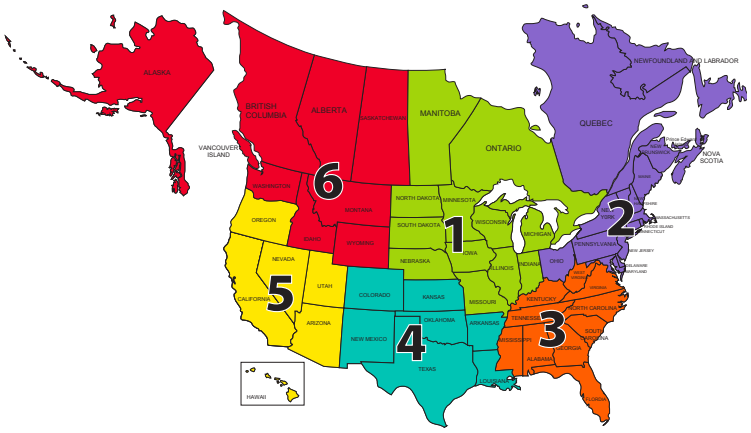
2027 BARN HUNT REGIONALS COMPETITION RULES

FOR REGIONAL COMPETITIONS HELD AFTER JUNE 1, 2026

Part 1: 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 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 dates are listed 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. Games Byes 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 a RATS or above may enter Master, Team, and/or Hurdles at a Regional for a chance at a Bye. Some Clubs may offer lower level classes, see Club information on page 5.
  - Regular qualifying runs and titles in Master A and B 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.
  - If a dog with a previous Regional Bye during the same qualifying period (or the previous year's National) enters more Regionals and earns a score eligible for an additional 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 and ribbons earned.
- Unless otherwise outlined in this document, all regular Barn Hunt Association rules apply at Regionals. All tube placements/hides are determined by the Chief Judge for each course, even when the ring is split.



BARN HUNT REGIONS

Part 2: 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. If the Club is holding additional, lower level Regular classes, Dogs cannot be double-entered (Senior B + Master A or B) at a Regional.
- Only dogs who enter and compete in all four Master Trials are eligible for Grand National Byes.
- Rules for Master as they are set forth in the latest Rulebook apply, with the following exceptions:
  - Ring sizes may be up to 32 x 32 for Master.
  - The bale numbers are 70–90 for Master.

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 Master A or B, each receive a Bye for the National.

Part 3: Regional Hurdles Rules

In Hurdles, The dog must jump over a series of five 4" tall hurdles made of PVC pipe or another safe material to reach 3 tubes openly secured on the ground in front of a hay bale "stop." Two will have litter and one will have a live rat. All tubes will have litter visible in the front grate and be covered loosely with straw. The racing lane will be a completely fenced area that is 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 80 feet long. The entry gates may be shorter than 4' and magnetized agility gates may be used. Volunteers man each gate to assist the handler in getting into the area without the dog escaping.

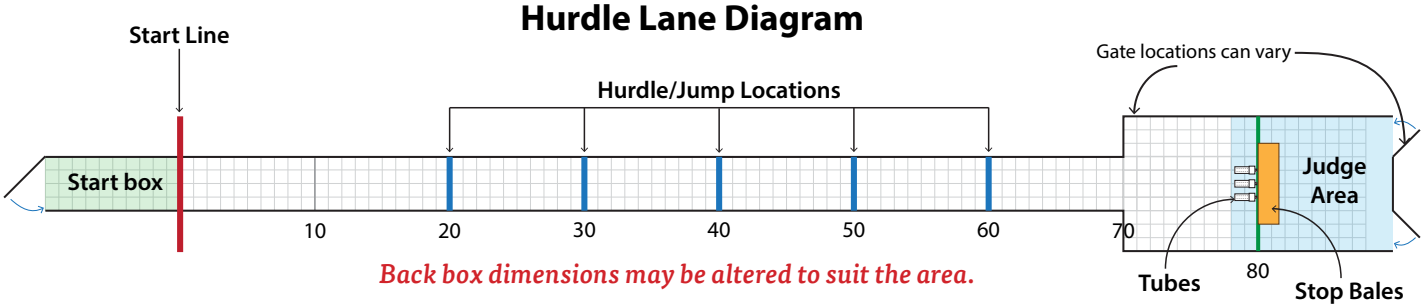
- Course time is 1 minute.
- Hurdles are placed evenly along the length of the track at 20' 30', 40', 50' and 60'.
- Dogs may run without a collar or may wear a flat buckle or snap collar or non-restrictive harness. No chain, martingale, choke, or prong collars allowed. Nothing can dangle from the collar/harness being worn for the run.
- 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. Two leashes are required. The handler's leash may be carried in a hand or pocket.
- The judge will call GO (or electronic timers signal GO), after which the holding partner releases the dog promptly and without bowling.
- Handlers may not cross the start line until the judge/timer says GO and may not lead out.
- Time starts when any part of the dog crosses the start line, and stops when the handler calls the correct number of the rat (1, 2, or 3) and the judge stops the time.
- Handlers may run 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. Clubs may use a set run order if desired. 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.

Setting and Judging Hurdles

Hurdles has a set course. The main Judge is stationed inside the fencing behind the bales, a second Judge or volunteer is stationed by the start box. Walkie-talkies or similar are used to communicate the next dog. Scribe sheets are arranged in alpha order by handler last name then dog name (unless a set run order is used). Rats are changed out after each dog.

Hurdle Lane Diagram



Back box dimensions may be altered to suit the area.

Hurdles Scoring:

- **Handicaps:** Handicaps determine overall points. Small dogs receive 51 points for each qualifying score. Medium and Large dogs receive 50 points for each qualifying score. In addition, all dogs receive one point for every second under time, rounded down to the nearest second. The total score is the combined number of both rounds.
- **Hurdles ties:** Scoring is points then time as outlined in Courses 1-3. For cumulative awards (High Rounds 1 and 2, High Overall Hurdles, Games, Versatility) if two dogs of different handicaps have the same points, then the 100ths of time is used, disregarding the handicap. Example: Dog A, a Medium dog, finishes the course in 20.54, and gets 90 points (50 course points + 40 bonus). Dog B, a Small dog, finishes the course in 21.25, and also gets 90 points (51

+ 39). The Small dog wins (xx.25 is less than xx.54). If two dogs have the exact same points and the exact same hundredths (Medium Dog A finishes in 20.25, Small dog B finishes in 21.25, both have 90 points), dogs will be re-run for the fastest time, with handicaps considered.

Hurdles Awards:

- First through Fourth place ribbons will be awarded for each height category (S/M/L) for each round of Hurdles. Ribbons will also be offered for each Qualifier. High Round 1 Hurdles and High Round 2 Hurdles ribbons will be awarded. High Overall Hurdles will be awarded to the single dog with the highest score (points then time) over the two rounds out of all heights. See Handicaps and ties above.

Part 4: Regional Team Rules

Team Description

In Team, two dogs hunt for six rats hidden on a 32' x 32' Course, with no Distance Challenges. There are four litter tubes in addition to the six rat tubes. 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.).

- **Changes and substitutions:** The Event host will set a final date for any Team dog changes/substitutions. No changes will be allowed after that date.
- **For Exhibition Only:** Dogs with a RATO or above can run FEO for Team. A Team cannot consist of two FEO dogs. 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 in addition to a competition run must declare on the entry form which team will be their official Team for National Qualification. 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.
- **Course time (SCT):** 4 minutes.
- **Ring size:** 32' x 32' (approximate)
- **Start Box size and procedure:** The start box will be 4' x 8'. Each dog will have a handler, and each dog will have a judge and a score sheet.
- **Tunnel:** There will be one official tunnel with a minimum of two turns and a maximum of three turns. Length is 15' to 25'.
- **Bale heights:** One to two places at 3-high.
- **Bale numbers:** A minimum of 70 and a maximum of 100.
- **Determining Climb or Tunnel:** Either the Judges have competitors draw for which dog will do tunnel vs. climb ringside, or the timer or another authorized worker comes to the blind after it is full and prior to the first team being called, and has each team draw for which dog will tunnel vs climb (the Judges choose the option they prefer). That info is written on each scribe sheet and the scribe will tell the Judges which dog is doing which action. 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.
- **Starting the Course:** The Timer, stationed outside the ring with the stopwatch, releases the team. After the timer says "Go When Ready," any part of either dog or team member exiting the box starts time.
- **Handling in the Ring:** Team handlers handle the dog they bring into the ring.
  - One team member cannot handle or command the other team member's dog. Some examples are:
    - 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.
    - A Team member may not restrain the other Team member's dog.
  - After one Team member calls Rat, both team members may restrain their dogs if needed until the rat is safe.
  - If both dogs are on the rat, either Team member may pick up the rat tube to hand off, but one handler cannot

cross the ring to get the tube from the other teammate's dog.
  - If all rats are found and one Team member's dog has completed his climb/tunnel, he may (but is not required to) go back to the start box and be leashed as the other dog finishes the required task.
  - 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.
- **Similar Dogs:** Teammate dogs who are enough similar in size or coloration that they would easily be mixed up by the Judges must have bright contrasting color or shaved areas applied to tails and/or coat. The Club will provide some dog safe spray color, creativity is encouraged. The Judges will not be able to determine unique markings at a glance, so if it's two black and white dogs or two dogs of the same breed and color, they must be marked.
- **Faults/NQs:** Any team member who faults/NQs (see scoring) must collect their dog and go back to the start box immediately. They will be given their leash and must put their dog on the leash and wait as the other team member tries to complete the task. NQs such as kneeling on the ground or touching a bale which would normally not be told to the handler until after the run are called immediately in Team.
  - Non-qualifying faults include elimination in the ring, erroneously calling litter, not hunting, interfering with the other dog, or any other action that would result in an NQ by Barn Hunt Rules.
  - If the fault is elimination in the ring, in most cases the dog who did not eliminate will be allowed to hunt without stopping the ring for cleanup. If the judge must stop the ring for cleaning, the judge tells the timer to STOP. The timer stops the watch. The dog who eliminated exits (NQ), and the other dog goes back to the box. After the ring is cleaned, the dog who did not eliminate is restarted by the timer and has the remaining time to finish all of the tasks of the run.
  - If there is a Lack of Control call, the Judge tells the timer to STOP while the offending dog is collected. Both dogs are leashed and brought to the start box. In most cases the dog who is eliminated can stay in the box, but the Judges may decide that dog must leave the ring, especially if the eliminated dog is acting aggressively toward people or the other dog. After the situation is under control, the non-eliminated dog will be released from the start box and have the remaining time to complete their part of the course. If a rat tube was hit on and uncovered by the dog with the LOC call prior to it being leashed, the tube may stay unless it needs to be replaced for the safety of the rat.
  - Aggression by either teammate results in a zero score for both dogs.
- **Staffing:** There will be two inside Rat Wranglers on the course and three to four Outside Rat Wranglers. One to two scribes will be outside the ring. A separate timer/collator outside the ring will release the dogs and record time on both sheets. The Timer may be a Judge or other judge-authorized person.
- **Judges:** There are two Judges inside the ring, with one judging the dog who will tunnel, and the other judging the dog who will climb. The Timer may be a Judge or other authorized person.

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, rounded down. For example, if the team finishes all required elements in 3:30.52, each dog receives a score of 130 (100 points for qualifying plus 30 bonus points). The cumulative Team Score is 260. 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 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.
- If one dog is eliminated (failure to hunt, eliminates in the ring, fails to complete the assigned task, the handler calls the incorrect tube, etc.) that dog is leashed and taken back to the start area while the other dog continues to hunt. If the other dog completes its part of the task and all six rats are found, the individual dog score and the cumulative Team score is 100 points plus one bonus point for each second under time, rounded down. The dog who was eliminated will get a zero score.
  - If the dog who faulted has 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.
  - 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 all six rats are found and one dog has also completed their assignment (typically the climb), that dog can either stay on the course or be taken back to the start box while the other dog works to complete their assignment (typically the tunnel). Time is stopped either at the end of course time (dog did not tunnel/climb) or at the time of any other fault which NQs that dog (see faults/NQs above). Note that the dog who has completed their tunnel/climb can still be NQd for any applicable fault.

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. If two Teams have the same total points, the Team with the shortest time using 100ths wins. If there is an exact tie, 4 rats will be placed on the course, each Team will be brought back in, and the Team who finds all 6 rats the fastest will win. Tunnel and Climb will not be required.

Part 5: 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.
- Regional Qualifier ribbons will be provided for each competitor that receives a qualifying score in Master, Team, and/or Hurdles 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.
- 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 the BHA. Medals will be consistent across all Regionals

Part 6: 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 Clubs may choose to hold Master only. If other Regular classes are offered, move ups and lateral moves will be allowed as usual.
  - Crazy 8s and Line Drive cannot be offered at a Regional.
- Hurdles will require at least one Judge plus a qualified helper. Team requires at least 2 Judges plus a qualified Timer.
- 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 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.

Part 7: 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 RBJ 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.
  - An RBJ 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.
  - An RBJ 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.