



## **EXPERIMENTAL**

### **Bracket Challenge Lure Coursing EVENT**

*FOR EVALUATING AND AWARDING TITLES TO ALL Purebred SIGHTHOUNDS*

**Statement of Purpose:** The American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) Bracket Challenge Lure Coursing (BCLC) program will evaluate each purebred sighthound dog's ability and desire to chase or catch the artificial lure. Each hound will be individually competing against another hound in a winner takes all format.

This program is optional for ASFA approved clubs using ASFA approved judges only. The club hosting this event will run this as a separate event after the regular trial and may set entry limits for this event. Clubs may also run this as a separate trial.

**Objective:** A format that pits the best against the best in head-to-head competition regardless of breed. Courses are run primarily in braces in a double-elimination format, with winners advancing to run against winners and losers dropping to a loser's bracket. Judges need only to pick a winner of each course within a round, so results are instant, and handlers know the outcome before they leave the field. This format is designed to go quickly, so that Clubs could choose to run a Bracket Challenge event on the same day as a regular ASFA trial. All events are determined in 3 rounds with no ties and no runoffs.

The standard ASFA running rules will guide these events with the following modifications.

#### **Glossary**

**Brace:** Two dogs running in a course (standard)

**Bracket:** Group of hounds based on performance in past events

**Course:** Running of two or three dogs in competition

**Round:** Up to three courses to determine top winner in bracket

**Seeding:** Placement of hounds based on performance in past events.

**Trio:** Three dogs running in a course (as needed)

#### **Chapter I General Rules**

**Section 1.** *Refer to ASFA running rules Chapter 1 Section 1 for eligible breeds. Breeds with ASFA provisional status and hounds with breed disqualifications may also compete in this event.*

**Section 2.** The owner or agent entering a dog in a BCLC event does so at their own risk. The owner or agent and licensed club agree to abide by the rules of the ASFA.

**Section 3.** Entry fees shall be fixed by the host club and shall be forfeited in such cases where dogs are scratched from the event except for one of the following causes.

- A. Dogs determined to be lame at the time of roll call shall be barred from competition and their entry fees shall be refunded.
- B. Bitches in season, or bitches showing a discharge characteristic of being in season, or which come in season after the close of entries, shall be excepted from this rule and their entry fees shall be refunded. Notification to the Field Trial Secretary of bitches in season must be made

before or during the roll call. Bitches known to be in season should not be brought onto the trial grounds.

- C. Dogs that have been disqualified *for aggression* by ASFA or another organization. Fees will be refunded only if the owner or agent notifies the Field Trial Secretary of such ineligibility prior to or during roll call.

**Section 4.** To compete dogs must:

- A. Be a minimum of 12 months old.
- B. Be physically fit for competition. Blindness, Lameness and Amputation are considered as being unfit.
- C. May be spayed, neutered or intact.
- D. Females must not be in heat/season.
- E. Be free of bandaging or any other attachments for medical purposes.
- F. Not be disqualified for aggression in any organization.
- G. Entrants must be eligible to enter an ASFA or AKC open or Field Champion/Specials stake. First time entrants who have not run in an ASFA trial must provide an ASFA Hound Certification *Form or AKC QC form.*

## Chapter II

### OFFICIALS

Officials will be the same as defined in Chapter II of the *ASFA Running Rules and Field Procedures for Lure Field Trials*.

### JUDGES

In addition to those rules and procedures set forth in ASFA Running Rules, Chapter II, as they relate to judges, the following shall apply:

A club can have more than one judge for an event.

- A. A single judge is used for each course of a round within a bracket. A club can use multiple judges for the event. For this experimental program, the judge may be in provisional status and judge alone.
- B. If there are multiple brackets and more than one judge, the judges should switch brackets for each round unless a judge has a hound in one of the brackets. Judge 1 officiates round 1 of bracket 1, Judge 2 officiates round 1 of bracket 2. Judge 1 then officiates round 2 of bracket 2 and Judge 2 officiates round 2 of bracket 1. Judges are then switched between brackets for round 3.
- C. The judge declares a winner for each course immediately following the course.
- D. For the experimental event the judge may be in provisional status.

A Judge can officiate an event where their hound is entered but cannot officiate the bracket in which their hound is entered. If the judge has multiple entries and would be in different brackets, they can move a dog up a bracket so it will not be in the bracket they are judging but cannot move a dog down a bracket. In this event, the judges will not switch brackets between rounds so that no judge is officiating a bracket with hounds they own.

## Chapter III

### JUDGING

In addition to those rules and procedures set forth in Chapter II, as they relate to judges, the following shall apply:

**Section 1.** A single judge is used for each course of a round within a bracket. If there are multiple brackets and more than one judge, the judges *should* change for each round. The judge declares a winner for each course immediately following the course. For the experimental event the judge may be in provisional status.

**Section 2.** A person shall not single judge an event on two consecutive days within a 150-mile radius, unless given special dispensation by the trial-giving club's Regional Director to prevent a hardship on the host club. In each case where a person is to judge on two consecutive days, the respective Regional Director must write a letter of approval to the Scheduling Committee Chair in advance of, or together with, the sample premium list. There will be no exception without such written dispensation.

**Section 3.** No judge shall handle a dog where they are officiating. No dog may be entered in a bracket where a judge is officiating if the dog is owned or co-owned by that judge, or if the dog is owned or co-owned by a member of that judge's immediate family or residence.

**Section 4.** No judge shall perform any other field trial duties during their judging assignment that are reasonably likely to interfere with their judging performance. In particular, no one may judge and operate the lure at the same time, or judge and serve as huntmaster at the same time.

**Section 5.** Each and every judge, before beginning their assignment, shall walk the course and verify with the Field Trial Chairman that the approved course plan is properly staked.

**Section 6.** While on the field during their judging assignment, no judge shall discuss anything relative to their judging assignment with any handler or agent instigated by such handler or agent.

**Section 7.** A judge shall be able to call a no-course at any time:

- A. The dog is interfered with, disrupted or the judge cannot fairly determine the course.
- B. When a segment of the lure falls off and the dog reacts to said segment, but only if the judge cannot fairly determine the course.
- C. If a dog touches or catches the lure and, in the judge's opinion, by so doing that action causes interference with the running of the course, it shall be declared a no-course. Any time a dog becomes entangled in the string, the judge shall order the lure stopped and may declare a no-course.
- D. If the lure operator fails to maintain the reasonable lead, and the dog becomes unsighted, the judge shall have the prerogative to call a no-course and re-run.
- E. The judge has the option of restarting the course from the beginning or at the point of interruption.

**Section 9.** Judges are responsible for determining the winner for each course. There will be no ties. The first tie breaker is speed, followed by agility. In the case of a trio (see below), the judge will be asked to select either one winner or loser, depending on where in the bracket the trio appears.

**Section 10.** The dogs will be evaluated in the following categories: Enthusiasm, Follow, Speed, Agility and Endurance.

**Section 11.** The judge may consider a course delay or pre-slip in their decision. Their decision is final. Course delay includes a dog being slipped before the tally-ho has been sounded and the handler makes little attempt to quickly retrieve the dog.

#### **Section 12. Judging Criteria**

Judges will use the following to guide their evaluation of each category:

**Enthusiasm:** Single-minded interest, showing great eagerness and determination in pursuing the lure after the “tally-ho” and until the lure passes the marked finish for the course. Reward dogs in ability that are showing great focus, drive, and determination to get the lure.

**Follow:** Chasing with the intent of taking the lure while maintaining a path in reasonably close proximity to the lure’s course should be rewarded.

Dogs that anticipate which way the lure will go as the lure approaches a sightline, sometimes cutting off much of the course trying to catch the lure, at some point should force a significant scoring penalty.

A dog that becomes unsighted for some good reason, and yet attempts to find the lure again, should not be severely penalized. It may be appropriate to rerun the course. In this context, the height of the terrain with respect to the dog’s eye level will be considered. A dog that becomes unsighted in a situation where it should have no trouble following the lure is not demonstrating follow.

**Speed:** Speed is defined as rapidity in moving, the rate of motion or progress; the dog’s overall speed and acceleration in chasing the lure. Credit the dog that levels out low, stretches and really drives. A dog that takes more strides per second than its competitor is not necessarily demonstrating speed.

**Agility.** Agility is the ability to move quickly and easily: nimbleness in negotiating terrain (i.e. recovery from difficult terrain that may cause a dog to slip or slide); turning without going wide, cutting or breaking stride.

**Endurance:** Endurance is the lasting quality, stamina of physical and mental concentration. Credit the dog that does not fade, pull up, or slacken. A dog that lacks endurance will usually show degradation in running style as the course progresses. A dog lacking in enthusiasm will most often just quit or go off to explore the field. Lure-wise dogs frequently will slow down on the very last portion of the course knowing that the lure will stop before it reaches the machine and should not be heavily penalized.

**Section 12.** Dogs may be excused from the field by a judge for the following reasons:

- A. Dogs who fail to run after the tally-ho in any course.
- B. Dogs who may be considered unfit to compete.
- C. Dogs whose handlers or owners interfere with the judges or officials.
- D. Dogs who delay the course.
- E. Handlers who willfully interfere with another competitor, their dog, or any official.

**Section 13** In the event that a dog running loose joins a course in progress and interferes with or instigates a fight with the dog properly entered in that course, the judge or judges currently judging the course in progress may excuse or dismiss the offending dog from the field for the day or disqualify the offending dog.

**Section 14.** Dogs shall be disqualified by the judge, for the following reason: fighting - the aggressor in fighting in the field.

**Section 15.** Judges shall immediately inform the huntmaster when a course is called a no-course or when a dog is dismissed or disqualified. The huntmaster will then inform the handler.

**Section 16.** Judges must state on the Field Trial Secretary’s document the specific reason for excusal, dismissal, or disqualification.

**Section 17.** After a course has been judged, and the decision rendered, only the judge can change their decision.

**Section 18.** The judge’s decisions upon all matters relating to a round are final and binding upon the start of the next round.

## Chapter IV

### RUNNING THE MEET

**Section 1.** Entry limits may be applied. Table 1 will be the guide for setting any limits based on number of brackets for equal size of brackets.

**Section 2.** No dog may be entered more than once at an event.

**Section 3.** The judge must be the same for all courses in a round unless the judge is unable to complete their assignment.

**Section 4.** There will be no separation according to breed. When there are a minimum of 4 hounds of the following breeds: Basenji, Cirneco dell'Etna, Italian Greyhound, Peruvian Inca Orchid, Podengo Poqueno Portuguese Podengo Silken Windhound, they will be placed in their own bracket. If there are fewer than 4, the owner/agent of these hounds may either run in the standard bracket or may withdraw their hounds and receive a full refund of their entry fees.

### Section 5. Brackets

The minimum bracket size is 4, and the maximum size is 10. See Table 1 for the number and size of the brackets depending on the number of hounds entered in the event.

*A preferred bracket is comprised of 8 hounds.*

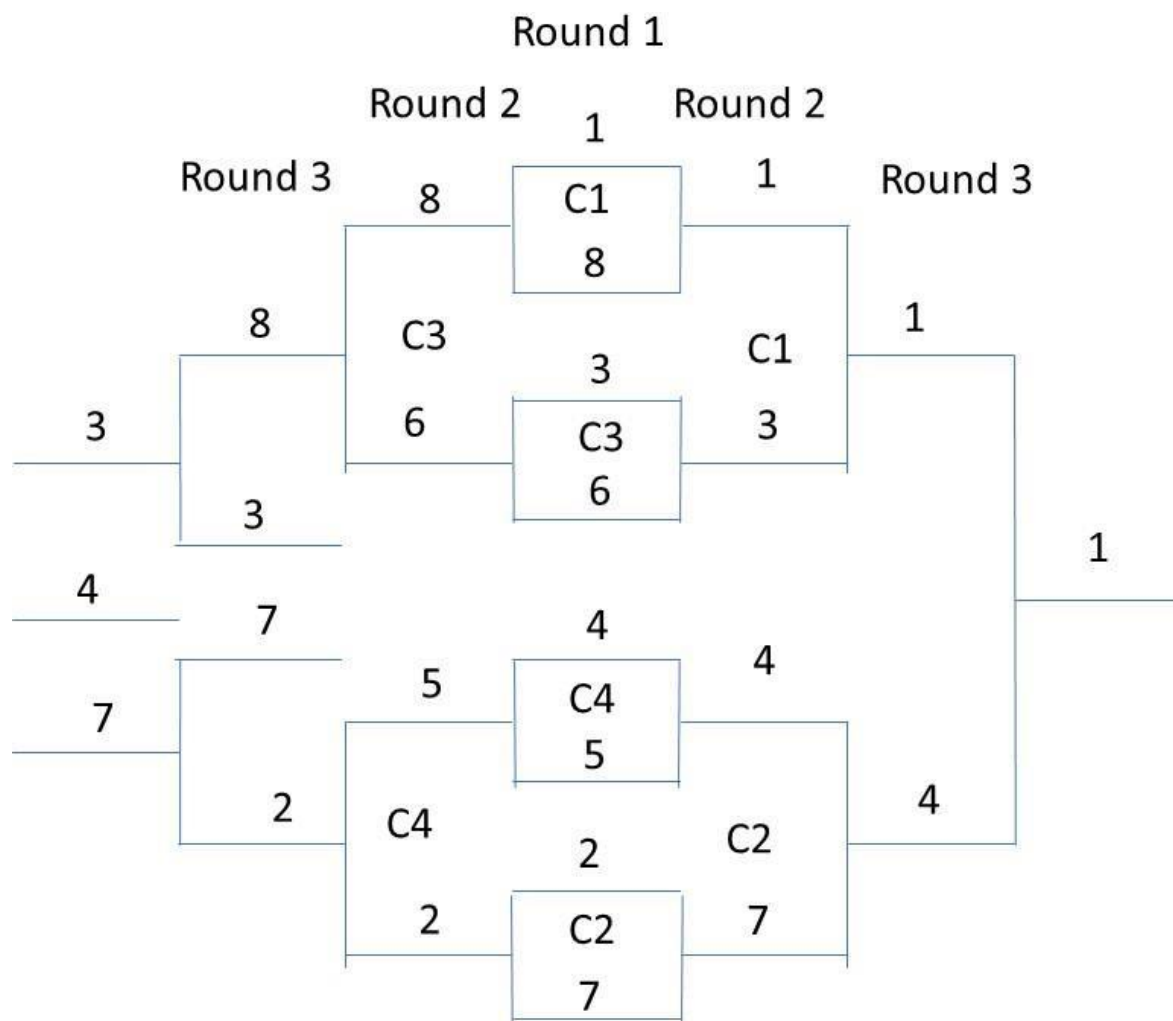


Figure 1: Rounds in Diagram (C = course # and numbers = seeding)

**Table 1: How many brackets?**

The goal is to have the highest-seeded hounds run in a bracket of 8. Hounds are run in a single bracket until there are at least 11 entries, then the brackets are split into 7 and 4, then 8 and 4 for 12 entries. After that, hounds are added to the lowest-seeded bracket until it reaches 10, then it splits into 7 and 4, then 8 and 4, and so on:

# hounds	Bracket #				
	1	2	3	4	5
11	7	4			
12	8	4			
13	8	5			
14	8	6			
15	8	7			
16	8	8			
17	8	9			
18	8	10			
19	8	7	4		
20	8	8	4		
21	8	8	5		
22	8	8	6		
23	8	8	7		
24	8	8	8		
25	8	8	9		
26	8	8	10		
27	8	8	7	4	
28	8	8	8	4	
29	8	8	8	5	
30	8	8	8	6	
31	8	8	8	7	
32	8	8	8	8	
33	8	8	8	9	
34	8	8	8	10	
35	8	8	8	7	4

Etc.

**Section 6.** Seeding within each bracket shall be determined by a rolling 12-month accumulation of BCC points.

- A. The top 8 hounds compete in bracket #1, the next 8 in bracket #2, etc. Dogs with the same number of points are randomly ordered. Seeding means that top hounds will compete against one another, but it also makes it harder for top hounds to accumulate points because they will have to consistently beat other great running hounds.
- B. Within a bracket, if the hounds are ranked Hound 1 (H1) through Hound 8 (H8), for round 1

C1 is H1 vs H8, C2 is H2 vs H7, C2 is H3 vs H6, C4 is H4 vs H5.

**Section 7.** The following description applies to Bracket Challenge Lure Coursing:

- A. Dogs shall run in braces except for times where trio is required due to number of entries as outlined in Section 5.
- B. One hound wins the course. Exception: See Appendix 1 for six and seven dog brackets where two winners are chosen in trios in rounds 1 and 2.

## Chapter V

### PLACEMENTS, AWARDS, and TITLES

**Section 1.** No ASFA points or placements toward the Field Championship or Lure Courser of Merit titles will be earned.

**Section 2. Bracket Challenge points: For 8 hound brackets (see appendix for other numbers)**

- A. After Round 3, one hound has 3 wins, and 3 hounds have two wins and a loss.
- B. The hound with 3 wins is the overall winner and is awarded 3 Bracket Challenge points
- C. The 3 hounds who are 2-1 are awarded 1 Bracket Challenge point each

**Section 3. Titles for Bracket Challenge Coursing:**

A permanent title of Bracket Challenge Lure Coursing (BCLC) shall be awarded as a suffix to the registered name of any hound which has attained ten (10) challenge points.

A permanent title of Bracket Challenge Lure Coursing 2 (BCLC2) shall be awarded as a suffix to the registered name of any hound which has attained twenty-five (25) total challenge points.

A permanent title of Bracket Challenge Lure Coursing X (BCLCX) shall be awarded as a suffix to the registered name of any hound which has attained each additional fifteen (15) challenge points.

- A. Individuals wishing to know their hound's point standing should contact Mary Frances Miller with the dogs registration number and name, and this information will be provided.
- B. Title certificates will be mailed to the owner upon validation that the dog has completed all requirements.

## Chapter VI

### RECORDS & FEES FORWARDED TO ASFA

**Section 1.** All records must be received by the ASFA Records Coordinator within fourteen (14) days or be postmarked within ten (10) days of the approved Bracket Challenge event to:

Mary Frances Miller  
4400 Harding Pike, Suite 401  
Nashville, TN 37205

These records must include:

- A. Names of all judges and their city and state of residence and the complete mailing address of the Field Trial Secretary.
- B. First time entries must include a copy of registration certificate and certification form.
- C. Per Capita Fee as set by the ASFA Board.

## Chapter VII

The standard ASFA Running and Field Procedures for Lure Field Trials will govern any item not specifically covered in this set of rules.

### Appendix 1 Brackets and Blanket Colors

H# = Seeding order for Round 1 within a bracket. H1 has the most BCC points prior to the trial, H2 the next most points, etc. Hounds with the same number of points are assigned randomly. For example, if three hounds are tied for third in points, they are assigned H3, H4 and H5 randomly.

C# = course number within a round. For example, C1 is the first course, C2 is the second course

W# = winner of course # in the previous round. For example, in the second round W1 is the hound that won the first course in the first round.

W#a, W#b = winners of a trio in the previous round if scoring requires more than one winner (6 and 7 dog brackets). Hounds declared winners are assigned a or b in order of blanket color, y/p/b. For example, in a 7-dog bracket Round 1 Course 3 is a trio with two winners. If yellow and blue are the winners, the yellow dog becomes W3a for Round 2 and the blue dog becomes W3b for Round 2. (The pink dog is L3)

L# = loser of course # in the previous round. For example, in the second round L3 is the hound that lost the third course in the first round.

L#a, L#b = losers from a trio in the previous round if scoring requires a single winner. Losing hounds are assigned a or b in order of blanket color, y/p/b. For example, in a 9-dog bracket, course 4 in the first round is a trio. If the yellow dog wins the course, pink become L4a for the second round and blue become L4b for the second round.

#### **4-hounds:**

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
H1	1Y	W1	1Y	W1	1Y
H2	2Y	W2	1P	W2	1P
H3	2P	L1	2Y	L1	1B
H4	1P	L2	2P	L2	Out

Points: If the winner of Round 3 has 3 wins, it gets 3 points. If two dogs have two wins and one loss, they each get 1 point.

#### **5-hounds:**

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
H1	1Y	W1	H1	1Y	W1
H2	2Y	W2	H2	2Y	W2
H3	2P	L1	2Y	L1	1B
H4	2B	L2a	2P	L2a	Out
H5	1P	L2b	2B	L2b	Out

Points: If the winner of Round 3 has 3 wins, it gets 3 points. If two dogs have two wins and one loss,



they each get 1 point.

**6 hounds:**

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
H1	1Y	W1a	1Y	W1	1Y
H2	2Y	W2a	1P	W2	1P
H3	2P	W1b	2Y	L1	2Y
H4	2B	W2b	2P	L2	2P
H5	1P	L1	3Y	W3	2B
H6	1B	L2	3P	L3	Out

Points: The winner of Round 3 C1 gets 3 points (3 wins). The loser of Round 3 C1 and the winner of Round 3 C2 each get 1 point (2 wins and one loss).

**7 hounds:**

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
H1	1Y	W1	1Y	W1	1Y
H2	2Y	W3b	1P	W2	1P
H3	3Y	W2	2Y	L1	2Y
H4	3P	W3a	2P	W3b	2P
H5	3B	L1	3Y	L2	3Y
H6	2P	L2	3P	W3a	3P
H7	1P	L3	3B	L3	Out

Points: The winner of Round 3 C1 gets 3 points (3 wins). The loser of Round 3 C1 and the winners of Round 3 C2 and C3 each get 1 point (2 wins and one loss).

**8 hounds:**

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
H1	1Y	W1	1Y	W1	1Y
H2	2Y	W4	1P	W2	1P
H3	3Y	W2	2Y	L1	2Y
H4	4Y	W3	2P	W3	2P
H5	4P	L2	3Y	L2	3Y
H6	3P	L3	3P	W4	3P
H7	2P	L1	4Y	L3	Out
H8	1P	L4	4P	L4	Out

Points: The winner of Round 3 C1 gets 3 points (3 wins). The loser of Round 3 C1 and the winners of

Round 3 C2 and C3 each get 1 point (2 wins and one loss).

**9 hounds:**

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
H1	1Y	W1	1Y	W1	1Y
H2	2Y	W4	1P	W2	1P
H3	3Y	W2	2Y	L1	2Y
H4	4Y	W3	2P	W3	2P
H5	4P	L2	3Y	L2	3Y
H6	4B	L3	3P	W4	3P
H7	3P	L4a	3B	L3a	Out
H8	2P	L1	4Y	L3b	Out
H9	1P	L4b	4P	L4	Out

Points: The winner of Round 3 C1 gets 3 points (3 wins). The loser of Round 3 C1 and the winners of Round 3 C2 and C3 each get 1 point (2 wins and one loss).

**10 hounds:**

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
H1	1Y	W1	1Y	W1	1Y
H2	2Y	W5	1P	W2	1P
H3	3Y	W2	2Y	L1	2Y
H4	4Y	W3	2P	L2a	2P
H5	5Y	W4	2B	W3	2B
H6	5P	L1	3Y	L2b	3Y
H7	4P	L5	3P	W4	3P
H8	3P	L2	4Y	L3	Out
H9	2P	L3	4P	L4a	Out
H10	1P	L4	4B	L4b	Out

Points: The winner of Round 3 C1 gets 3 points (3 wins). The loser of Round 3 C1 and the winners of Round 3 C2 and C3 each get 1 point (2 wins and one loss).