

COVID-19 TEMPORARY RULES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

SECTION 1. Overview

The precautions and rules outlined in this document are meant to help Clubs, Judges, and Competitors safely hold and attend upcoming Barn Hunt Events. While at this time these rules go to **December 31**, that date may be extended or changed at any time.

Not all Clubs with scheduled events during these months will actually hold those events. Federal, State, and Local laws take precedence for all Clubs, Judges, and competitors, as well as the presence of the virus in that community. Competitors must act in accordance with all Barn Hunt rules including these special rules, and in a way that will not only keep them healthy but also protect the entire community.

It is strongly advised that all interested participants in Barn Hunt read this entire document. While competitors may think that the Club and Judge sections do not apply to them, it is important for all to know all of the precautions taken and what to expect when showing up for an event.

SECTION 2. Competitor Rules/Guidelines

Competitors entering Barn Hunt trials must comply with all Federal, State and Local laws regarding travel and attendance at non-essential events. It goes without saying that anyone who is quarantined and/or ill for any reason must stay home. Entering and attending any Barn Hunt trial at any time is done entirely at your own risk. All Clubs will have a waiver that you must sign designating that you understand the risk you are taking by entering an event, that you are well and have not been in contact with someone with COVID-19 (or have a recent negative test, a recent positive antibody test, and/or are fully recovered and released to normal activities without restriction), and that you understand that the Club is not liable if you get COVID-19 at any time during or after the event. If a Club suspects a competitor is ill, they will ask for that competitor to leave trial grounds immediately.

Competitors should expect longer days at Events due to some of the extra steps Clubs and Judges must take to make sure Events are safe for all.

Withdrawing due to sickness:

Competitors who enter a scheduled Event but then must withdraw due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or direct exposure to a COVID-19 patient will receive a full refund minus a Club administration fee. That administration fee will be set by the Club but may not be more than \$10.

Masks/face shields and gloves:

All Event attendees must wear masks. Masks must be worn indoors, going to and inside the blind, going to the ring, and in the ring/exiting the ring. If outdoors on trial grounds and not going to the blind/ring, masks must be worn any time a person will be within 10' of another person. Face shields are also allowed but must be worn in combination with a mask. Competitors must provide their own masks/face shields in a sufficient number to make it through the event; the Club will not provide masks or face shields for competitors. If used, face shields must be cleaned/disinfected at least daily.

- Gloves are allowed but not required, see the Competitor Rulebook for information about glove use.
- Face shields are a solid piece without holes, reach below the chin, to the ears, and the area between shield and forehead is covered. See the Judge section for proper positioning.
- Masks are of cloth or other permeable material without holes, covering both the nose and the mouth. A one-way valve (usually a raised plastic circle the size of a quarter), which aids in exhalation, is not allowed.
- Any person refusing to wear a mask or taking down/removing the mask within 10' of another person not in their household will be asked to leave the Event. Any person who becomes combative/disruptive about mask wearing may be subject to a Trial Hearing on misconduct/lack of sportsmanship.
- If a mask is dislodged during a run (dog paw, etc.) the competitor may immediately fix without penalty. If a face shield is being worn in addition to the mask and it comes off during a run, the competitor may either immediately replace the face shield or leave it where it lies until the end of the run. There is no penalty for the face shield falling off.

Leash handling:

Handlers must handle their own leash/collar. The leash will not be touched by anyone but the handler. The leash can be draped over the fence, placed in a bucket provided by the Club which can be either on the inside of the ring gating or inside on the floor at the corner of the start box (see Club Rules on bucket handling/cleaning). Or they can leave it on the floor itself. Handlers may bring a small bag or sack to the ring and place the leash in the sack if they wish, with only the handler

touching the bag/sack. Handlers can continue to put the leash in their pocket if it is completely in the pocket. The leash cannot be carried in the hand. Dogs must still run naked. If the handler chooses to put the leash on the floor or in a bucket/sack on the floor and the dog returns to play with the leash, all regular rules apply (cannot touch dog until call rat, could be subject to Lack of Control). Slip leads, limited slip martingale leads, and sighthound leads strongly encouraged.

Blinds:

See the Club rules on blinds. Each competitor will be loaded into the blind in reverse-number order and will be assigned a numbered chair corresponding to their number in the blind. Competitors must stay in their numbered chair and exit the blind in order, not crossing the path of another competitor. Competitors must wash their hands just prior to entering the blind, and wash their hands as soon as possible after leaving the ring.

Restraints/Removes:

Handlers choosing Restraint encouraged to make every effort to turn themselves and their dog away from the Rat Wrangler (don't breathe in their face). (See Releasing the Dog After Restraint in the Competitor Rulebook, page 18.) Handlers who usually Remove the tube should if possible set the tube down then Restrain and turn their dog away rather than handing the tube directly to the Rat Wrangler. However, handing directly to the RW is still allowed if this method will not work for the team. Remember, the RW will never pick a tube up out of straw unless the dog is fully physically restrained.

Spectating:

Spectators may not be within 10 feet of other competitors, the judge, or RWs around the ring. This will limit or in some cases eliminate spectating for this period of time. Clubs will designate if spectators will be allowed and where they must stand. No touching the fence is allowed. Other than entrants and direct family/support of entrants, no general visitors/spectators will be allowed during this time.

Crating and general proximity:

Competitors are encouraged to crate out of cars when possible, give space between themselves and others. Crating areas will be designated by the Club which can enforce distancing. Do not touch anyone else's chairs, crates, setups, or dogs.

Ribbons:

Results for each class will be posted in such a way that competitors can view and take a picture of results. When doing so be quick and courteous of others waiting to do the same. Ribbon labels are not required during this time.

SECTION 3. Rules for Judges

Travel:

Judges may only travel across state/international lines to judge events if by doing so they will be complying with each state/country's laws and non-essential travel is allowed. Judges must comply with all State or National quarantine restrictions on travel (e.g., a State is requiring people from outside the state to quarantine for 14 days upon entry or upon re-entry to a home state after traveling).

Masks/face shields:

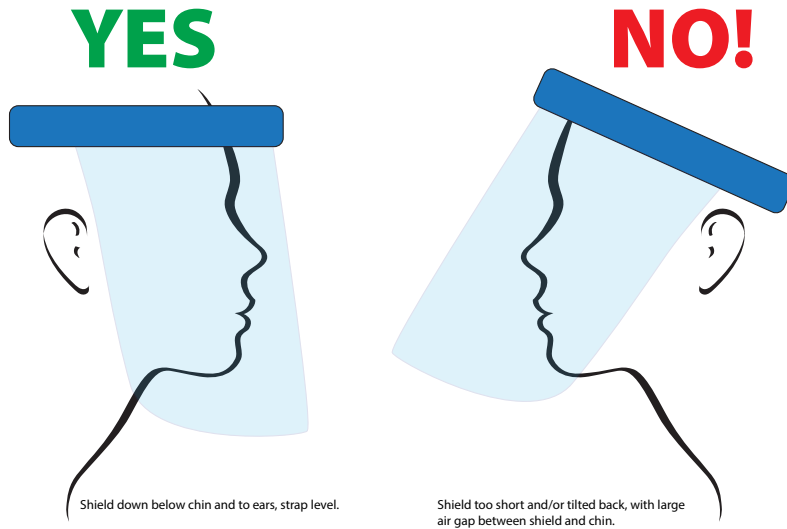
Judges must wear a mask at all times in the ring (see exception below) and must have enough masks to get through the Event. Judges are also encouraged to wear face shields in addition to masks. Judges may exit the ring between blinds if needed to take a break from the mask/shield as long as in doing so they stay 10+ feet away from others (see Club rules for adjusted MRVs for slower running events due to these changes). A Judge can establish a specific area they will go to in order to take a quick mask-off break.

- When judging outdoors the judge may opt to wear a face shield alone while in the ring, without a mask, as long as it is worn properly (see illustration on page 3). The judge must wear a mask outside the ring as noted elsewhere in these rules. Outdoors is defined as an area with or without a roof, with two or fewer walls and where air freely circulates through the entire ring area (i.e., the judge is not backed into a closed corner with no circulation).
- All Rat Wranglers are strongly encouraged to wear face shields as well as masks. There will be one inside RW for all classes except Crazy 8s which will still have two. Inside RWs have temporary permission to move around the ring at will and as necessary to keep distance from the judge and competitor. Outside RWs must stay back from the fence and move in when they hear the call of RAT. RWs can be switched out as often as needed to ensure they get a break.

Judges are not to touch scribe sheets but instead must visually approve each sheet, check the time, and authorize the scribe to initial the sheet for them with the judge's initials.

There are no Class/ring briefings during this time. Judges are encouraged to have base-level maps that the Club can post in several areas including the blinds. Even if those are posted, if a competitor asks, Judges must answer as they come in before releasing the dog. Do not answer competitors unless asked. The written general briefing is posted as usual.

CORRECT FACE SHIELD PLACEMENT FOR JUDGES USING A FACE SHIELD ONLY IN AN OUTDOOR RING



Prospective and B Level Judges:

Unless otherwise notified, all mentoring is suspended at this time. For those who are gathering experience toward their judging license, appropriate deadline extensions will be given.

Required Continuing Ed and Yearly Judging Assignments:

For 2020, the requirement to judge at least one class per year is waived. Judge Workshops are cancelled for the remainder of 2020, and all judges needing a workshop in 2020 will be given an exemption until 2021.

SECTION 4. Rules for Clubs:

It goes without saying that Clubs choosing to hold events should only do so if they are completely confident they can do so safely and in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws. In the case of a State law which conflicts with a Local law, or vice-versa, the most restrictive law holds precedence. Barn Hunt COVID-19 rules hold precedence over both State and Local laws unless the state/local laws are more restrictive than Barn Hunt COVID-19 rules. In order to host Events, the club must be able to provide the following:

- Masks/face shields for all primary positions including Trial Chair and Secretary, Awards person, RWs, Blind, and Gate Stewards; with enough numbers that no one will have to share.
- Gloves if current CDC guidelines advise such.
- The room and ability to provide safe distance crating options
- A location to post results so that competitors can take photos of the results sheets without crowding.
- A place for competitors/Judges/Club members to wash and dry their hands. Sanitizer must also be available but is not sufficient on its own. A washing station can be rented if necessary.

New Waiver:

Add a new waiver for all competitors to sign prior to being allowed in Event grounds. **This waiver must be signed at or immediately prior to the event.**

I/we certify that I/we do not, to my/our knowledge, have COVID-19 at the time of attending this event. Nor have I/we been in contact with or exposed to any known carrier of COVID-19 within the past 14 days. If I/we have had the virus, I/we certify that we have had at least two negative tests 14 or more days prior to the Event or have had a positive antibody test, and have been released by government officials and/or health care providers to resume normal activity without limit. I/we understand that we have entered and are competing at this Barn Hunt event entirely at my/our own risk and take full responsibility for my/our own health and safety during this Event. I/we pledge to follow all Barn Hunt Association and specific Club Event rules and requirements to mitigate any possibility of infecting others or becoming infected. I/we will also cooperate with any health department and/or State/Local guidelines that have jurisdiction in the area in which the Event is taking place. The Barn Hunt Association LLC and the [insert club name] are in no way liable for any present or future COVID-19 infection incurred at any time by any person, in attendance or not in attendance, before, during or after this Event.

Events in conjunction:

Events in conjunction may still be held if all parties are able to provide adequate spacing and distancing to keep competitors safe. As always, Barn Hunt rules are in effect on all Barn Hunt grounds, including these rules.

Premiums:

All Barn Hunt Premiums must mention COVID-19 protocols and add this link to the COVID-19 rules: <https://www.barn-hunt.com/covid-19.html>

Surface cleaning:

All surfaces that will be frequently touched need to be cleaned often. If you are providing a bucket for the leash, it must be cleaned after each competitor with a fresh wipe. Fencing should be cleaned after each blind. Blind chairs must be of a hard material and wiped down with sanitizer after each blind (see the Blind rules).

If possible, provide a tool such as a trash picker or long handled reacher to pick up leashes that have dropped to the ground after being hung on the fence. <https://www.amazon.com/Best-Sellers-Industrial-Scientific-Commercial-Trash-Pickers/zgbs/industrial/3310332011>.

When rats are switched from tubes, it is best practice that the new rat be put in a new tube and the existing tube be wiped down with a rodent-safe surface cleaner and set aside to dry. The tubes can be rotated thus throughout the day.

Ribbons and Results:

Results must be posted on a wall or other area where competitors will not have to touch the results sheet or crowd next to each other to be able to view and take pictures of their results. In the written General Briefing, specify how you wish competitors to get to the results (no crowding, where you would like them to form a line, etc.). Clubs must also send results via email to all competitors after the event. Individual emails are preferred, but posting to a website or group is also acceptable, if the latter that site/location must be listed in the Premium.

A Club member should place each Q ribbon separately on a table for each class along with any placements, so that competitors can come pick up their ribbons without large numbers of people touching them (i.e., no self-serve drawers with multiple competitors touching the ribbons).

Limiting Classes and MRVs:

Classes may be limited by size during this period, with a minimum class size limit being 10. The current rules on types of classes that can be held is still the same (must offer all classes at least one day of the event), but Clubs may limit entries in any class, not just Crazy 8s.

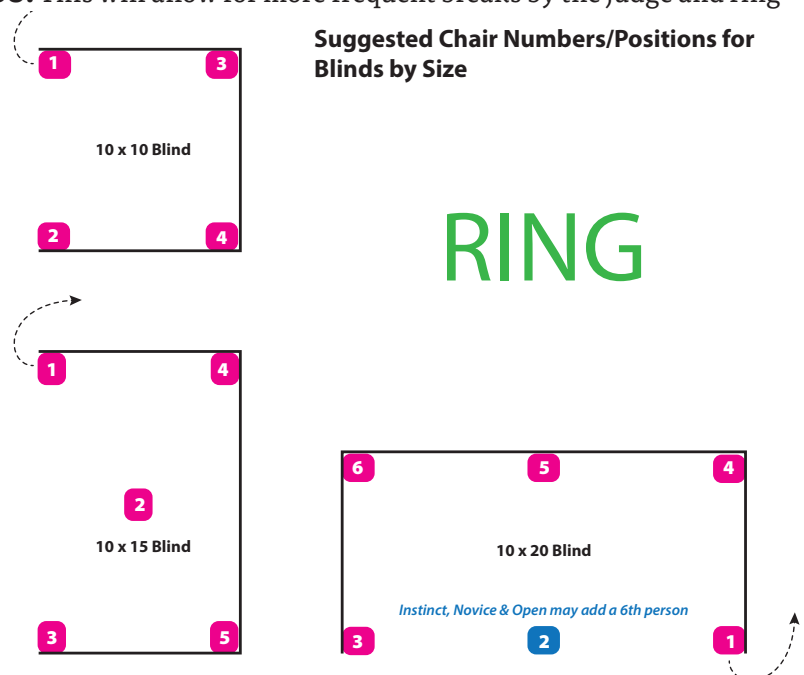
The overall Maximum Run Value during this period will be 200 per Judge and Ring. For Clubs who only have 10 x 10 blinds or who only wish to have 4 persons in blinds even if the blind is 10 x 15 or larger, and for Events in Conjunction, that MRV drops to 180. This will allow for more frequent breaks by the judge and ring crew (mask/face shield breaks) plus more frequent cleaning required.

Blinds:

During this time, 10 x 10 blinds are limited to 3-4 persons. 10 x 15 blinds will have a maximum of 5 people and a minimum of 4. 10 x 20 blinds may have up to 6 people for Instinct, Novice, and Open and up to 5 people for Senior, Master, and Crazy 8s. The minimum for 10 x 20 blinds is 4.

Seating must be assigned with a prominent number on each chair. Competitors enter the blind in reverse-number order. The diagram shown suggests numbering order. Clubs may vary this, however, the first person out must be the closest to the ring, and assigned seating arranged so that no competitor crosses another competitor's path exiting the box. Generally that will mean the first people to leave at the front of the blind and the last at the back.

Crating is not allowed within 10' of any blind.



(Not to scale. Clubs set the #1 position in the blind based on ring and gate location and desired path from the blind to the ring. The number positions shown facilitate exiting the blind while maintaining distance

Canceling an Event:

For Events prior to **December 31**, if the cancellation is BEFORE your published closing date (more than 10 days ahead or whatever you set as your closing), normally you would be obligated to return all entry fees. However, in these circumstances, you can offer competitors several choices. You get to decide if you wish to offer to move or to give vouchers. If offering those choices, the competitor makes the final decision on what they want to do.

- You can MOVE their entry to another event on your calendar
- You can offer them a VOUCHER for a future event
- You can REFUND some/part/all of their entry but see the guidelines below:

At this time Clubs are NOT required to refund entry fees for trials canceled due to COVID-19 whether open or closed and can make a decision based on existing cost outlay. As always I will strongly advise you to refund what you can. If your club is in a position to refund all of an entry fee please do so. If the event is not closed and the competitor needs a refund you do need to refund at least part. But we want you to be able to stay in business in these extraordinary circumstances. Canceling even before the closing date is still considered an "Act of God" cancellation because of this situation.

For Events canceled prior to **December 31** due to COVID-19, the Barn Hunt Association will move the event to a new date any time in the future, free of charge.

- To move an event, contact info@barnhunt.com with the cancelled Event dates, and the dates you wish to move the Event to. The event must be moved in its entirety. We do not split Events. For example, if the original event was 3 days and 6 Trials, the Club cannot move 1 day to one weekend and 2 days to a different weekend. If the only weekend that event can be moved to would need to be 2 days, the Club will forfeit the final day's Trial application fees.

Number of required events per year:

The requirement for all Clubs to have at least one event per year with all classes is waived for 2020.

Run Fees:

Per-run fees are reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.75 for the year 2020. On January 1, 2021 they will go back up to \$2.00.