

COVID-19 TEMPORARY RULES THROUGH MAY 31, 2021

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, gatherings, Clinics, and practices.

All attendees 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. Read the whole document. While attendees 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 Barn Hunt Event/practice.

SECTION 2. Changes to be Implemented After April 1, 2021

The following changes may be implemented after April 1.

Competitor changes

- Competitors are no longer required to wash their hands upon exiting the ring, it is now optional. All other rules still apply.

Judge changes

For Outdoor Rings Only: In areas where masking ordinances allow it, Judges who are willing to provide proof of a final vaccination shot at least 2 weeks prior to the Event may choose to not wear a mask while actively judging in an outdoor ring. The Club must agree and approve of this allowance. At all other times, including when showing under a Back Up Judge, the Judge must comply with the other published masking rules in this document.

Club Changes

If holding an Event with outdoor rings and allowing a fully vaccinated Judge to judge without a mask, Clubs must add that information in their Premium and inform all competitors at least 14 days prior to the Event. Partial or full refunds for competitors wishing for to withdraw after closing due to the Judge not masking are at the discretion of the Club (as always, full refunds are given to competitors withdrawing prior to Closing).

- Clubs are no longer required to wipe chairs after each competitor in the blind
- Clubs are no longer required to wipe the fence after each competitor.

SECTION 3. Competitor Rules/Guidelines

All Barn Hunt Events must comply with all Federal, State and Local recommendations and requirements regarding travel and attendance at non-essential events. Entering and attending any Barn Hunt Event at any time is done entirely at your own risk. All Clubs will have a waiver that you must sign (read the waiver in this document carefully). If a Club suspects you are ill for any reason, they will ask you to leave trial grounds immediately and you must comply.

Attendees 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:

Attendees who enter a scheduled Event but then must withdraw due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or direct exposure to/close contact with 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:

Regardless of vaccination status, all Event attendees must wear a mask covering both nose and mouth and tucked under chin at all times when indoors, going to/inside the blind, going to/in the ring, and exiting the ring. Even if outdoors and not going to the blind/ring, masks must be worn any time a person will be within 10' of another person. All persons who do not cohabitate should keep a 10' distance from each other. Face shields are allowed in addition to, but not as a replacement for, 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.

- Masks are of tightly woven cloth or other solid, breathable material of at least two layers. Bandanas and other loose-bottomed coverings are not allowed (mask/scarf combos are allowed). Neck gaiters are allowed if they are at least two layers, contain a pocket for a filter, and used with a filter. A one-way valve (usually a raised plastic circle the size of a quarter), which aids in exhalation, is not allowed. Please see www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html for accepted and unaccepted types.

- Any person refusing to wear a mask, hanging their nose or mouth out, 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.
- Gloves are allowed but not required, see the Competitor Rulebook for information about glove use.
- Face shields are a solid piece without holes, reach well below the chin, to the ears, and the area between shield and forehead is covered.

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). 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. 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 a way that prevents handlers/dogs crossing paths, and will be assigned a numbered chair corresponding to their number in the blind. Competitors must stay in their numbered chair, not move their chair around, 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. Crating areas will be designated by the Club which can enforce distancing. Do not touch anyone else's chairs, crates, setups, or dogs.

SECTION 4. Rules for Judges

Travel:

Judges must comply with all State/National travel and 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 possible exemptions beginning April 1, 2021**). Judges 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 on hot days the judge may opt to wear a face shield alone while in the ring, without a mask, as long as it is worn properly **with visor below the chin**. 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 a foot or so 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.

Scribing and Briefing:

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 must provide base-layer maps for the Club to post. These maps include all elements with any DCs marked. If asked, Judges must indicate tunnels/DCs to competitors before releasing the dog. Do not answer competitors unless asked. The written general briefing is posted as usual.

Prospective and B Level Judges:

Mentoring is expected to resume by the 2nd quarter of 2021.

Required Continuing Ed and Yearly Judging Assignments:

Workshops are expected to resume by the second quarter of 2021.

SECTION 5. Rules for Clubs:

Clubs can only hold Events/gatherings if they can do so safely and in compliance with these rules and all local, state, and federal laws. 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/gatherings, 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 or wear dirty masks.
- The room and ability to provide safe distance crating options
- A way to post results to eliminate 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 and/or have a final vaccination for COVID-19 at least 2 weeks prior to the Event. Nor have I/we knowingly been in contact with or exposed to any person with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. I/we have not been told to isolate or quarantine. I/we are not awaiting the results of a COVID test. If I/we have been diagnosed with the virus or have had virus-like symptoms but no formal diagnosis, I/we certify that I/we have been released by government officials and/or my/our health care providers to resume all activity with no limit, and can produce results from a positive antibody test on request, or have had no symptoms for a minimum of 14 days prior to the Event. 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 understand that mask wearing is required. I/we will 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.

Food:

No communal food (potlucks, etc.) is allowed on Barn Hunt Grounds. Single serving food items are encouraged.

General Club Briefings:

There are no gathered General Club briefings during this time. Briefings, including a grounds map should be sent prior to the event. These briefings outline where dogs can be pottied, restroom locations, where the bitches in season crate/ exercise, and any other grounds information the Club needs to share.

Ribbons and Results:

In the written General Briefing, specify how you wish competitors to get to the results. 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.

Ribbons must be placed 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 220 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 200.

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.

Crating is not allowed within 10' of any blind.

Canceling an Event:

For Events prior to May 31, 2021, if the COVID-related cancellation is BEFORE your published closing date, 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.

For Events canceled 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.

Trial Application, Premium, and Class Assignment Deadlines:

On April 1, 2021, Trial Application Deadlines go back to 60 days. If you have a May Event, you must apply for that in March. Likewise, Premiums, class assignments, and Judge listings go back to 60 days for May events.