

2018 Barn Hunt National

Class Description and Scoring

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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.

DATES

September 14-15-16, 2018, Myers Park and Event Center Show Barn, McKinney, TX

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.

2018 JUDGES

The judges for 2018 are (Judges’ class assignments TBD):

- Jim Shear – Lodi, CA
- Angelique Shear – Lodi, CA
- Eva Raczka – Central Square, NY
- Traci Murdock – Fort Worth, TX
- Nita Gandara – Cusseta, GA
- Valerie Piltz – Bellevue, WA

ENTRY CRITERIA, LIMITS, OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

Dogs must have an Open title earned prior to April 30, 2018 to be eligible for entry into the Barn Hunt National. The title held on April 30 is the title level used to determine the opening dates below; dogs who earn a higher title after April 30 are not eligible to enter at an earlier date. Dogs earning an Open title after April 30 are not eligible for the National.

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

- Master titles and above: June 1

- Senior titles: June 15
- Open titles: June 30

Dogs with a Senior or Master title who miss their entry slot can still enter but after June 15 or June 30 do not get special consideration for their title-level status. No dog at any titling level is guaranteed a slot in the National; entries will be filled as they come in.

A waiting list will be maintained. No dogs will be moved from the waiting list into the trial list after August 31, 2018.

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. 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 an Open title).

Team entries are accepted during the open date period for the dog with the highest title competing in the 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.

Entries close July 31.

Entry Limits

- Grand National: 160 dogs
- Team: 60 teams/120 dogs
- Hurdles: 100 dogs

Cancellation/withdrawals

Cancellations/Withdrawals prior to the closing date of July 31 will be refunded in their entirety.

After July 31 and prior to August 31, fees will be refunded if and 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

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

Description

The Grand National is a series of Courses over three days of competition.

Dogs entered in the Grand National will compete on Course 1 on Friday September 14 and Course 2 on Saturday September 15 (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 five 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 five 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 complete 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.

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.

Course 4: 120 points for a Qualifying score. No bonus points will be awarded due to the varied number of rats on the course.

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

Hurdles Description

The dog must jump over a series of five 4" tall hurdles made of 4" 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.

- 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.
- 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. (Note: All dogs entering Hurdles must be capable of being held by another person for release without showing aggression).
- The judge will call 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.
- **Course time is 1 minute.**
- 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.

- Round 1 will take place Saturday September 15.
- Round 2 will take place Sunday September 16.

Hurdles will have 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 on Saturday may compete in the second round on Sunday, but only once (cannot make up Saturday's round) and are ineligible for High Hurdles. Handlers who compete on Saturday but miss Sunday's round during open hours are also ineligible for High Hurdles.

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.

Team

Team Description

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. 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).

- 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.).
- Substitutions may be made for dogs competing in Team at any time before July 31. After July 31 and before 5:00PM Central Time on September 13, substitutions may be made only for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness, injury, bitch in season), 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.
- 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 four Outside Rat Wranglers. A leash steward 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.

- **Course time will be four minutes.**
- A timing judge will be stationed outside the ring strictly to time. The timing judge will ensure that the gate has been secured after the teams enter the ring, instructs the teams that they may go when ready, and starts the time when any dog or handler leaves the start box. Time ends when all four rats are found and each dog has completed their required climb or tunnel. When a rat is found it is acceptable for either or both handlers to restrain their dog as necessary for the safety of the rat wrangler, regardless of which dog/handler found and called the rat.
- There is only one round of Team. If fewer than 30 Team entries are received, Team competition will take place on Friday only. If more than 30 Team entries are received, Team entries will be split; half of the entries on Friday and half on Saturday. The split will be done by the Trial Secretary prior to the National and Teams informed which day they will compete on. Team schedule will be set dependent upon entries.

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 230. 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 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 (failure to hunt, eliminates in the ring, failure to complete assigned task, incorrect tube called) that dog is taken back to the start area and held while the other dog continues to hunt. The leash steward can hand the owner that dog's leash. If 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.

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.