



NATIONAL OPEN FIELD COURSING ASSOCIATION

~ established 1964 ~

**Rules and Regulations
Constitution and By-Laws
2003–2004**

Table of Contents

Glossary of terms	1
Appendix	4

Rules and regulations

Section 1	Eligibility and registration of hounds	4
Section 2	Premium lists	6
Section 3	Regular stakes	10
Section 4	Non-regular stakes	12
Section 5	Non-regular classes	12
Section 6	Eligibility to compete	13
Section 7	Game	15
Section 8	The draw	15
Section 9	Officials and their duties	19
	Hunt Secretary	19
	Hunt Master	21
	Field Clerk	24
	Field Committee	25
	Judge	26
Section 10	Field procedures	27
Section 11	Judging procedures	33
Section 12	Placements and awards	36
Section 13	Optional rules for brace elimination	38
Section 14	Coursing titles	39
Section 15	The Grand Course	42
Section 16	Hunt Master and Judge requirements	45
Section 17	Fines	47

Constitution and By-Laws

Article I	Principal office	49
Article II	Members	50
Article III	Directors	54
Article IV	Officers	56
Article V	Discipline	62
Article VI	Miscellaneous	63
Article VII	Amendments	64

Glossary of terms

AKC: American Kennel Club.

Blanket: A BRIGHTLY colored cloth worn by hounds for the purpose of identification.

Breed hunt: Only those sighthounds of the breed of the member club responsible for conducting the hunt are eligible to compete in a breed hunt.

Bye-dog: The last dog drawn when an odd number of hounds are present in brace coursing, also the fourth dog when necessary to add the same to a trio. This dog will run without a blanket.

Color: A colored blanket worn by the hounds during a course.

Competing: Each entered hound taking to the field after the roll call on the day of the completed hunt shall be considered as competing.

Course: This consists of one, two, three, or four hounds pursuing game. It is also the term used to refer to those hounds chosen to run together.

Draw: A random drawing determining the order in which the hounds will run.

Gallery: Consists of those handlers and hounds not participating in the course.

Ghost judging: A previously licensed Judge, judging all the preliminary and final courses of a hunt with a licensed Judge. A Ghost Judge may enter hounds in the hunt, but shall not have a hound on lead during the entire assignment.

Go-by (2001): Where a hound starts a clear length behind another hound and passes him in a straight run to get a clear length ahead.

Host club: The member club responsible for conducting the hunt.

Hunt: A get-together of owners, handlers and hounds for the purpose of evaluating performance of the hounds on live game on its own ground.

Hunters: The handlers walking ahead of the gallery who are about to slip their hounds when the game is sighted.

Kennel: The place at which a hound resides for a continuous two-week period within the current coursing season.

Meet: Same as hunt.

Mixed hunt: All sighthounds are eligible to compete in a mixed hunt except the breed of the member club responsible for the hunt.

NGA: National Greyhound Association.

NOFCA: National Open Field Coursing Association.

Non-regular stake: A stake for which no NOFCA Championship points are awarded.

Preliminary course: Except in elimination coursing, this term is used to describe the first complete series of courses. In the preliminary course, each hound is given a score by the Judge(s) to determine which hounds compete in the winners' course.

Pre-slip: Where a hound is slipped before the "tally-ho" is sounded by the Hunt Master. Also, any hunter running

with his hound to any advantageous position with respect to the other hunters prior to the “tally-ho.”

Regular stake: A stake for which NOFCA Championship points are given.

Run-up: The portion of a course between the release of the hounds and the first turn forced on the game.

Stake: Composed of a number of courses where hounds compete against one another for Championship points.

Take: Where the quarry is captured or killed by the effect of the pursuing hound or hounds.

Tally-Ho: The command to release the hounds given by the Hunt Master.

Touch: An unsuccessful take effort where the game is touched, but not caught and stopped completely.

Turn: Where the game is bent 90 degrees or more from its original line of escape by the effort of the pursuing hound or hounds.

Winners' course: Except in elimination coursing, the series of courses from which the Judge(s) selects the placing hounds.

Work: The portion of the course in which turns or wrenches are forced on the game by the pursuing hounds.

Wrench: Where the game is bent at less than a right angle from its original line of escape by the effort of the pursuing hound or hounds.

Appendix

Recognized kennel club listing

American Kennel Club

Canadian Kennel Club

Any breed registry affiliated with the Federacion Cynologique International (FCI)

Mexican Kennel Club

National Greyhound Association

Rare Breed Kennel Club

Society for the Perpetuation of Desert Bred Salukis

Any breed registry affiliated with the Union Cynologique International (UCI)

United Kennel Club

Additions to this listing should be submitted to the Recorder for the approval of the Board of Directors.

Rules and Regulations

Section 1. Eligibility and registration of hounds

(1999)

a. Only those purebred hounds recognized as gaze-hounds or sighthounds are eligible to compete in scheduled National Open Field Coursing Association hunts. The following breeds are currently recognized as eligible to compete: Afghan hound, azawakh, borzoi, greyhound, Ibizan hound, Irish wolfhound, pharaoh hound, saluki,

Scottish deerhound, sloughi and whippet. Additional breeds may be recognized as eligible by:

1. Submission of a request for recognition of the breed to the Board of Directors.
 2. Requests for recognition of a new breed will be voted on by the club delegates at the next Spring Meeting.
 3. Requests for recognition of a breed submitted during the coursing season may be provisionally approved by the Board and the breed granted provisional eligibility to run that season. Permanent eligibility status will be voted on by the club delegates at the next Summer Meeting.
- b. All competing hounds must be registered with NOFCA. The following procedures have been approved for registering hounds:
1. All registration applications must be submitted to the Recorder accompanied by a registration fee of \$6.00 per hound. (1997)
 2. A copy of the individual AKC or NGA registration will be accepted as proof of pure breeding. Also accepted will be individual papers from other recognized kennel clubs, AKC ILP numbers, and desert-bred Saluki CRN numbers. (See appendix for listing of recognized kennel clubs. Additions to the listing can be made at any time with the approval of the Board of Directors.) The registration copy submitted must show the actual owner. If the owner has changed, a copy of the second side of the AKC reg-

istration (transfer of ownership) should be included. If a hound is transferred after the registration is made, a corrected copy of the registration should be submitted to the Recorder in order to provide proof of actual ownership.

3. All hound registrations are subject to being revoked by NOFCA if said hound is found not to be purebred.
4. All Whippets registered with NOFCA after 12 August 1973 must adhere very closely to the AKC standard for height. It is the responsibility of the Whippet clubs to enforce the size standard. This also applies to any breed who has a standard to be enforced.
5. NOFCA numbers must be submitted by the owner to the host club before that hound is permitted to be placed in the draw. If the hound's number is missing from the entry form, the entry may be refused by the Hunt Secretary. If an entry is submitted with the registration number shown as "applied for," the entry must be accompanied by a copy of the hound's registration (even if it has already been sent to the Recorder with application).
6. NOFCA will levy a \$25.00 fine upon any club allowing a dog to run which is not registered with NOFCA on or before the day of the hunt.

Section 2. Premium lists

The premium list must be mailed out at least three weeks prior to the date of the hunt. The premium list must contain the name of the Judge(s), and the time and

place of the draw. In cases where entries exceed expectation, extra Judges may be appointed before the draw. Entries normally will close 10 days prior to hunt date. In the interest of filling the stake, host clubs will have the option to accept additional entries up to the time of the draw. Flyers for all mixed hunts will be sent to all participants in the area of the club. The California clubs will use the complete list of California members. All clubs will send flyers to the President, Secretary, Superintendent, Vice President, Recorder, Treasurer, and the coursing chairperson for each club. Flyers for all breed hunts must be distributed to all persons listed on the current NOFCA mailing list as owning that breed, plus the President, Vice President, Secretary, Superintendent, Recorder, Treasurer, and the coursing chairperson for each club. A copy of all hunt flyers must be mailed to the NOFCA Treasurer. Said flyers must be postmarked at least 21 days prior to the hunt they announce. The Treasurer is responsible for levying a double per capita fine on any club failing to mail a flyer pursuant to this rule. The NOFCA newsletter may be used in lieu of premium lists. (1997)

a. The coursing season will commence by determination of the Board of Directors and will run through the conclusion of the following year's Grand Course. (2001)

b. The Grand Course will be held on Presidents' Day weekend, in mid-February. The Grand Course will be scheduled for three days.

c. Hunt flyers shall be accompanied by the official NOFCA entry form. If the NOFCA newsletter is used in lieu of flyers, the newsletter editor will include a copy of the entry form with the newsletter that first includes the new season's schedule of hunts. (1998) An entry form must be completed by the owner or the owner's agent for each hound entered in the competition.

d. A host club may give other awards in place of ribbons at their breed hunts if stated so in the flyer.

e. Entry fees shall be fixed by the host club and shall not exceed \$15.00 per entry in both breed and mixed stakes, except in the Grand Course where the entry fee shall be at least \$25.00. (2003) The Grand Course committee shall determine the entry fee for the Grand Course.

f. The host club has the option to charge surcharge of \$10.00 per entry for any entry on the day of hunt if noted in the host club's announcement.

g. Non-club members shall not be discriminated against in entry fees in member-sponsored hunts.

h. The member clubs shall be allowed to charge a surcharge of up to \$1.00 per dog to provide ranchers' gifts and to help offset a portion of the cost of finding fields.

i. All-breed clubs out of California may hold mixed stakes. (2001)

j. Official NOFCA open mixed stakes are to be limited to two (2) dogs per handler and two handlers per family, with the recommendation that participating clubs adhere to this rule. (1997).

k. Member clubs have the option of limiting entries (or dogs per owner) at each of their hunts.

l. Each club shall be responsible for finding its own fields.

m. All hunt announcements must include local veterinary assistance information for the area in which the hunt will be held. This information must also be available in the field on the day of the hunt.

n. For hunts held outside of California, the hunt may be advertised as a mixed hunt or NOFCA mixed hunt and be split to offer a breed hunt if the following conditions are met:

1. At least 5 entries of the breed are present.
2. A full mixed stake would still be able to be offered (i.e., 10 or more entries).
3. All of the owners of the breed to be run separately would be agreeable to the division of the hunt.

o. For hunts held outside of California, the hunt may be advertised as a breed hunt and be split to offer a mixed stake if all of the following conditions are met:
(2003)

1. There are insufficient entries in at least one breed to make a stake for that breed;
2. Full breed stakes in breeds with sufficient entries would still be offered;
3. All of the owners/agents of the hounds to be run in the mixed stake are agreeable to the division of the hunt;
4. There are at least five entries for the mixed stake;

5. The new mixed stake is open to all of the hunt's entrants.

Section 3. Regular stakes

a. With the exception of the Grand Course, there must be enough hounds in the field to fill the placements before it can be constituted a legal hunt. (2001)

b. At the option of the host club, any of these regular stakes may be run in trios or braces.

1. *Open scored stake, breed.* Shall consist of entries of the host club's breed, dogs and bitches.

2. *Open scored stake, mixed.* Shall consist of entries of sighthound breeds other than the host club's breed, dogs and bitches.

3. *Open elimination stake, breed.* Shall consist of entries of the host club's breed, dogs and bitches.

4. *Open elimination stakes, mixed.* Shall consist of sighthound breeds other than the host club's breed, dogs and bitches.

5. *Open scored stake, mixed, all-breed.* Shall consist of entries of sighthound breeds, dogs and bitches.

6. *Open elimination stake, mixed, all-breed.* Shall consist of entries of sighthound breeds, dogs and bitches.

c. Each host club, except a rare breed club, must offer one mixed hunt every other coursing season. A club outside of California may offer the number of mixed hunts approved by the Board of Directors. If there are two member clubs for a breed, then one shall offer a mixed

hunt one season, and the other shall offer a mixed hunt the next season. The two clubs may agree to co-host the mixed hunt each season. All of the remaining breed clubs shall be grouped together and half of the clubs shall offer a mixed hunt each coursing season. (2001)

d. Host breed clubs shall not include their breed in mixed hunts. Only NOFCA or all-breed clubs may hold mixed all-breed hunts.

e. Host breed clubs for a breed which is designated as a rare breed may offer that number of breed hunts (in addition to being allowed to enter rare breed hunts) which, when added to the number of NOFCA rare breed hunts offered in a season, equals the number of breed hunts offered for other breeds in that season.

f. A host rare breed club shall offer hunts for all breeds designated as "rare breeds." The following breeds are so designated: Afghan hounds, azawakhs, Ibizan hounds, pharaoh hounds, Scottish deerhounds, sloughis. (2001) Additional sighthound breeds may be added to this list upon submission of a recommendation of a host rare breed club to the Board of Directors, and approval of the Board of Directors. At rare breed hunts, if five (5) or more of any one rare breed are entered, they may break off from the regular rare breed hunt and have a separate breed hunt provided that sufficient rare breeds are remaining to fill the placements. If not, all rare breeds will compete together. (1999)

Section 4. Non-regular stakes

a. At the option of the host club, the following non-regular stakes may be offered. These non-regular stakes are not to be offered during the coursing season. (1999)

1. *Puppy stake, breed.* Shall consist of puppies of the host club's breed, whose ages on the date of the hunt are six months but less than one year.
2. *Puppy stake, mixed.* Shall consist of sighthound puppies other than the host club's breed, whose ages on the date of the hunt are six months but less than one year.
3. *Puppy stake, mixed, all-breed.* Shall consist of sighthound puppies whose ages on the date of the hunt are six months but less than one year. Host breed clubs shall not include their breed in their mixed puppy hunts. Only NOFCA or all-breed clubs may hold mixed all-breed puppy hunts.
4. *Veteran stake, breed.* Shall consist of all sight-hounds, except Irish Wolfhounds, which have attained the age of six years; Irish Wolfhounds which have attained the age of three years. (2001)

b. NOFCA Championship points shall be awarded in the regular stakes only.

Section 5. Non-regular classes

a. At the option of the host club, the following non-regular classes may be offered as an extra class. All hounds entered in extra classes must also be entered in a regular stake.

1. *Kennel class*: Each entry shall consist of two or more hounds owned and kenneled by the same person or persons.
2. *Breeder class*: Each entry shall consist of two or more hounds where the breeder of record is the same person or persons.
3. *Veteran class*: All sighthounds, except Irish Wolfhounds, which have attained the age of six years. Irish Wolfhounds which have attained the age of three years.
4. *Champion class*: All sighthounds which have received their Coursing Championship.
5. *Show Champion class*: All sighthounds which have received a conformation show Championship from any recognized kennel club.
6. *Novice class*: All sighthounds who are competing in their first coursing season.
 - b. For kennel and breeder classes, the winner of each will be the kennel or breeder whose dogs entered in that class have the highest average score in the hunt. (2003)

Section 6. Eligibility to compete

- a. Hounds entered in open stakes must have attained the age of one year.
- b. No hound may be entered in more than one regular stake at a hunt.
- c. The owner or agent entering a hound in a coursing meet does so at his own risk.

d. The owner or agent and host club agree to abide by the rules of NOFCA.

e. Upon presentation of suitable proof before the draw, entry fees shall be refunded or substitutions may be made for one or more of the following reasons. All substitutions must be owned by the same person or his immediate family and be the same breed as the hound being substituted. (2003)

1. Bitches in season which have come in season after the bitch was entered.

2. Hounds which have become lame, sick, or deceased after having been entered.

3. If the Judge listed in the premium list is changed.

f. No Judge shall handle a hound in the field where he is officiating, nor shall a hound belonging to any Judge or his immediate family be entered in any stake where that Judge is officiating. No Judge shall judge a stake which contains hounds kenneled at that Judge's residence. (1997)

g. All hounds must be entered in a hunt under the name of the legal owner.

h. Bitches in season will not be entered in any regular stake.

i. If a person should refuse to return or replace a perpetual trophy, he is ineligible to participate in NOFCA events until the trophy has been returned or replaced. (2003)

Section 7. Game

a. Hounds shall be tested and judged on jackrabbits or any other game approved by NOFCA for the area in which the hunt is held.

Section 8. The draw

a. On the morning of the hunt, a random draw will be held to determine the order in which the hounds will run.

b. The draw will not be secretive, but rather will be open to all interested parties.

c. A roll call will be made before the draw; hounds of owners or owner's agents not present will be scratched.

d. Upon presentation of suitable proof before the draw, entry fees shall be refunded for reasons as stated in Section 6e.

e. The field of entered hounds may be split into separate stakes after a total of 20 entries are present. (2001) Up to this total, there will be only one stake offered. When elimination brace stakes are run, the field will be split after 16 entries are present. When necessary, additional ribbons must be furnished to the intended recipients within 60 days of the hunt (in cases of split fields).

f. In the event of splitting the fields because of over subscription, those entering early will have preference on a first come, first served basis to run under the original Judge.

g. There shall then be a public random draw of handlers, with as nearly as possible equal numbers of

hounds going into each stake, followed by the usual random draw of hounds within each stake. The draw slips shall be drawn from a hat or similar container. (1997)

h. A backup Judge shall be listed on the flyer if the host club expects possibly to split fields.

i. At hunts where individual stakes and/or hunts are run in the same field in a consecutive manner, the following shall apply: (2003)

1. On the morning of the hunt, the running order for each stake and/or hunt will be determined by a random draw. This running order shall apply to the preliminary and final rounds of all of the stakes and/or hunts in that field.

2. The preliminary round for each stake and/or hunt shall be completed before the finals for any other stake or hunt is run.

3. At the Grand Course, the running order as determined by the method of this Section 8i for the breed hunts that are sharing a field shall apply to both runs of Stage I.

j. Where more than one field is offered in the host club's announcement of the hunt, entrants may specify their choice of Judge; however, the balancing of the fields by breed will take precedence over choice of Judge. (1997) All fields must receive at least ten (10) entries per field, or the number of fields offered on the day of the hunt shall be decreased to reflect at least ten (10) entries in each field. Except as provided in Section

8k below, whenever fewer than twenty (20) dogs are entered in a hunt there will only be one field offered.

k. When the host club receives enough entries to split fields legally, if the split field draws are held at different locations, and at the draw the entries fall below 10 dogs per field, then split fields can still be run, but points will be awarded based on the number of dogs slipped. (2001)

l. Points will not be awarded for any mixed stake having only one breed in the field. (2001)

m. All hounds entered in a given stake must be divided into braces and/or trios by the draw. Each brace and/or trio is called a course.

n. Where the hounds are divided into trios by the draw and one extra hound is present, the last two courses shall be run in braces. At the option of the Field Committee, Hunt Master, and Judge(s), four hounds may be run in the last course in the situation mentioned above.

o. Hounds in a course shall be designated by colors according to their drawing. Coursing blanket colors are to be bright yellow, bright pink, and bright blue. Hounds' owners or owner's agents shall be responsible for furnishing their own coursing blankets.

p. A geometric pattern of white, not to exceed three inches across, may be applied, one to a side, of the coursing blanket. (2001)

q. If there is a fourth hound in the course, it shall run without a blanket.

r. The order of the colors for the draw shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

s. Where sufficient hounds are present, no owner may have his hounds competing against each other in preliminary courses of scored stakes. In elimination stakes, no owner may have his hounds competing against each other in the first two go-rounds when sufficient hounds are present.

t. In the event co-owned hounds are entered, Section 8s above shall not apply to co-owned hounds of different residences.

u. Persons who are acting as agents for other owners must enter such hounds under the owners' names, and such hounds will be placed in the preliminary courses as separate from any hounds that the agent might enter; i.e., the hounds of the agent may be drawn to run against the hounds of those persons for whom he is acting as agent, regardless of where said hound is kenneled. (2002)

v. Where the hounds are divided into braces for elimination coursing and one extra hound is present, the last hound drawn shall be called a bye-dog and shall run by itself or with any unentered or eliminated hound of the owner's choosing and shall compete in the next go-round. No hound shall run more than once as a bye-dog in any stake.

w. In scored braces, no dog may be run in a trio, but shall run in a brace with an extra hound.

x. If a handler has two or more hounds drawn for the same course, he may arrange for the handling of the second and/or third hound by other parties.

y. Except as provided in Section 2d above, one set of ribbons must be presented upon completion of the hunt or a \$10.00 fine will be submitted to the NOFCA Treasurer. (2001)

z. The order of running in the finals will be determined by a random draw.

Section 9. Officials and their duties

a. No official may consume alcohol during the running of the hunt. Any person observed free coursing without permission of the Field Committee will pay a fine of \$50.00 to NOFCA. Persons able to determine such offenses are the Field Committee or any official of a hunt. Offenders have the right to appeal to the NOFCA Board. Future entries from persons owing fines will not be accepted for competition.

b. Any hunt judged by an unlicensed person shall automatically be null and void and no points can or will be awarded. Also, the sponsoring club shall refund all entry fees. If refunds are not made by the next Summer Meeting, the club will not be allowed to hold further hunts until refunds are made.

c. Hunt Secretary

1. Prior to the opening day hunts, the member clubs will notify NOFCA, in writing, of the names and phone numbers of their club's Hunt Secretary and alternates.

2. The Hunt Secretary and/or alternate will be responsible for attending and conducting their club's hunts for the upcoming hunt season, to include processing the necessary paperwork, ensuring ribbons are present at the appropriate hunts, and providing suitable fields.

3. The Hunt Secretary will be responsible for determining the time of official sunset. (1997)

4. The Hunt Secretary will submit the results of the hunt to the Recorder within 48 hours via telephone, fax or Email. The Hunt Secretary will then follow up these results with all forms, properly prepared, to the Recorder within 10 days. (1999) The host club must retain a copy of record sheets for a period of 3 years.

5. A per capita payment of \$2.00 per hound shall be paid by the host club to the Treasurer of NOFCA within 10 days after the meet. (2000)

6. The requirements of this Section 9c must be met before Championship points can be awarded. If, without due cause, these requirements are not met, a fine of \$10.00 will be levied for each additional two weeks the hunt results are late, the maximum fine being \$35.00.

7. An additional photocopy of the Hunt Summary Report will be submitted to the Treasurer at the same time the per capita is submitted for each hunt.

8. If a hunt packet is submitted to the NOFCA Recorder with registration numbers missing from the sheet, the club will be fined \$10.00 for each number missing.

d. Hunt Master

1. The Hunt Secretary will transfer responsibility for the hunt to the Hunt Master after the draw, prior to leaving the draw location. (1998) The Hunt Master will be in complete charge of all hounds, handlers, and spectators in the field.

2. The Hunt Master or any member of the Field Committee may call for a Field Committee decision to dismiss any person from the field for unsportsmanlike behavior. If the unsportsmanlike behavior is by the Hunt Master, the Field Committee may, by vote, dismiss the Hunt Master from the field, and the Judge will then appoint a new Hunt Master. (2001)

- a. If the owner or handler of a hound entered in the hunt is dismissed, the hound may continue in the hunt if a suitable handler is obtained.
- b. If the Field Committee decision is to dismiss the individual, the Field Committee shall also recommend a fine (not to exceed \$50.00) to be levied with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- c. Any individual who is dismissed from the field shall leave the field immediately when notified by the Hunt Master. If the individual fails to leave the field as directed, the Hunt Master shall immediately suspend the individual. NOFCA will withhold all Championship points earned by the individual's dogs for that year, and will bar that entrant from entering any further hunts until the

Field Committee dismissal and suspension are reviewed by the Board of Directors.

- d. The Hunt Master shall notify the club conducting the hunt of the dismissal and/or suspension, including the reason for the dismissal and/or suspension, and the amount of the fine recommended by the committee.
- e. The Board of Directors shall review each dismissal and/or suspension action taken under this section within 90 days of the hunt. The Board may levy the fine recommended by the Field Committee, may levy a fine of a different amount not to exceed \$50.00, or may waive the fine in its entirety. If the individual was suspended, the Board shall determine which NOFCA privileges, i.e., entry in NOFCA hunts, registration of dogs, etc., to suspend, for what period of time the suspension shall be in effect, and what action is required by the individual in order to lift the imposed suspension.

3. He will give the signal "tally-ho" to start each course and the signal "call in your hounds" to end each course.

4. The Hunt Master may declare a no-course if a loose hound which was not slipped in a course interferes with the course. (1997)

5. He will levy a fine of \$5.00 against the owner of any loose hound who interferes with the stake. Determinations of such interference shall be the responsibility of

the Hunt Master and/or Judge(s) with the opinion of the Judge(s) being final.

6. He will levy a fine of \$2.50 for each five minutes over fifteen minutes against any owner whose hound holds up a course from starting to hunt.

7. He will make a note on the Field Record Sheet of all fines levied.

8. In elimination stakes, he will keep the Field Record Sheet.

9. He shall notify the Judge(s) of all pre-slips. The Hunt Master will have final authority to determine if the slipper was running to gain advantageous position or was moving in order to sight his hound.

10. On any pre-slip called, the Hunt Master shall inform the handler and Judge(s) immediately after the completion of the course.

11. In the event the stake encounters a hazard which, in the opinion of the Hunt Master, constitutes a potential danger to the hounds, he shall order a "time out" until the danger passes.

12. He shall determine whether a handler may take two hounds at a time on the line, whether one of them is in that stake or not.

13. A Hunt Master may excuse a course from the line and allow it to be called back to the line to run later if: (1998)

- a. The hounds have been on the line an extended period of time.

b. The weather conditions are so severe as to endanger the hounds' health should they continue on the line or be released on tally-ho.

14. At a NOFCA hunt, the Hunt Master shall receive at least one free entry. (2003)

15. Provisional Hunt Masters may be used for breed hunts provided no qualified Hunt Master is available. The Judge(s) would assign the Hunt Master for the day.

16. The Hunt Master and the Field Clerk will not be the same person. (1997)

e. Field Clerk. Except in elimination braces, where the office of Field Clerk is eliminated, the Field Clerk's duties shall consist of the following:

1. He will assist the Hunt Master in calling up the hounds to hunt.

2. He will keep the Field Record Sheet.

3. He will assist the Judge(s) in adding scores and be responsible to see that no errors of addition occur.

4. The Field Clerk must call a roll of the hounds in the field before the commencement of the first course. (1997)

5. He will act as a go-between for the handlers and the Judge in case of a question.

6. The Field Clerk shall call an end of the hunt at sunset. (1998)

7. The Field Clerk shall announce all scores from the preliminary courses and all hounds that are to be brought forward to the winners' courses. Subsequently, but prior to the announcement of the draw for the win-

ners' courses, the hunters may have the opportunity to call into question any blanket switches that they feel may have occurred. (2002)

8. The Field Clerk shall announce all scores from the winners' courses. Subsequently, but prior to the announcement of placements, the hunters may have the opportunity to call into question any blanket switches that they feel may have occurred. (2002)

f. Field Committee

1. The Field Committee shall consist of at least three people knowledgeable of the rules, at least one of whom is in possession of a current rule book in the field. (2002)

2. They shall handle all disputes arising in the field.

3. The names of the individuals of the Field Committee shall be announced at the time of the draw. (2001)

4. Any member of the Field Committee involved in a dispute, or any member who leaves the field before the end of the hunt, shall be substituted for by an appointee of the Hunt Master.

5. A hunt may be finished on preliminaries (and NOFCA points awarded) if (1) the Judge(s) agree(s) and (2) the majority of the Field Committee agree. No more than one course may be scratched for the purpose of finishing a hunt (1999).

6. The only time a Judge alone can call a hunt is when conditions preclude any further judging on that day.

7. In any course where a hound is not slipped, the Field Committee shall determine whether the hound will continue to compete.

8. At no point may any person or persons in the field make a ruling that contravenes standing NOFCA rules. (2002)

g. Judge

1. Sections 9f6 and 9f7 also apply to Judges.

2. At the option of the host club, there may be one or two Judges per stake.

3. All Judges must be listed in the current NOFCA approved list of Judges.

4. The Judge shall determine the placement of the hounds.

5. In elimination braces, the Judge shall announce the winner of each course before the next course begins.

6. In trio courses the Judge may announce the winner of each preliminary course by waving the jacket color of the winner.

7. A Judge shall not converse with another Judge, or anyone else in the field, during the running or the scoring of the hounds.

8. A Judge can discuss his scores with his apprentice once the scores are written down.

9. It shall be the duty of a Judge to notify the Hunt Master when he has concluded the judging of the course.

10. Judges are to be paid a minimum of \$50.00 for each assignment regardless of the number of entries. (1998)

Section 10. Field procedures

a. Upon completion of the draw, each stake shall proceed to the field where it shall be the responsibility of the host club Field Committee to inspect the leads and slips used by the handlers. In those cases where the equipment is deemed inadequate, the Field Committee will inform the handler of the penalties involved in either pre-slipping or losing a hound from the gallery

b. The Field Clerk must call a roll of the hounds before the commencement of the first course. Absent hounds shall be scratched. Non-entered hounds may be allowed on the field with the approval of the Hunt Master. (1997)

c.1. A club wishing to re-schedule a hunt must make the request to the Superintendent within 21 days of the originally scheduled date. If a hunt is not completed, it may be re-scheduled for another day.

2. Except as provided in Section 10c3 below, only those hounds in the field at the close of the day will be eligible to compete in the re-scheduled hunt. There will be no substitutions of dogs in a re-scheduled hunt.

3. Hounds which were withdrawn under Section 6e from the incomplete hunt will be allowed to re-enter the re-scheduled hunt. Timely notification must be

made to those eligible to re-enter prior to the new hunt date.

4. A re-draw of dogs will be done the morning of the re-scheduled hunt if four or more dogs are scratched from the original hunt.
5. Points will be awarded based on the number of dogs slipped in the preliminaries of the rerun. (2001)
6. Approval of the new hunt date must be obtained from the Superintendent and NOFCA President. (1998) Requests to re-schedule a hunt or an unfinished hunt must be made by the hunt secretary to the Superintendent. (2000)

d. If a hunt is canceled (whether or not it is to be re-scheduled), the host club shall notify the Recorder and the Treasurer of the cancellation within 10 days of the originally scheduled hunt date.

e. If a hunt is partially completed (one or more stakes are completed, but one or more stakes did not finish), the host club shall submit the record of the completed stakes to the Recorder and a completed fiscal report to the Treasurer to include a notation of the incomplete stake(s). If the stake(s) are re-scheduled and completed, the host club shall forward the records for the stake(s) to the Recorder within 10 days of the re-scheduled hunt. (1997)

f. The gallery shall walk slowly abreast through the fields to help raise the quarry, keeping a proper distance from the hunters and a straight line where possible. Hounds in the gallery must be kept on lead at all times.

Member clubs have the option of limiting entries (or dogs per owner) at each of their hunts.

g. In order to handle two hounds at a time on the line, whether both are to be slipped or not, permission from the Hunt Master and unanimous consent of the other handlers on the line shall be required. (2002)

h. All hounds and handlers entering the field on the day of the hunt shall remain in the gallery until all courses are completed, unless permission to excuse the hound or handler from the gallery has been granted by the Hunt Master.

i. Excused hounds

1. Any hound removed from the gallery that was not excused by the Hunt Master as lame or otherwise unfit to compete, and so recorded in the records, shall forfeit its placing in that hunt.
2. If a hound is required for further judging, it must be in the gallery at the time it is called up or its win shall be forfeited.
3. Any hound excused by the Hunt Master as lame or otherwise unfit to compete shall not forfeit a placement based on courses already judged.

j. Escaped hounds

1. A fine of \$5.00 will be levied against the owner of any hound who interferes with the stake. If the same hound escapes a second time, this hound will be disqualified. Un-entered dogs escaping a second time will be removed from the field.

2. For subsequent occurrences by hounds handled by the same owner, NOFCA shall impose a \$10.00 fine per occurrence in addition to the \$5.00 fine charged in the field.
3. All fines must be paid to the Recorder within 30 days. If said fine is not paid within the 30-day period, the Recorder will notify all member clubs that said owner is no longer eligible to compete in NOFCA events until all such fines have been paid in full.
4. All field fines collected by the Recorder will be returned to the host club. (1997)

k. No-course

1. Hounds in a no-course may be excused by the Hunt Master to rest until called up again after all other courses have been run, but must re-run before the winners' course or, in the case of elimination braces, must be re-run before the next go-round.
2. After two no-courses are called for the same trio or brace, the hounds may be excused from further competition, this being the responsibility of the Judge(s).
3. In no case shall a hound be required to run within 20 minutes of the end of the last course in which it participated. The person in charge of the Field Record Sheets shall be responsible for seeing that this much time for recovery is allowed.
 1. Hounds may be excused by the Judge(s) or Hunt Master from further competition and may be excused from the field for the following reasons:

1. Disease or lameness
2. Playful interference with the course of another hound
3. Hounds needing or receiving medical attention

m. Hounds may be disqualified by the Judge(s) and/or Hunt Master for:

1. Fighting (the aggressor in fighting in the field)
2. Aggressive interference in a course
3. Attacking another hound or person

n. Interfering hounds

1. If, while coursing, one hound interferes with another hound to the point of being disqualified, the course may be called a no-course and the remaining hounds in the course may be re-run. The decision on this point shall be left to the Judge(s).
2. The official who excused or disqualified the hound shall note the specific hound and the reason for the action taken on the back of the pink sheet.
3. The Hunt Master shall notify the handler of the hound of the action taken and, if unable to do so, shall note this on the pink sheet.
4. If the handler was not notified in the field, the Recorder shall notify the owner of record upon receipt of the hunt packet.

o. Suspension and review

1. If any hound has been disqualified two times under Sections 10m1 through 10m3, that hound shall be immediately suspended from all coursing meets.

2. The suspension shall remain in effect until the review of the case by the NOFCA Board, which shall rule if the hound shall be permanently disqualified from coursing or the suspension lifted.
3. Any hound which competes in a hunt while suspended or disqualified shall lose any points and placements awarded in the hunt. The points and placements shall be awarded to the next highest scoring hound(s) in the hunt.

p. The decision of the host club's Field Committee shall be final, conclusive and binding on all parties in all matters arising at a hunt, subject, however, to the rules of NOFCA. Any protest of decisions or events occurring during a hunt must be directed, in writing in duplicate and by certified mail, to the NOFCA Superintendent within 10 days after the hunt, and accompanied by a \$10.00 filing fee. The NOFCA Superintendent shall inform the NOFCA President within three days, who will then determine a hearing date as provided by NOFCA By-Laws. Protests are to be heard in closed meetings.

q. In any no-course when a hound is not slipped, the Judge shall determine whether the hound will continue to compete. (2001)

r. A protest board shall consist of the NOFCA Rules Committee Chairman, the NOFCA President, and at least four other elected members of the NOFCA Board.

s. Persons who disagree with the choices of a particular Judge(s) have the right to write the Judging Committee Chairman and these letters will be discussed at the

next Judge's Committee meeting. This is not treated as a legal protest.

t. With the exception of the Grand Course, hunts that do not finish on the day scheduled will not be continued the following day. (2001)

u. If a dog should not return during the running of a stake, the following procedures apply:

1. The handler may request that the Hunt Master excuse the handler from the hunt so that the handler can search for the missing dog.
2. After searching diligently for the missing dog and not finding it, the handler may return to the gallery and request that the Hunt Master stop the hunt so that the hunters and/or gallery can assist the handler of the missing dog in searching for the dog.
3. If two-thirds (2/3) of the hunters in the stake agree, the hunt will be stopped for a maximum of two hours while the search is conducted. The hunt will resume no later than two hours after it is stopped at a place designated by the Hunt Master.

v. Bitches in season or with a discharge characteristic of being in season shall be excused from the field by the Hunt Master or Judge.

Section 11. Judging procedures

a. Except in elimination stakes, Judges will score the hounds according to the following point schedule:

	maximum points
Desire	10
Speed	25
Agility	25
Endurance.....	25
Touch/or take.....	15
TOTAL.....	100
Pre-slip penalty	-1 to -10

(variable up to maximum, depending on advantage gained)

b. Except in elimination stakes, Judges may fill out score sheets completely for each course. Only the total score on the bottom of the Judges' score sheets will go on the Field Record Sheet.

c. There will be no score in elimination stakes; however, Judges will be guided by the point schedule to determine a winner.

d. When a hound is pre-slipped, the Judge(s) shall determine the number of points to be deducted from that hound's score, depending upon how much advantage the hound gains from its pre-slip. 1 to 10 points may be deducted by each Judge from the total score of the hound. In the event a course is declared a no-course due to a pre-slip, the Judge(s) may deduct points from the score of the pre-slipped hound in a re-run of the course.

e. The Hunt Master and/or the Judge(s) are the only ones who may call a pre-slip. (2000) In elimination

courses, the Judge(s) will take the pre-slips into account when selecting a winner.

f. Judging in all regular stakes shall continue through fences or other obstacles encountered during the running of the courses except during the host club's breed stakes, where they may discontinue judging whenever such an obstacle is encountered.

g. During the running of preliminary courses, if hounds which appear to be winning or, in the opinion of the Judge(s), are capable of winning, encounter a fence or other obstacle which they cannot overcome, said hound may compete in the winners' course. When this event occurs during the running of elimination braces, the hound will compete in the next go-round only if there is a bye-dog in the next go-round. When no bye-dog is running in the next go-round, the course may be declared a no-course and must be run again. When there is a bye-dog running in the next go-round, the hound may compete in that course.

h. Any course may be called a no-course by mutual agreement of the Judges.

i. In the event of two consecutive no-courses by the same trio or brace, the Judge(s) may judge the hounds on the basis of both courses.

j. A Judge may change his or her scores until the end of the preliminaries are tallied.

k. Scores for preliminary runs will not be given to the Field Clerk until the preliminaries are over.

1. In the event a hunt does not finish, or finishes on preliminary scores only, kill credits will be given for all courses judged.

Section 12. Placements and awards

a. The Judges shall select, from each preliminary course, at least one hound to run in the winners' course of that stake as follows:

1. Winners of all preliminary courses shall compete in the winners' course.
2. At the discretion of the Judge(s), other hounds may compete in the winners' course.
3. Either Judge's selection for winner of all preliminary courses shall compete in the winners' course in cases involving two Judges.

b. In regular open elimination braces, all winners will continue to compete in successive go-rounds until only one hound is left undefeated.

c. From each regular scored stake run in a meet, the Judge(s) shall select a hound for first, second, third, fourth, and fifth places. These placements shall be awarded to the top five scoring hounds in the stake. Scores used in determining placements shall be the total of scores earned in both the preliminary courses and the winners' course. In elimination stakes, where no scores are earned, placements will be awarded in the following manner:

1. First will be awarded to the winner of the last course.

2. Second will be awarded to the loser of the last course.
3. Third and fourth will be determined by a runoff between the last two hounds eliminated by the first- and second-place hounds.
4. Fifth will be awarded to the last hound eliminated by the first-place hound not named in parts 2 or 3.
 - d. Ribbons will be awarded to stake winners according to the following color schedule: 1st, blue; 2nd, red; 3rd, yellow; 4th, white; 5th, green.
 - e. A host club may give other awards in place of ribbons at its breed hunts if so stated in the announcement of the hunt.
 - f. In NOFCA-hosted mixed hunts, the top scoring hound in each breed in the regular stake shall earn 5 NOFCA breed points, in addition to any placement points it may win, provided that at least two of that breed compete in the field. These points shall go toward the Courser of Merit title and for the 500-Breed-Point awards only. A special ribbon for High-Score Breed Award shall be given, the color to be orange.
 - g. Tie scores shall be governed by the following rules:
 1. Points shall be split between the tying hounds
 2. Ribbon awards shall be determined by the toss of a coin
 3. When a hunt trophy is to be awarded, stake winners or tying hounds may compete in a runoff course for the award. The runoff is to be conducted under NOFCA rules.

h. Judges responsible for scores shall check the addition of preliminary and final scores before signing the Field Record Sheet. Any score that is entered in the Field Record Sheet shall stand as official after the Judge has checked and signed the sheet.

i. The Judge's decision as to placements and take credits will be final. (2001)

Section 13. Optional rules for brace elimination

a. Brace elimination stakes will be run in breed stakes only.

b. The maximum number of hounds in a stake will be eight.

c. Only first and second placements will be awarded in each stake. Points given will be: 1st place = 4 times the number of hounds competing; 2nd place = 3 times the number of hounds competing; making only 56 points awarded.

d. Only one Judge is necessary for all stakes. In the interest of finishing the hunt, additional Judges may be used at the option of the host club.

e. A slip steward will be used instead of a Hunt Master. He is to be named in the hunt announcement. Duties of the slipper are:

1. To make sure the right hounds are in the courses, and that they are wearing the right colors.
2. To release both hounds when sighted and both are in readiness to be slipped. (The owners of the hounds may walk with the slipper.)

f. Stakes will be divided by random draw on the morning of the hunt.

g. If possible, hounds of the same owner will not run against each other in the first go-round.

h. When there is an odd number of entries, a natural bye shall be given to the last hound drawn in the first go-round, and to the first hound in the second go-round.

i. The bye-dog shall run by itself, or with any unentered or eliminated hound of the owner's choosing.

j. The Judge must watch this run to decide if enough has been done to constitute a course, or if it must be re-run.

k. All winners will continue to compete in successive go-rounds until only one hound is left undefeated.

l. If, during the running of courses, hounds which appear to be winning, or, in the opinion of the Judge, are capable of winning, encounter a fence or other obstacle which they cannot overcome, the hound will compete in the next go-round only if there is a bye-dog present.

m. Points of the course shall be as follows: Speed - 1, 2, or 3 points, according to the degree of superiority shown; go-bye - 2 points or, if gained on the outside turn, 3 points; turn - 1 point; wrench - ½ point; touch - 1 point; take - no value to 2 points.

Section 14. Coursing titles

a. Championship points shall be awarded to hounds placing in regular stakes according to the following schedule:

1. *First place*: Four times the number of hounds which are slipped in the preliminary courses, with a maximum of 40 points.
 2. *Second place*: Three times the number of hounds which are slipped in the preliminary courses, with a maximum of 30 points.
 3. *Third place*: Two times the number of hounds which are slipped in the preliminary courses, with a maximum of 20 points.
 4. *Fourth place*: Points equal to the number of hounds which are slipped in the preliminary courses, with a maximum of 10 points.
 5. *Fifth place*: Points equal to half the number of hounds which are slipped in the preliminary courses, with a maximum of 5 points.
- b. A permanent title of **Coursing Champion (CC)** shall be awarded as a suffix to the registered name of any hound which has fulfilled the following Championship qualifications:
1. Received 100 Championship points
 2. Received at least 10 of the 100 points in a regular breed stake
 3. Received at least 10 of the 100 points in a regular mixed stake
 4. Received first place, or two second placements, in regular stakes
 5. Received official credit for at least one unassisted take or two assisted takes in any regular stake, breed or mixed.

c. A permanent title of **Courser of Merit (CM)** shall be assigned as a suffix to the registered name of any hound which has fulfilled all of the following qualifications: (2001)

1. Received 100 Championship points in regular breed stakes or by earning high-score breed awards in NOFCA-sponsored hunts.
2. Received first place, or two second placements, in a regular breed stake.
3. Received official credit for at least one unassisted take or two assisted takes in a regular stake. Irish Wolfhounds may also earn a CM by the provisions listed in Section 14c1 and double the placements listed in Section 14c2. (2001)
4. Kill credits may be taken from either breed or mixed stakes.

d. Any hound earning a total of 500 Championship points shall receive a special NOFCA 500 Point Plaque; further, an additional plaque shall be awarded for each successive 500 Championship points (i.e., 1000 Point Plaque: 1500 Point Plaque, etc.).

e. Any hound earning 500 Championship breed points, or by earning high score breed awards in NOFCA sponsored hunts, shall receive a special NOFCA 500 Breed Point Plaque; further, an additional plaque shall be awarded for each successive 500 Championship breed points (i.e., 1000 Breed Point Plaque: 1500 Breed Point Plaque, etc.). (2002)

f. Each year, NOFCA shall award a Good Sportsman Award. This award shall be determined by the Board of Directors and be awarded at the annual Grand Course dinner.

g. The period for determining the NOFCA high-score hound and all other annual NOFCA titles will coincide with the Grand Course qualification period. (1998)

h. NOFCA shall offer the high score hound for each season a full page advertisement in the publication of the owner's choice, not to exceed \$150.00.

Section 15. The Grand Course

a. The Grand Course shall be held on Presidents' Day weekend and shall be scheduled for three days. The Monday shall be used, if necessary, to complete the Grand Course.

b. The Grand Course shall be run on consecutive days until completed. (2003)

c. The Grand Course is to be sponsored by NOFCA.

d. Entry into the Grand Course is by invitation only. The following requirements must be met in order to secure an invitation:

1. The top three living dogs of each breed for the eligibility period determined. (2001)
2. During the eligibility period, all dogs must earn a designated amount of points as determined by the Grand Course Committee.

- a. Out of area dogs must earn $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of required points during the Grand Course eligibility period. (2001)
- b. Out of area dogs are those which reside outside of California. (2001)
- c. Dogs who live "in area" for the majority ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the coursing season shall be considered "in area" competitors regardless of their owner's primary residence.

e. **Unfinished hunts**

1. An unfinished hunt shall be defined as a hunt where the draw was done, hunters walked in the field, but prelims were not completed. The points earned at the re-run shall count as of the date of the originally scheduled hunt. (2000)
 2. A club should make every effort to complete an unfinished hunt or canceled hunt prior to the end of the regular coursing season.
 3. If a hunt is re-scheduled and conducted after the Grand Course, the points awarded shall not be included in computation of points for any Grand Course qualification or NOFCA High Score Hound. This does not apply to hunts originally scheduled after the Grand Course.
 4. Clubs are encouraged to schedule their re-runs before January 31. (2000)
- f. The Board of Directors shall decide whether the points earned from a rescheduled hunt run between Jan 31 and the Grand Course can go the previous season's

qualification period and high score hound calculations. (2001)

g. For the purpose of determining eligibility, the accumulation of points will be from February 1 of the preceding year to January 31 of the year for that year's Grand Course. (1997)

h. The Grand Course Committee shall be comprised of one representative from each member club, chosen by each club's membership. Also, the Superintendent will be a non-voting member of the committee. (2003)

i. By tradition, the Grand Course is conducted in the following manner, but may be changed by the Grand Course Committee, provided that the change is approved by the Board of Directors.

1. There shall be two Judges selected for the Grand Course.

2. In Stage I, all entered hounds will be run in breed stakes, running in scored trios or braces. Rare breeds will be run in one stake unless 5 or more of any one rare breed are entered; that breed may be run as a separate breed provided that there are 5 hounds remaining to comprise the rare breed stake. (2001)

3. All entered hounds will be run twice, once under each Judge; the combined scores for the two runs will be used to award placements and breed points.

4. If a breed is able to field at least three dogs at their breed hunt (Stage I) at the Grand Course, the dogs

- will be awarded breed points based on the number of dogs slipped in the first preliminary run. (2001)
5. If fewer than five dogs are slipped in the first preliminary run then the order of finish in this breed stake shall not be used to satisfy placement requirements for coursing titles. (2001)
 6. The top 50% of each breed stake will be eligible to run in Stage II. In addition, any hound who wins both the courses in Stage I shall advance to Stage II, even if it is not in the top 50% of its breed. (2001)
 7. All hounds eligible to run in Stage II shall run in a mixed hunt, placed in trios or braces by random draw.
 8. There will be only one run in Stage II, scored by both Judges. Ten placements, mixed points to the top five, and NOFCA breed points shall be awarded based on the combined scores of the two Judges.
 9. The scores from Stage I and Stage II shall be added together to determine the Grand Course winner and placements. (2001)

Section 16. Hunt Master and Judge requirements

a. Hunt Master

1. A Judge can appoint a provisional breed Hunt Master.
2. All Judges and Hunt Masters must have a hunting license.

3. To become a Hunt Master one should be a participant in at least eight hunts and have had one year of experience in NOFCA hunts.

4. A Hunt Master should apprentice at two hunts and call the rabbits at one. This may be done during the eight hunts.

5. Certification will be made at the end of the first year by the Judging Committee.

b. Judge

1. Must be a participant in NOFCA events for 2 years.

2. Must be a licensed Hunt Master.

3. Must be in good standing with NOFCA.

4. Apprentice judge two mixed hunts, and one breed hunt under two different Judges, without a dog on lead (exception: out-of-California applicants will not have to meet the number of Judges requirements). (1998)

5. The applicant shall judge both preliminary and finals.

6. The applicant shall maintain Apprentice Judge's sheets until all judging assignments are complete. Applicant shall turn Apprentice Judges sheets over to Judging Committee Chairman or the NOFCA President for Board consideration. The Board of Directors shall vote on all judging applications. This can be done at a Board Meeting, by phone, by Email, or by a mail vote. (2001)

7. All Judges should notify the Secretary at the beginning of each season whether or not they are able to

judge for that season. A Judge's resume is not required from any Judge.

8. The Judging Committee may, at its discretion, recommend individuals who, in their opinion, are qualified to be a Judge or Hunt Master for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Section 17. Fines

The following summarizes all the potential fines that may be imposed on host clubs. They are also listed in various sections of this rulebook.

a. A \$100.00 fine and loss of NOFCA Championship points for that hunt will be imposed for illegal field splitting.

b. NOFCA will levy a \$25.00 fine upon any club allowing a dog to run which is not registered with NOFCA on or before the day of the hunt.

c. The NOFCA Treasurer is responsible for levying a double per capita fine on any club failing to mail out hunt announcements at least 21 days prior to the hunt date.

d. One set of ribbons must be presented upon completion of the hunt or a \$10.00 fine will be imposed.

e. Any person observed free coursing without permission from the Field Committee will pay a fine of \$50.00.

f. A \$5.00 fine will be levied for a loose hound interfering with a stake.

g. A fine of \$2.50 for each five minutes over 15 minutes will be levied against any owner whose hound delays a course from starting.

h. A fine of \$10.00 will be levied upon the host club who does not submit a proper hunt packet.

i. A \$10.00 fine will be levied for each two weeks the hunt packets are not submitted, the maximum fine being \$35.00.

j. In the event that, by the time of the Spring Meeting, a host club has been unable to collect entry fees from an entrant, NOFCA will withhold all Championship points earned by the entrant's dogs for that year, and will bar that entrant from entering any hunts in upcoming years until the entry fees and any other fees or charges incurred are paid in full.

k. Any hunt judged by an unlicensed person shall automatically be null and void and no points can or will be awarded. Also, the sponsoring club shall refund all entry fees. If refunds are not made by the next Summer Meeting, the club will not be allowed to hold further hunts until refunds are made.

l. Any person observed coursing in any field in any area used by NOFCA or its affiliated clubs must be accompanied by the person who has permission from the rancher/owner. To be implemented twelve months per year with a minimum fine of \$50.00, but can be increased by the NOFCA Board.

m. If a hunt packet is submitted to the NOFCA Recorder with registration numbers missing from the green sheet, the club will be fined \$10.00 for each number missing.

n. If a member club provides a list of motels which will accept dogs in its premium list, and the club reserves rooms at a particular motel listed in the premium list using the name of the club, and damages occur to a room which was occupied by an entrant in a NOFCA-sanctioned hunt sponsored by the club, the following procedure shall apply:

1. A club officer shall present the bill for damages to the hunt entrant who caused the damages and request reimbursement.

2. If the hunt entrant refuses to pay the bill for damages and the club reimburses the motel for the damages, documentation of the refusal and the damage bill paid by the club shall be presented to the NOFCA Board of Directors with a request to suspend all NOFCA privileges until the damages are reimbursed.

3. The NOFCA Board of Directors shall, by majority vote, determine which NOFCA privileges, i.e., entry in NOFCA hunts, registration of dogs, etc., to suspend, for what period of time the suspension shall be in effect, and what action is required by the hunt entrant in order to lift the imposed suspension.

Constitution and By-Laws

Article I. Principal Office

The Principal Office of the Association is hereby fixed and located at Sacramento, California. The Board of Directors is hereby granted full power and authority to change said Principal Office from one location to another

in Sacramento County. Any such change shall be noted by the Secretary opposite this section, but shall not be considered amendment to these By-Laws.

Article II. Members

Section 1. Classification of members. There shall be one class of members of the Association, to wit: coursing club members.

Section 2. Eligibility for membership. Eligibility for membership is limited to the following organizations, except as qualified in sub-paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).

a. American Saluki Association, California Greyhound Coursing Association, California Rarebreed Association, Monterey Bay Afghan Hound Club, Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club, Northern California Whippet Club, Saluki Coursing Club, Sierra Slopes Ibizan Hounds, Southern California Whippet Association, Southwest Coursing Club, Tally-Ho Greyhounds, Western Borzoi Coursing Club. (2001)

b. A list of current members will be addended to these By-Laws and will be updated at such times as are necessary to reflect new members accepted by the membership or members resting or terminating membership. Said list will not be considered an amendment to these By-Laws

c. Purebred sighthound breed clubs whose breed is not represented in the National Open Field Coursing Association.

d. Sighthound clubs whose coursing meets will be held in areas not served by the National Open Field Coursing Association.

e. Such other clubs whose admission the Board of Directors shall determine to be in the best interest of national open field coursing and this organization. Application for membership shall be in such form as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

f. Breeds are limited to a maximum representation of two breed clubs. (2001)

Section.3. Admission of members. Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary of NOFCA. It shall include the following:

a. A petition signed by a majority of the club's membership stating their willingness to abide by the rules of NOFCA, and their understanding of, and agreement with, the objectives of NOFCA.

b. A copy of the club's constitution and by-laws and list of the club's members, with their addresses.

c. A request for hunt dates, accompanied by a \$25.00 performance bond.

Gazehound club membership applications must be approved by a majority of the club delegates at the Spring General Meeting. The performance bond shall be refunded if the club's membership application is refused.

Section 4. Termination of Membership. A membership shall terminate upon the termination or resignation of the member club, or upon its expulsion by a majority vote of the delegates of the general membership. A member

may be expelled by the Board of Directors for non-payment of dues or for conduct which the Board of Directors shall deem inimical to the best interests of the Association. A member may not transfer its membership, or any right arising therefrom, and any attempted transfer of a membership shall cause such membership to terminate automatically. All rights of a member in the Association or its property shall cease upon termination of its membership.

Section 5. Dues. Dues shall be \$1.00 per fiscal year and shall be payable for the first year upon admission to membership and annually thereafter at such time or times as may be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Meetings. There will be two types of meetings: general and Board.

a. The President may call a general meeting. A member of the Board may call a general meeting with a two-thirds written approval of the Board of Directors. The President or Vice-President must be present to preside. A general meeting must be called by the President upon receipt of a petition for same signed by not less than one-third (1/3) of the members of NOFCA.

b. Annual meetings of the members shall be held at 8:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of July of each year, or at such other time that the Board of Directors shall determine, and special meetings of the members may be called and held as may be ordered by the Directors or by coursing club members. Notice of meetings of coursing club members shall be given to each coursing club

member not less than thirty days before such meeting by mailing a copy of such notice to the address of such coursing club members as it appears on the membership register of the Association.

c. Written notice for each general meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member club at its given address at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.

d. The President or Vice President shall call at least one (1) Board Meeting quarterly. The President or Vice President must be present to preside.

e. Written notice for each Board Meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member of the Board at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting.

f. A simple majority of Board Members at the Board Meeting will constitute a quorum.

g. Any action by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a majority of all members of the Board respond in writing in favor of said action. Such written responses shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

Section 7. Voting. All coursing club members shall have equal voting and other rights. Each member club will vote by delegates, each delegate having one (1) vote, each club with a maximum of three (3) delegates. Delegate voting may be done either in person or by proxy.

Voting for Directors shall be by cumulative voting as by California General Corporation Law (i.e., number of delegates times the number of positions).

Section 8. Delegates.

a. The presence in person or by proxy of a simple majority of the members of the club shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members.

b. Each member may select up to three delegates and three alternates to cast its three votes. If this method of representation is chosen, the names and addresses of said delegates must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of NOFCA not later than 1 February of each year along with instructions on how the authorized number of votes are to be distributed among the delegates.

c. Replacements for delegates are to be communicated to NOFCA in writing 30 days before any general meeting.

d. Written proxies carried by anyone other than those previously authorized will not be accepted by NOFCA unless they are certified by the Secretary or President of the member club.

Article III. Directors

Section 1. Number and Qualifications. Pursuant to Article V, paragraph (a) the Articles of Incorporation providing that the corporation shall have not less than twelve (12) nor more than fifteen (15) Directors and authorizing the Directors or members, via By-Law, to fix the exact number of Directors within the range specified, the corporation shall have thirteen (13) Directors. The Board shall represent all of the sighthound breeds rep-

resented in NOFCA. In addition, the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Recorder, Treasurer, Secretary, Superintendent and Past President shall be included in the Board of Directors. (1997) No person shall hold more than one office.

Section 2. Election and term of office. Directors shall be elected at each annual meeting of members, but if such annual meeting is not held or Directors are not elected there at, the Directors may be elected at any special meeting of members held for that purpose. All Directors shall hold office until their respective successors are elected.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy in the Board of Directors caused by death, resignation, or termination of membership in each of the member clubs of which such Director may be a member, shall be filled by a majority of the remaining Directors or by the sole remaining Director.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the authorized number of Directors shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the Directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the Board of Directors unless a greater number be required by law or by the Articles of Incorporation.

Section 5. Responsibilities. The Board of Directors shall conduct all necessary business of NOFCA which the

Board decides, by majority vote, does not require a general meeting of the Association to resolve; to be made aware of, and to approve or disapprove, all bills presented to the Association for payment; approve all designs and have printed all official NOFCA forms and agreements; approve the coursing season schedule and approve all re-scheduling; promote and encourage open field coursing in other areas and advise new clubs which are holding their first few sanctioned coursing meets.

Section 6. Approval of Minutes. The transactions of any meeting of the Board of Directors, however called and noticed or wherever held, shall be as valid as though it were at a meeting duly held, if each of the Directors not present approved, in writing, the minutes of such a meeting. All such approvals shall be filed with the records of the Association or made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Section 7. Fees and Compensation. Directors shall receive no compensation for their services, but may receive such reimbursement for expenses as may be fixed by the resolution of the Board.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Association shall be: the President, the Vice President, the Superintendent, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Recorder. These elected officers shall compose the Executive Committee of NOFCA. The Executive Committee shall

be authorized by the Board of Directors to conduct the routine business of NOFCA and shall recommend to the Board such actions as are outside the scope of their authority.

Section 2. Duties

a. President. The President shall preside over all general meetings of NOFCA and all executive Board Meetings. The President shall choose dates for meetings which cause the least amount of conflict with other dog activities as long as they are consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of NOFCA. It shall be the President's responsibility to see that the aims and objectives of NOFCA, as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws, are accomplished.

b. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President. The Vice-President will serve as chairman of the Grand Course, and on other committees if directed by the President. The Vice-President shall keep the membership informed of legislation pertaining to NOFCA. The Vice-President shall keep a duplicate copy of all records, which includes running records.

c. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Association. He shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Association. His books shall, at all times, be open to inspection by the Board, and to individuals by request through the Board. He shall report to the Board, at every meeting, the condition of the Asso-

ciation's finances and every item or receipt of a payment not previously reported. At the Spring and Summer general meetings he shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the fiscal year. The fiscal year of the Association shall be 1 July to 30 June. A bookkeeping system shall be set up by the charter Treasurer which shall be continued by ensuing Treasurers. He shall also keep duplicate Hunt Summary Reports to help guard against loss and ensure accuracy.

d. Superintendent. The Superintendent shall administer all NOFCA hosted hunts. He shall prepare the coursing season schedule for approval by the Board. (2000)

e. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board, of all votes by mail, and any other matter which a record shall be ordered by the Association. All Board Members and member clubs shall receive a copy of all minutes within twenty-one (21) days after a meeting has been adjourned. A copy is to be sent to the Principal Office in Sacramento. He shall keep a roll of the voting delegates of the Association with their addresses and shall call the roll when required. He shall send out notices of Board Meetings and general membership meetings and conduct the correspondence of the Association. Each year, he shall request from all member clubs a complete list of that club's officers and addresses for the current year. He shall take notes at all meetings. (2000)

f. Recorder. The Recorder shall keep permanent records of all sanctioned coursing meets. It shall be his respon-

sibility to see that proper forms, such as roster sheets, field record sheets, judging sheets, winners' course reports, and other necessary forms are forwarded to clubs hosting sanctioned coursing meets. It shall be the duty of the Recorder to register and keep permanent records of all gazehounds approved by NOFCA whose owners request such registration and comply with all rules of NOFCA. He will keep an ample supply of the necessary forms to facilitate an orderly and speedy process of registering approved gazehounds. The Recorder shall also be responsible to send a postcard to owners of gazehounds who have completed the requirements for Coursing Championship and Courser of Merit and will be responsible to provide plaques for all titles earned during the year. In those cases where field fines are not paid within 30 days, the Recorder is responsible to notify all member clubs that said owner is no longer eligible to compete in NOFCA events until all such fines have been paid in full.

The following positions shall serve as appointive and at the direction of the President:

g. Newsletter editor. The duty of the newsletter editor will be to publish the NOFCA News. This newsletter will contain the minutes of all NOFCA general meetings, all committee meetings, all Executive Board Meetings, and the results of all sanctioned coursing meets. It may also contain such paid advertisements and informative, educational or amusing articles or stories as the newsletter

editor deems appropriate. The newsletter editor is appointed by the President.

h. Rules Committee Chairman. The Rules Committee Chairman shall appoint a knowledgeable representative from each gazehound breed registered with NOFCA to serve on the Rules Committee. He shall publish an up-to-date rulebook, approved by NOFCA, on or before 15 September of each year. He shall present to the membership, at the Summer Meeting of NOFCA, those rule changes or additions approved by the Rules Committee for note of acceptance or rejection by the attending delegates from member clubs. Rules proposals which are presented in writing by a member club or delegate at the Spring Meeting shall not be changed or edited without the consent of the person or persons making the proposals. The Rules Committee chairman shall chair a protest committee.

i. Judging Committee Chairman. The Judging Committee Chairman shall have the direct responsibility to see that at all NOFCA coursing meets the coursing ability of the hounds is appraised in a fair and impartial manner. The Judging Committee shall implement an apprentice judging program approved by NOFCA. The Judging Committee shall approve or disapprove applicants for judging credentials who have completed the judging apprentice program. The Judging Committee Chairman shall file a formal protest with the Board of any Judge who the committee determines beyond a reasonable doubt, has, because of unethical or incompetent per-

formance, failed to give a true appraisal of the coursing ability of a hound or hounds competing in sanctioned NOFCA coursing meets. The committee shall consist of five (5) qualified Judges, including the chairman.

j. Field Chairman. The Field Committee Chairman shall have the responsibility to find and obtain permission to hold hunts for the mixed and accompanying breed hunts in the Merced area.

Section 3. Election of officers

a. All officers shall be elected for a term of one year with the right to succeed themselves.

b. Nominations for all officers shall be taken at the Spring meeting, either by verbal nomination by a club delegate, or by written nomination from a member club submitted to the current Secretary prior to the close of the meeting.

c. The Secretary shall obtain written acceptance of each nomination from the candidate nominated. A finalized list of candidates shall be published in the official minutes of the Spring Meeting.

d. The election of officers shall be conducted at the Summer Meeting. Any member club not able to send a delegate to this meeting may submit a written ballot to the Secretary prior to the date of the Summer Meeting, or may designate a proxy in writing.

Section 4. Removal and resignation. Any officer may resign, or may be removed with or without cause by the Board of Directors at any time. Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these By-Laws.

Article V. Discipline

Any member in good standing may prefer charges against any individual, group of individuals or member club for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of NOFCA. Written charges with specifications must be filed by certified mail in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. The Secretary shall, within five (5) days, acknowledge receipt of the charges to the complainant and defendant. The Secretary shall promptly notify the President who shall schedule a date of hearing by the Board of Directors not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks from the date when the protest was received by the President. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused by certified mail together with a notice of hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if wished. The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in this regard. Should the charges be sustained, by a majority vote of the Board, the Board may suspend the defendant from all privileges of NOFCA for any period of time which the Board feels is justified, or in extreme cases, the defendant may be expelled permanently.

Article VI. Miscellaneous

Section 1. Execution of documents. The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances; and, unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, no officer, agent or other person shall have any power or authority to bind the Association by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Section 2. Inspection of By-Laws. The Association shall keep in its Principal Office the original or a copy of these By-Laws, as amended or otherwise altered to date, certified by the Secretary, which shall be open to inspection by the members at all reasonable times during office hours.

Section 3. Construction and definitions. Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions contained in the California General Non-profit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these By-Laws.

Section 4. Rules of Order. The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, revised, shall govern all members meetings and Directors meetings of the Association, except in instances of conflict between said rules of order and the Articles or By-Laws of the Association or provisions of law.

Article VII. Amendments

Section 1. Except as provided in Section 2 of Article VII, new By-Laws may be adopted, amended or repealed, or these By-Laws may be amended or repealed, by the written consent of the members entitled to exercise a majority of the voting power or by a majority of a quorum at a meeting duly called for the purpose of amending the Articles of By-Laws, or by the Board of Directors given the power of the members to change or repeal the By-Laws.

Section 2. No amendments to these By-Laws which shall increase or change the amount of dues for active members as provided for herein shall be made unless such amendment is ratified at a regular meeting of such members, duly called for the purpose of making such an amendment, by a vote of not less than eighty (80) percent of a quorum of the members present at such a meeting.

Officers

President: Fiona Bennett
PO Box 415, Copperopolis, CA 95228-0415
209-785-6485 president@nofca.cc

Vice President: George Bell
PO Box 444, Alpaugh, CA 93201
559-949-8533 vicepresident@nofca.cc

Superintendent: Linda Turner
3005 Foothill Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361-4926
805-495-8818 superintendent@nofca.cc

Treasurer: Victoria Howell Cook
PO Box 2020, White City, OR 97503-0020
541-831-1042 treasurer@nofca.cc

Secretary: John Burchard
PO Box 96
Alpaugh, CA 93201-0096
559-949-8480 secretary@nofca.cc

Recorder: Michael Keating
PO Box 5404, Pasadena, CA 91117
626-326-0225 recorder@nofca.cc

Board of Directors

Bob Bulman, Jane Bulman, Lisa Carmel, Warren Cook,
Robin Corell, Steve Downs, Julia Holder, Steven Kaeppler,
Kathy Kelly, Alicia Kittrell, Kaelyn Silva, Chris Thompson,
Herb Wells, Marcella Zobel

NOFCA