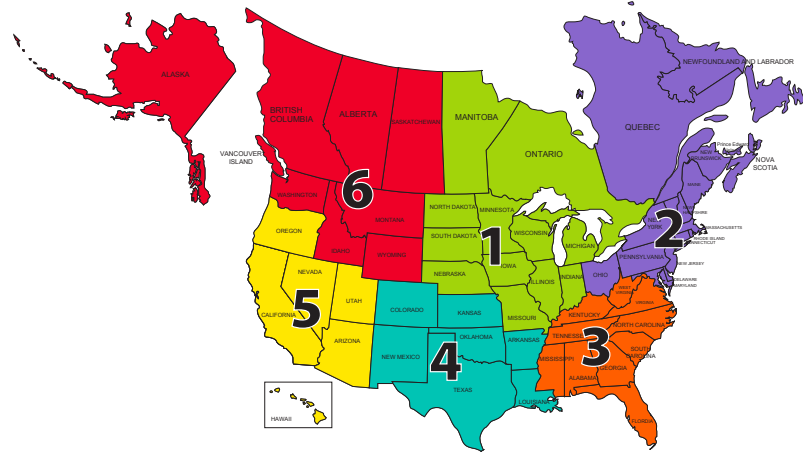
Barn Hunt Regionals Competition Rules



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 the Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners in Regionals Grand National and Gold winners in Regionals Games. The 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.

- Locations and Qualifying date spans will be published on the Barn Hunt Regionals page at barnhunt.com/regionals.html
- Regionals are not exclusive events. Dogs who will not be competing in the National can compete in Regionals. Dogs do not have to compete in a Regional in order to enter the National.
- Regionals will be held once each year in each of the six Barn Hunt Regions.
- 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. the Games Bye cannot be used for a Grand National entry). Byes cannot be transferred to other dogs. Dogs earning Byes will be able to enter the National prior to other entries being taken. 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 during the the same qualifying period enters a second (or more) Regional and earns a score eligible for a second Bye in that same class type (Grand National or Games), the Bye is passed to the next dog down the line but the dog with the previous Bye keeps the medal earned.
- Unless otherwise outlined in this document, all regular Barn Hunt Association rules apply at Regionals.



BARN HUNT REGIONS

Regionals Grand National Rules

- To be eligible for a Grand National Bye at the National, each dog must enter and compete in 4 Trials over two days. Dogs enter the class they are eligible to enter; either Senior A/B , Master A, or Master B/Championship.
 - Move ups and lateral moves are allowed as specified in the rules for regular events.
- 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 latest 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 maximum bale number limit is waived for Senior and Master and any number of bales may be used.
 - Senior may contain a Distance Challenge (DC) as long as it does not block **more than 25%** of the course and one tunnel portal is outside the DC.
 - Master may contain **one or more DCs that blocking up to a total of 50%** of the course. All portals of the tunnel may be within the DC, but if so, one tunnel portal must be less than 3 feet from the outside boundary of the DC.

- Senior Tunnels will be 12' to 20'. Master tunnels will be 14' to 22'. Tunnels will be 2-3 turns, can be multi-portal, and more than one official tunnel may be used.

Regional Grand National Scoring and Byes

- For each run, dogs receive 100 points for a qualifying score plus one point for each second under time, rounded down to the nearest second). The top 3 dogs overall, regardless of height and regardless if they competed in Senior A/B, Master A, or Master B/Championship, each receive a Bye for the National.

Regional Team Rules

In Team, two dogs hunt for six rats hidden on a 32' x 32' Course with one to three places at 3-high, such that a tube can be hidden at that height. There are four litter tubes in addition to the six rat tubes. The tunnel is 2-3 turns and a maximum of 25' as designed. There will be one or more official tunnels. There will be no Distance Challenges. 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, etc.).
- The Event host will set a final date for any Team dog 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 on the 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 a 4' x 8' 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. One or two leash stewards will be inside the course to aid in collecting and returning leashes.
- 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/handler. 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 and may climb bales to do so if necessary.
 - A Team member may not restrain the other Team member's dog.
- Any team member who faults (see scoring) must collect their dog and go back to the start box. They 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, and only the dog who did not eliminate runs. The other teammate can verbally support the single-dog run from outside the ring. Handlers cannot be switched. Single-dog scoring applies.
 - Aggression by either teammate results in a zero score for both dogs.

- 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 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

- 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. For overall Games medals/Byes, 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.
 - FEO dog scores count toward the overall Team score only. They are not eligible for the Games Bye. If they earn a Games Gold medal, they may keep the medal/ribbon but the Bye goes to the next dog down the line.
- If one dog is eliminated and 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.

Regional Hurdles Rules

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 wear a flat buckle or snap collar. No chain, martingale, choke, or prong collars allowed. Nothing can dangle from the collar.
- 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 with set open hours if running simultaneously with Team, 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. If not running simultaneously, Hurdles may have a set run order.

Regional Hurdles Scoring

- Large dogs receive 50 points for each Qualifying score. Medium dogs receive 52 points for each qualifying score. Small dogs receive 54 points for each qualifying score. In addition, all dogs receive one point for every second under time. The total score is the combined number of both rounds of Hurdles.

Ribbons and Medals

- For all regular classes ribbons will be awarded as they would be at a regular Barn Hunt Trial, including brown Q ribbons, placements, and High in Class ribbons. With the exception that both Senior and Master B will award placements by height.
- Regional Qualifier ribbons will be provided for each competitor that receives a qualifying score in any class at a Regional. Those ribbons will not be dark brown. The final color and design/type for those ribbons will be decided by the Barn Hunt Association.
- In Hurdles, in addition to Regional Qualifier ribbons, first through 4th are awarded in each height and each round, as well as a High Hurdles Round 1, High Hurdles Round 2, and overall High Hurdles ribbons.
- In Team, in addition to Regional Qualifier ribbons, first through fourth place teams each get a ribbon (two ribbons per team), as well as High Team ribbons for the first place team.
 - Hurdles and Team placement 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.
- Regional Grand National and Games Gold, Bronze, and Silver medals and ribbons will be awarded.
 - Ribbons will be a rosette with streamers not less than 20”. 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.
- National Qualifier (Bye) ribbons will be awarded to the Top 3 Grand National (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and the Top 1 (Gold) Games winners who have not won a Bye from a previous Regional during the same qualifying period.

List Compilation and Entering the National using Byes

- Each Regional must keep a spreadsheet (to be created) for the 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.
- The club hosting the National is responsible for keeping that list updated.
- National 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.
- Grand National Bye winners do not get priority treatment for Games entries, and vice-versa. If a Team dog without a Bye (see Team Rules) does not have a qualifying title to enter the National, they will be entered in Team only.

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/Championship Classes will be offered. Move ups and lateral moves will be allowed as usual.
 - For Regional Games day, 5 judges minimum are required if running the rings simultaneously. 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 or either/both games, but anyone not entering all four Regular trials will not be eligible for a medal/Grand National Bye. Competitors entering single trial/games are charged a price per trial/game.
- Competitors may enter either Hurdles or Team (or both). 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 MRV allotted for a normal judging day.
 - Regular Trial application fees and run fees apply for Regionals.
- Clubs may offer an extra day of full trials or Clinics/practices prior to, or after, the 3-day Regional event.

Judge Dog Entries

- Each Judge of Record has the option to show 1 dog in Regional Grand National competition for regular titles and awards. All regular Back Up Judge rules apply.
 - The 1-dog limit for Judges of Record at Regionals is per class type. Judges may show one dog in Regional Grand National, and the same or a different dog FEO Regional Team and/or FEO one-run Regional Hurdles, see below.
- Each JOR has the option to show 1 dog on one Regional Team For Exhibition Only (FEO).
 - That dog may be paired with a dog competing for a Bye, or with another judge's dog for both to be FEO.
 - If the judge running FEO is also a Regional Team judge, a Back Up Judge must be provided.
 - A BUJ is not required for any JOR who is not a Regional Team judge.
 - Any/all Teams using a Team Judge FEO dog must either run first or last in Regional Team competition, determined by the Club.
- Each JOR may run 1 dog one time on the Regional Hurdles course FEO, either in Round 1 or Round 2 as determined to be the least disruptive to the event by the Club.
 - If the JOR is also a Regional Hurdles judge, a Back Up Judge must be provided.
 - A BUJ is not required for any JOR who is not also a Hurdles judge.
- Regional Judges of Record are not eligible for Byes or placements.
 - If a JOR dog runs FEO for Team with a non-judge dog and the Teammate earns a medal/placement, the Judge dog may keep the ribbon/medal earned.