

**RUNNING RULES, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS  
of  
MASTERS FOXHUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Article I  
AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS**

- 1. Any association desiring to become affiliated with the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc., shall make application for membership to the Secretary of the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc. and the applicant shall be allowed to become affiliated if approved by the Board of Directors.**
- 2. Each association affiliated with the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc. must pay to the Secretary of the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc. a fee of \$25.00 due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and must be paid by the date of the annual membership meeting. Any association paying their dues late can pay a penalty of \$250.00 within 30 days after notification and still be eligible for a championship for the said year, if qualified. Unless this requirement is fulfilled, no championship will be awarded the winner of the association's trail.**
- 3. Each affiliated association shall conduct all its trials according to the Running Rules and Bench Standards provided for by the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc. Affiliated associations must select their own judges and Master of Hounds. They may have any number of officers they desire.**
- 4. Each affiliated association shall be allowed the following options when conducting their trials that qualify for championship status.**
  - a. Open Trial – All hounds run in one class**
  - b. All-Age and Derby – Two classes run simultaneously**
  - c. All-Age – for hounds of any age**
  - d. Derby - for hounds under two years of age**
- 5. The secretaries of all affiliated associations are required to forward to the Corporate Secretary, a certified copy of the Judges' Report of the Field Trials.**
- 6. Each affiliated association will be fined \$250.00 or not be issued an affiliation for the following year if the report is not sent in on time (See "Instructions to Association Secretaries").**
- 7. The winner of the Best in Show at an open bench show of an affiliated association which does not hold field trails shall be eligible for a Bench Championship when there are twenty-five or more total entries competing in four classes.**
- 8. Each affiliated association must submit names of three judges to serve at the Masters field trial. No president of any affiliated association will be allowed to recommend himself/herself as a judge.**

## Article II GENERAL RULES

### ENTRIES

1. Only members of the Master's Foxhunters Association, Inc. will be allowed to enter hounds in the field trial.
2. Members must own the hounds entered under their name or kennel name.
3. No change in a hound's name, number, or breeding shall be permitted after the first days cast.
4. The breeder is the individual, partnership, or kennel owning or leasing the dam when she was bred to the sire.
5. All hounds must be painted, dyed or bleached on both sides with the number that matches their entry sheets.

### PROTEST OR OBJECTIONS

1. Any protest or objections to any hound entered in the Master's field trial must be made to the Directors in writing.
2. The hound in question may be allowed to run under protest until the objection has been decided.
3. Should the objection be sustained and the hound disqualified, the order of placement shall not change. The vacant spot shall not be filled.

### PROPER CONDUCT

1. The Board of Directors may refuse any entry they deem proper to exclude.
2. Should any member misconduct themselves in any manner in connection with the Master's Foxhunters field trial or bench show, said member shall not be allowed to compete in any trials that may be held under the auspices of this Corporation, nor shall they become a member in good standing, unless a written apology is made to the Board of Directors who has the discretionary power to reinstate the member.
3. Any member of the Master's Foxhunters Association who approaches a judge or judges and recommends certain hounds should be scored or eliminated, shall be considered in breach of proper conduct and said member shall be fined or suspended at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Fines are not to be less than \$25.00 or more than \$100.00.
4. Any member allowing a hound to get loose and join in a chase in which said hound has not been entered, or from which said hound has been eliminated, may be fined at the discretion of the Board of Directors, not less than \$25.00 or more than \$100.00 for each offense.
5. Should any owner or his handler harm or purposely interfere with an opponent's hound, he will be expelled from the Association and all his entries barred.
6. There must be no hunting of any description in the field trial territory by members of this association 10 days prior to the first day of the field trial.
7. Lunch wagons, luncheons, or picnics of any description are forbidden on the hunting ground during the actual hours that hounds are running.

### ROLL CALL

1. **FIRST DAY --- All hounds must be present for roll call or they shall be eliminated. The daily score sheet will show FAIL TO ANSWER.**
2. **SECOND DAY --- All hounds must be present or answer lost or they shall be eliminated. The daily score sheet will show FAIL TO ANSWER. Any hound answered lost will retain his/her score and shall remain eligible to compete and may be scored on this day.**
3. **THIRD DAY --- of a three day field trail---All hounds must be present or they shall be eliminated. The daily score sheet will show FAIL TO ANSWER. Hounds answered lost shall be eliminated. Daily score sheets will show LOST.**  
**NOTICE-FOR PEN RUNNING ONLY** – In order for a hound to be eligible to cast on the third day that answered lost on the second day, said hound must have scored on the second day.

4. **THIRD DAY --- of a four day field trial---All hounds must be present at roll call or answer lost or they will be eliminated. The daily score sheet will show FAIL TO ANSWER. Any hound answered lost will retain his/her score and will remain eligible to compete and may be scored on this day.**
5. **FOURTH DAY --- All hounds must be present or they shall be eliminated. Daily score sheet will show FAIL TO ANSWER. Hounds answered lost will be eliminated. Daily score sheet will show LOST.**  
**NOTICE – FOR PEN RUNNING ONLY** – In order for a hound to be eligible to cast on the fourth day that answered lost on the second day or that answered lost on the third day, said hound must have scored on the day he/she was answered lost. If answered lost on both the second and third day, then hound must have scored on both the second and third day. In this case, the owner may choose to have their hound WITHDRAWN but if no answer is made by owner said hound shall be eliminated for FAIL TO ANSWER.
6. **If approved by the Masters of Hounds, any hound may be placed in scratch pens or holding pens for the last days cast. Such pens must be in plain sight of the Masters of Hounds or in plain sight of the judges appointed to oversee the cast. No casting from trucks or trailers will be permitted. This rule applies to the Masters and all hunts affiliated with the Masters.**
7. **A hound may be withdrawn by its owner or handler without the permission of the Master of Hounds. The daily score sheet will show WITHDRAWN. The hound forfeits his/her score in the field and his/her winnings on the bench.**
8. **A hound may be withdrawn by its owner or handler with the permission of the Master of Hounds. The daily score sheet will show WITHDRAWN-MFH. The hound forfeits his/her score in the field but shall retain his/her winnings on the bench.**
9. **Request for withdrawal by owners or handlers must be made to the Master of Hounds the night before roll call.**
10. **Sickness, severe injury, or bitches in season shall be just call for such request.**

## **SPECIAL RULES**

1. **Starting January 1, 2008 the use of weed eater cords will not be allowed at the Masters. All hunts that affiliate with the Masters my follow this standard but are not required to do so.**

## **Article III HUNT OFFICIALS**

### **MASTER OF HOUNDS**

1. **Shall be in charge of the running of the field trial.**
2. **On the evening before each days cast, he/she shall post the time and place of roll call in a conspicuous place.**
3. **Shall see that the numbers are painted, dyed or bleached distinctly on both sides of the entries and shall call off the numbers or have them checked in by the judges under his/her supervision at or before each cast.**
4. **Shall instruct all members, handlers, and guests not to converse with, or in the hearing distance of judges, about the work done or the merits or demerits of any of the competing hounds.**
5. **It shall be his/her duty to report any and all violations of this rule to the President. Offenders will be subject to expulsion from the field trial.**

6. Shall have the authority to remove from the hunting grounds any hounds affected with a contagious disease or any bitches in season.
7. Should some judges mount become disabled or unfit during a days trial, the Master of Hounds shall provide a mount as soon as possible.
8. In case of extreme emergency such as hounds on dangerous highways or irate land owners which endanger the safety of hounds, hound owners or the general public, the Master of Hounds with the approval of the President may order those hounds picked up under his supervision and recast at that day's casting grounds.
9. May order a scratched hound in the immediate area of major highways, railroads, or in populated areas, crated should he feel that hound may endanger the lives of other hounds or people.
10. May score hounds in the field same as any judges in the field.
11. Shall place field judges in locations that he/she feels judges could best gather scores.
12. Shall see that all rules are strictly followed.
13. It shall be mandatory for the Master of Hounds to review the running rules at a judges meeting prior to the beginning of the field trial.
14. Shall not allow judges to compare notes one to another at any time. Any discussion of hounds must be after their number is called in the meeting by the Master and no hound shall be discussed by the judges before this.
15. Shall preside over all meetings of the judges and act as secretary.
16. Shall have no voice in any questions, in regard, to scores or eliminations in the meeting of the judges. He/she may be consulted on all questions in general but shall not offer any suggestions in any particular case until after the score is given and no score shall be changed on his/her account.
17. Must be accurate in setting down scores and eliminations at all meetings.
18. If before the prescribed hours of the field trial day is up, the Master of Hounds finds due to unfavorable conditions hounds cannot trail or run approved game, he may try to contact a majority of the judges and call off the hunt.

#### **ASSISTANT MASTER OF HOUNDS**

1. Shall assist the Master of Hounds or assume responsibility of the position in his/her absence.

#### **HOME PLATE JUDGE**

1. May score hounds in the field same as any field judge.
2. Shall make every effort to recast a hound that has returned to cast.
3. Should encourage that hound to continue hunting by calling the hound away from the casting grounds.
4. Upon giving the hound ample opportunity to recast and at which time the Home Plate Judge is firmly convinced the hound will not continue on, he may eliminate the hound for RETURN TO CAST and make note of time.

#### **FIELD JUDGES**

1. Judges must be approved by the Executive Committee before being allowed to act as judge at the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc. field trial.
2. Judges will be subject to the general rules of this association and shall report for duty each day to the Master of Hounds.
3. No field judge can enter hounds in either stake or be interested in any way in any hound entered in the trial.
4. No person shall act as a judge unless he/she has been formally introduced to the rules of the Masters Foxhunters Rule Book.
5. Judges must synchronize their watches with the Master of Hounds each day preferably at the time of the cast.

**Article IV  
JUDGING IN THE FIELD**

**SCORING HOUNDS**

1. Judges must use intelligence, diligence, and discretion in scoring or scratching hounds.
2. Hounds running deer must not be scratched nor can they be scored. Judges must do all within their power to break up a deer race. Hounds must be given reasonable time to hunt on after being scolded when spectators or judges are breaking up a deer race.
3. In the case of deer proof field trials and deer dog field trials, the statement above (2) will be discarded.
4. Hounds shall be scored according to By-Law XII, sections A, B, and C.
5. Derby and All-Age may run together, but must be scored separately.
6. If during a crossing the judge fails to read the number of the first hound, he must disregard that crossing and ride to score the hounds at another crossing.
7. If during a crossing the judge fails to read the number of a hound, he must stop with last hound scored successively and ride for another crossing.
8. Every hound mouthing tracks other than fox, coyote, bobcat, or deer shall be recommended for elimination. Judge must note time and fault.
9. Judges must record time of all scores and scratches. Should a pack become divided the judges must separate and carefully note the work of each pack.
10. At no time should more than two judges ride together unless following a pack of hounds running in full cry.

**SCRATCHING HOUNDS**

1. Any hound left on a “jump” or thrown out “on a loss” shall not be penalized if it works to “get in” and succeeds in a reasonable amount of time.
2. **BABBLING** is a fault for which hounds should be scratched. Babbling is defined as giving false tongue to the extent of interfering with the chase. In case of a hound babbling to the extent of interfering with hounds or the chase and seen by two or more judges, who agree that such is the case, this hound can be ordered tied up or crated by the judges. Hounds will be allowed five minutes after the cast on the first day, three minutes after the cast on the second day, and two minutes after the cast on the third or fourth day before any hound may be reported by the judges for babbling. Any hound shall not be considered as babbling should he be running as much as thirty yards down wind from a track or should he continue to give tongue a few times on a run over or should he give one or two eager mouths at a bad fence when harking to running hounds. Except that if a hound should remain at a fence and continue to give tongue then he may be scratched. Hounds babbling at a stream or drifting and babbling may also be scratched.
3. Persistent rabbit running shall be considered one form as interfering with the chase.
4. A gun-shy hound shall not be penalized for being cowed by gun fire.
5. Hounds guilty of such actions as running stock, stock paths, horse tracks, hound tracks, covered tracks, or back tracks may be scratched. Judges must be very careful when scratching a hound in an enclosure for these faults.
6. A hound that shows no inclination to hunt may be scratched for **LOAFING**.
7. A hound may be eliminated for any misbehavior in the field when in the opinion of the judges, such misbehavior is a fault, which would mar the characteristics of a champion.
8. Starting on April 27, 2005, before any hound may be eliminated for the barking faults of **BABBLING, RUNNING COVERED TRACKS, RUNNING BACK TRACKS** or **RUNNING DOG TRACKS**, the hound must be recommended for elimination by at least two different judges during the course of the field trial. Any one of the above four named barking faults recommended twice by two different judges or any combination of the above four named

barking faults recommended twice by two different judges justify elimination. On the Daily Score Sheet at least two of the scratch times must be posted and notations must be made if these barking faults did not occur on the same day of the field trial.

9. Starting on February 28, 2007, before any hound may be eliminated for FAILED TO HARK, the judge must be confident that the hound in question is failing to hark to an established race on proper game.
10. Listed below are the stamps that may be used on the Daily Score Sheets for eliminations.

FAILED TO ANSWER	LOST	RUNNING BACK TRACKS
RETURN TO CAST	LOAFING	RUNNING COVERED TRACKS
WITHDRAWN	BABBLING	RUNNING _____ TRACKS
WITHDRAWN-MFH	HOWLING	BAYING _____
FAILED TO HARK	CRATED	RUNNING RABBITS

#### Article V MEETING OF THE JUDGES

1. The judges shall meet daily as soon as possible upon the completion of that days running. No person other than the Master of Hounds and the field judges shall be present at this meeting unless specifically authorized by the President of the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc.
2. The Master of Hounds shall preside as secretary at the meeting of the judges.
3. Scores, scratches, times and judge's numbers shall be posted in a book called "The Backup Book". This book shall be kept by the Master of Hounds in his custody and shall remain confidential. Immediately upon posting the final score sheet he shall deliver this book to the Secretary who must also keep all information strictly confidential. If within 24 hours of the time of posting the final score sheet no formal protest has been filed with the Secretary then the Secretary must destroy this book. *No exceptions!* Should a formal protest be filed this book shall be preserved for such action as the Board of Directors may take.
4. All scores and all scratches may only be accepted if the majority of the judges so rule. Each judge's score is not necessarily added to each other. Each judge having observed the hound recommends the highest score he/she thinks said hound should have, and the highest score agreed on by the majority of the judges will be that hound's score for that day.
5. Scores that hounds may receive are covered in By-Law XII, sections A, B, C, and D.
6. All scores, all scratches and the time of each scratch shall be recorded on daily score sheets provided by the Secretary. Each day when the daily score sheets are finished; the Master of Hounds shall post these sheets on the bulletin board at headquarters. These sheets must state the score of each hound up to that time. Upon the completion of the trial, the daily score sheet and the HGA sheet shall be presented to the President and Secretary for the announcement of the results and presentation of the awards.

#### Article VI BENCH SHOW

1. The date and time of the bench show shall be set forth in By-Law X.
2. Only hounds entered in the field trial may be eligible to be shown in the bench show.
3. Bench Show Judge and Ringmaster shall be selected by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.
4. Order to show shall be as follows:

- A. Derby Males
  - B. Derby Females
  - C. All Age Males
  - D. All Age Females
  - E. Best Pair (2)
  - F. Best Pack (4)
  - G. Natural Carriage
  - H. Best Derby Male and Best All Age Male
  - I. Best Derby Female and Best All Age Female
  - J. Best Male and Best Female
5. At a field trial where no Derby stake is run, but Derby classes are included in the bench show, hounds shown in the Derby class must compete in the All-Age field. In all open field trials only two classes can be shown on the bench; male and female. (Pertains to field trials with only one stake.)
  6. In each of the first four classes (see above) the judge shall make ten awards, if sufficient entries permit.
  7. The hounds shown as Best Pair or as Best Pack must be owned entirely by the member or kennel entering them. No combinations are allowed to be made on the day of the show.
  8. In judging Best Pair or Best Pack neither age nor sex is essential. The judge must take into consideration the individual excellency as compared to the bench show standard, but also the "matching-up" of the Best Pair or Best Pack as to type, size, etc. Award shall be made on the basis of 50% for individual excellency and 50% for the collective "matching-up".
  9. Any hound which has won the Master's Bench Championship will be allowed to be shown again at any bench show of the Masters Foxhunters Association or the bench show of any affiliated association.
  10. For shows where a Puppy class is added, no entry in the Puppy class is eligible to show in any other class.
  11. In order to receive any bench show awards earned by a hound, the hound must compete in the field trials unless permitted to be withdrawn by the Master of Hounds and marked on the Daily Score Sheet as WITHDRAWN-MFH.
  12. The Master of Hounds may permit a hound competing in the Bench show to be withdrawn only on evidence of accidental injury or sickness which would be detrimental to the hound if it continued in competition in the field. Disability due to a hound not being in proper running condition before being cast in the field does not constitute satisfactory reason for permission for withdrawing a hound.
  13. Any hound that fails to answer roll call the first day or fails to answer or give satisfactory report to Master of Hounds at cast on any succeeding day shall forfeit all bench awards. Hounds marked FAILED TO ANSWER, CRATED or WITHDRAWN without permission of the Master of Hounds, shall forfeit their bench awards.
  14. Hounds eliminated for field faults shall retain their bench wins. On the last day of the field trial for its respective class, any bench show winner that is LOST shall be so reported at the cast to the Master of Hounds. The hound will be eliminated from the field trial, showing LOST in Score Sheet Notes Column, but will retain its bench winnings.
  15. The bench show report will show "Forfeited (Reason)" where bench winner fail to meet field requirements.
  16. No hound can be moved up to replace such forfeitures.

### **SPECIAL CLASS** **Natural Carriage Class**

There will also be a class called "Natural Carriage" class, open to all hounds, male or female, entered in either Derby or All-Age stakes. Hounds are to be shown on leash only and not to be otherwise touched or handled in the ring. The hounds are to be judged for conformation under the rules as set out in the Masters Foxhunters Association, Inc. Bench Standard. This special class is to be judged by the judge for the show designated by the President. (This

class is optional with affiliated associations.)

## Article VII BENCH STANDARDS FOR AMERICAN FOXHOUNDS

The American Foxhound has unique physical characteristics singular to its own breed. Hounds in hard running condition should be given preference over those that are out of shape, too thin, or too heavy.

### HEAD

#### **A. Skull**

**Ideal:** The skull should be fairly long with the cranium broad and full, slightly domed at occipital area adjoining the neck.

**Faults:** A very flat skull; narrow across the top; excess of dome.

#### **B. Ears**

**Ideal:** Ears set on moderately low, long, reaching when drawn out nearly to the tip of the nose; fine in texture; fairly broad; with almost entire absence of erectile power; setting close to the head with the forward edge turning in slightly toward the cheek; round at tip.

**Faults:** Ears short; set on high, or with tendency to rise above the point of origin.

#### **C. Eyes**

**Ideal:** Eyes large, set well apart; soft and hound-like; expression gentle and pleading; any color.

**Faults:** Eyes sharp and terrier-like or prominent and protruding.

#### **D. Muzzle**

**Ideal:** Muzzle of fair length; straight and square cut; the stop moderately defined.

**Faults:** Muzzle long and snippy; cut away decidedly below the eyes, or very short; parrot mouth or undershot mouth; Roman nosed, or upturned giving a dish face expression.

### BODY

#### **A. Neck and Throat:**

**Ideal:** Neck of medium length rising free and light from the shoulders, strong in substance yet not loaded. The throat clean and free from folds of skin.

**Faults:** A thick, short, cloddy neck carried on a line with the top of the shoulder. Throat showing dewlap and folds of skin to a degree termed "throatiness."

#### **B. Shoulders, Chest and Ribs:**

**Ideal:** Shoulders sloping; clean, muscular, not heavy or loaded, conveying the image of freedom of action with activity and strength. Chest should be deep for lung space, narrower in proportion to depth, 28 inches in a 23 inch hound being good. Well sprung ribs; back ribs should extend well back; a three-inch flank allowing springiness.

**Faults:** Straight, upright shoulders; chest disproportionately wide or with lack of depth. Flat ribs.

#### **C. Back & Loin:**

**Ideal:** Back moderately long, muscular and strong. Loins broad and slightly arched.

**Faults:** Very long or swayed or roached back. Flat, narrow loins.

### FORE-LEGS AND FEET

#### **A. Fore-Legs:**

**Ideal:** Straight, with fair amount of bone. Pasterns short and straight.

**Faults:** Out at elbow. Knees knuckled over forward, or bent backward. Fore-legs crooked.

#### **B. Feet**

**Ideal:** Fox-like, pad full and hard. Well arched toes; strong nails.

**Faults:** Feet long, open and spreading

## HIPS, THIGHS, HINDLEGS AND FEET

### **A. Hips and Thighs:**

**Ideal:** Strong and muscled, giving abundance of propelling power. Stifles strong and well let down. Hocks firm, symmetrical, and moderately bent. Feet close and firm.

**Faults:** Cow hocks or straight hocks. Lack of muscle and propelling power. Open feet. Any male with less than two testicles must be automatically eliminated.

## TAIL

### **A. Tail**

**Ideal:** Set moderately high; well developed, strong, carried well, with slight upward curve and with good brush.

**Faults:** A long tail. Tea pot curve or inclined forward from the root. Rat tail, entire absence of brush. Any hound with a docked tail shall be automatically eliminated.

## COAT

### **A. Coat**

**Ideal:** A hard hound coat of medium length.

**Faults:** A short thin coat or a coat of soft quality.

## HEIGHT

### **A. Height**

**Ideal:** It is preferred that dogs not be under 22 or over 26 inches and that bitches not be under 21 or over 25 inches. If a hound is measured, the measurement should be made across the back at the point of the withers, while the hound is standing in a natural position with his feet well under him. A foxhound within the height standard shall be given preference over a hound outside the height standard, if the two are equal in confirmation.

## COLOR

**Color:** Any color is considered acceptable.

