



OFFICIAL COMPETITORS RULEBOOK

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Rules will be reviewed and revised as and when required by the License Holder for Barn Hunt International UK.

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Part 1: About Barn Hunt

This rulebook contains all rules that competitors need to know to be able to participate and compete in Barn Hunt® events. Events include workshops, Fun Tests and Trials. This rulebook is available on our website – barnhuntuk.co.uk

Rules will be reviewed annually by Jacqueline Tulip; should any rules be updated or added they will appear highlighted within the rules.

Barn Hunt Association® was created by Robin Nuttall, one dog inspired the sport, her Miniature Pinscher Zipper. At the time Robin was unable to compete in Earthdog trials with Zipper as Min Pins were not a recognised breed for AKC Earthdog trials, despite being bred for vermin control. Robin was aware that informal, fun events were happening at Earthdog events but mostly only open to Earthdog breeds. So Robin decided to write the rules for a new sport that would allow for titles and sport progression that would enable all dogs to participate in, with a focus on the core principle of vermin hunting.

Historically Ratcatchers moved from town to town and farm to farm for the purpose of vermin control. Whilst they used breeds recognised to go-to-ground they would also use a variety of breeds/mixes to get the job done. Terriers/go-to-ground dogs working alongside shepherd dogs (Border Collies, GSDs, Cattle dogs etc.).

The purpose of Barn Hunt® is to demonstrate a dog's hunting ability in a simulated barn setting. Using straw/hay bales to create obstacles, climbs and tunnels that the dog needs to navigate to locate and mark the rat in a set time depending on level.

The sport tests not only hunting ability, it also tests speed, agility, scent detection and dog and handler teamwork.

Barn Hunt® is for all breeds/mixes and their handlers who wish to participate in the sport, open to dogs with or without a breeding history for vermin control. Dogs need to be able to enter a tunnel 18 inches (46 cm) wide and the height of a straw bale on its tall side.

Part 2: Code of Good Conduct

All participants and spectators attending any Barn Hunt International UK event are required to follow a code of good conduct. We expect honest, courteous, respectful and gracious behaviour towards all handlers and dogs and towards all Barn Hunt officials**.

We do not allow harsh or corrective training at any Barn Hunt event or on the grounds in which the event is being held. Any handler who displays poor conduct and/or who verbally or physically abuses their dog either in or out of the ring can face disciplinary action which can range from a verbal warning, dismissal from class, event and show grounds and can lead to a ban from future events. Barn Hunt International UK reserves the right to make the final decision on whether any ban or expulsion would be permanent.

We have a zero tolerance policy of bullying and intimidating behaviour – attempts to bully and/or intimidate other participants or Barn Hunt Officials** will result in dismissal from the event.

** Barn Hunt Officials include Judges, Scribes, Rat Wranglers, Gate Stewards and all others supporting with a Barn Hunt event including volunteers.

Part 3: Registration

Registration of Dogs is through Barn Hunt Association®

You can access the Registration link via our website: barnhuntuk.co.uk **Trials page** which will take you to barnhunt.com Register Dog(s) page or you can go directly to barnhunt.com and select the Register Dog(s) page.

Please note that to enter a licensed Barn Hunt International UK Trial a dog must have a BHA Registration number **prior** to entering.

To compete for the following Titles: RATI, RATN/RATNX, RATO/RATOX, RATS/RATSX, RATM, RATCH/RATCHX, REMX, **Line Drive, Crazy 8s** Titles the dog must be Registered with Barn Hunt Association®.

The Register will enable the issuance of required Barn Hunt Registration number to compete in Barn Hunt International UK Trials and Qualifying information for Titles.

Events, Clubs and Judges are all through application and approval of Barn Hunt International UK.

A BHA Registration number is not required to enter workshops, classes or Fun Tests.

Part 4: Terms & Definitions

- BARN HUNT CLASSES - competition classes split into A & B divisions, earn Titles in A division and can then move to B division.
- BLIND - a protected area used as a staging area for the next dog to enter the ring. The Blind must obstruct the view of the ring, the exchange of rats or preparing the tube locations.
- Blind Group - **maximum of 6** dog and handler teams, the tube hides change for each Blind Group.
- BRIDGE - Bridges are boards spanning an open space in such a way that the dog could walk from one bale to another across the bridge.
- CLIMB - this is a dog climbing on a bale with all paws on the bale, this is a required element in all Levels with the exception of Instinct where it is an optional element. The Judge will call "Climb" once the element has been completed.
- COURSE TIME ALLOWED - each course has an allowed time in which dog and handler must correctly identify the rat tube and for the dog to execute all elements of the course.
- EVENT - an Event is organised for the purpose of holding Barn Hunt International UK activities which could include Workshops, Classes, Fun Tests and Trials.
- FUN TEST - a Fun Test is run under Barn Hunt International UK rules as a licensed practice for Barn Hunt®. Fun Tests are a way to introduce new people to the sport or for unregistered dogs to compete on courses. Fun Test runs do not count towards Barn Hunt® Titles.
- INSTINCT TUBE CRADLE - the cradle is only used in Instinct Class and the purpose is to hold the three tubes securely. The Instinct cradle is placed 2 feet from the Official tunnel.
- LICENSED/OFFICIAL TRIAL - A licensed Barn Hunt International UK Trial is a collection of classes at various levels from Instinct – Master*. Only registered dogs can compete in Trials and have the opportunity to earn qualifying runs

toward Barn Hunt® titles. All Trials are held solely under permission by Barn Hunt International UK. A maximum of two Trials per day can be organised at any licensed Trial.

- **NUMBER OF QUALIFYING SCORES** - this is the number of qualifying runs required to achieve each title from Instinct through all of the titles.
- **REQUIRED ELEMENTS WITHIN COURSE TIME** - This is the course elements that must be completed within the time limit of each type of course from Instinct through all the Titles. Elements will include Climbs, Tunnels, correctly identifying the correct rat tubes.
- **RING ENCLOSURES** - The ring enclosure is a secured fenced or walled area where the competition takes place.
- **RUN/RUNS** - a Run is a dog and handler single attempt at a course.
- **START BOX** - The start box is an approximate 1.2 m² area inside the enclosed ring from which all teams will release their dog. Teams must be able to exit at least 2 sides of the box without encountering a bale, fence, or wall. The dog should leave the start box ahead of the handler or at the same time; a dog cannot be left in a stay and the handler leave the start box.
- **STEPS** - Steps are used as climbing aids. They are to be placed where they are not a tripping hazard, and such that a dog using the step is able to exit onto a landing area large enough for a large dog to place all four feet.
- **TRIAL GROUNDS** - Trial Grounds are the location of event and include all buildings, carparks, rings, dog walking or exercise areas and all facilities relating to the event.
- **TUBE(S)** - The tube is a secure enclosure for the rat to be housed during the time on the course. The tube has small holes that allow the scent of the dead rat to escape, the dog does not come into contact with the rat and cannot open the tube. There are decoy tubes that will either be empty or hold bedding.
- **TUNNEL** - a Tunnel is constructed using straw bales to create a dark space that the dog must enter; this is a required element in all levels except Instinct where the Tunnel is an optional element. As teams progress through the levels and Titles the Tunnel becomes more complex in formation. The Tunnel is 18 inches (46 cm) wide.
- **WORKSHOP/CLASSES** - A Workshop and/or Class is a training/practice event delivered by Accredited Barn Hunt International UK Instructors, introducing dogs and handlers to the sport.
- * As Barn Hunt® is a growth sport in the UK not all classes and levels will be included at all Fun Tests and Trials. As Dogs obtain Titles, Trials will add upper level classes.

Part 5: Barn Hunt Height Divisions, Classes & Titles

Height Divisions

- Small: Dogs 15 inches (38.1 cm) and under
- Medium: Dogs 15.1 inches to 22 inches (38.3 - 56 cm)
- Large: Dogs over 22 inches (56 cm)

Barn Hunt Classes

Regular Classes - A and B Classes.

Novice, Open, Senior and Master are split into A and B divisions. Competitors start with Novice and once the Novice Title is earned they can then move to the next class level, earning each Title before moving to the next class level. *Once a competitor finishes a*

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*title from the A division, they are no longer eligible to compete at that level in A division and must either move up to the next level or sideways to **division B** or down a level to division B.* Extra scores earned in A do not carry over to B classes. Competitors are responsible for entering the correct class. Instinct is an optional Title and not a prerequisite to enter Novice. Instinct and Novice can be entered in the same Trial(s); once a Team has earned their Novice Title they are no longer eligible to enter Instinct.

When completing an entry for an event the Class you enter will depend on any Titles previously earned. Competitors can enter their dog in any class that dog is eligible for including B classes at a lower level. For example should a dog have earned their RATO they could be entered in Senior A, Open B or Novice B.

Dogs cannot be entered into a class that they are not yet eligible to compete in. For example a dog with RATO could not be entered into Masters A.

Moving up or changing to B division during an event.

Competitors can move up in the same division or move to B division during **any Trial** at an Event where those choices are offered. Dogs achieving RATM from Master A must move to Master B to qualify for RATCH and RATCHX and above.

Barn Hunt Titles

INSTINCT - RATI

1.Prerequisite: None. Dogs may enter Instinct and Novice at the same Fun Test or Trial. Dogs may enter Instinct until they attain their Novice A Title (RATN). Dogs with RATN Title or above cannot enter Instinct even at Fun Tests. Dogs who have been pre-entered in both Instinct and Novice A and attain their RATN during that trial can continue to compete in Instinct for that Trial/Event only. RATI is an optional class for any dog that has not attained their RATN. RATI is held on a set Instinct course or on a Novice course that can accommodate the Instinct Tube Cradle which will be 2 ft away from and in direct line with the Official Tunnel which must have a Start Box.

2.Course Time Allowed: One minute (60 seconds).

3.Number of Qualifying Scores Required: One, under one Judge.

4.Start Box Location: Directly against the front wings of an Official tunnel.

5.Tube specifications: One empty tube, one bedding tube, one rat tube in a cradle placed on the ground – should be lightly covered with straw but still visible.

6.Tunnel requirements: The tunnel is straight and short and has a specific design which enables the dog to see straight through it. This is an optional element for Instinct.

7.Required elements within the course time allowed: Correctly indicate the tube with the rat.

NOVICE A - RATN

1.Eligibility Criteria: Any dog may enter Novice A if that dog has not yet attained the Novice title (RATN). Dogs entering Novice A may, but are not required to, have an Instinct title.

2.Course time allowed: Two minutes (2.00).

3.Number of Qualifying Scores Required: Three, under one or more different Judges.

4. Start Box location: One **edge** not less than three nor more than four feet from, and directly in front of, the opening to an Official tunnel.
5. Tube specifications: One empty tube, one bedding tube, one rat tube. At least one tube of any type must be elevated; all tubes may be elevated. Tubes must be at least 18 inches **(46 cm)** apart.
6. Tunnel requirements: The tunnel is straight and short and has a specific design which enables the dog to see straight through it. To go through the Official tunnel at least once is a mandatory element within Novice. There can be more than one Official tunnel on the course.
7. Bale height requirements: There must be at least one and not more than three different places on the course with a minimum of two bales grouped at the two-high level
8. Required elements within course time allowed: Execute a Climb. Complete an Official tunnel. Correctly indicate the tube with the rat. These elements can be achieved in any order.

NOVICE B - RATNX

1. Eligibility Criteria: Dogs may enter Novice B once they have attained a RATN or any Regular Class Title above RATN. Dogs are not required to finish RATNX class before moving to another class and move in and out of the RATNX class at will, retaining their qualifying scores.
2. Number of Qualifying Scores required: 10 under a minimum of two different Judges. Multiples of RATNX may be acquired, each time a dog achieves 10 additional qualifying scores from the Novice B class a number will be appended to this Title. For example: 20 qualifying scores will be awarded RATNX2, 30 qualifying scores will be awarded RATNX3 and so on.

All other rules and elements are identical to those in the Novice A class. Novice A and Novice B dogs compete on the same course

OPEN A - RATO

1. Eligibility Criteria: Any dog may enter Open A any time after attaining the Novice Title RATN, and prior to completion of the Open Title, RATO.
2. Course time allowed: Two minutes, 30 seconds (2.30).
3. Number of Qualifying Scores Required: Three, under one or more different Judges.
4. Start Box location: Anywhere on the course.
5. Tube specifications: One empty tube, two bedding tubes, two rat tubes. At least one rat tube must be elevated; all tubes may be elevated. Tubes must be at least 18 inches **(46 cm)** apart.
6. Tunnel requirements: The tunnel must have one **90°** turn, no jogs, and is 2.4 metres to 3 metres in total length as designed. The exit cannot be readily visible from the entrance; the tunnel must look dark. There can be more than one Official Tunnel.
7. Bale height requirements: There are a minimum of two and a maximum of three different places on the course where bales are grouped at the two-high level. Five or more two-high bales grouped together in a single location count as two places.

8.Required elements within course time allowed: Execute a Climb. Complete an Official tunnel. Correctly indicate two tubes with the rats. These elements can be achieved in any order.

OPEN B- RATOX

1.Eligibility Criteria: Dogs may enter Open B once they have attained a RATO or any level Title above RATO. Dogs are not required to finish RATOX class before moving to another class and move in and out of the RATOX class at will, retaining their qualifying scores.

2.Number of Qualifying Scores required: 10 under a minimum of two different Judges. Multiples of RATOX may be acquired, each time a dog achieves 10 additional qualifying scores from the Novice B class a number will be appended to this Title. For example: 20 qualifying scores will be awarded RATOX2, 30 qualifying scores will be awarded RATOX3 and so on.

All other rules and elements are identical to those in the Open A class. Open A and Open B dogs compete on the same course

SENIOR A - RATS

1.Eligibility Criteria: Any dog may enter Senior A any time after attaining the Open Title RATO, and prior to completion of the Senior Title, RATS.

2.Course time allowed: Three minutes, 30 seconds (3.30).

3.Number of Qualifying Scores Required: Three, under one or more different Judges.

4.Start Box location: Anywhere on the course.

5.Tube specifications: One empty tube, three bedding tubes, four rat tubes. Tubes may be at any level; all tubes may be elevated. Tubes must be at least 6 inches (15 cm) apart.

6.Tunnel requirements: The tunnel must have a minimum of one and a maximum of two 90° degree turn(s) and is 3.6 – 5.4 metres in total length as designed. The tunnel may have multiple portal openings, as long as a dog entering any opening will have completed the required number of turns and at least the minimum length of 3.6 metres prior to exiting any other portal. The tunnel must appear dark. The tunnel cannot contain “blind alleys”, areas inside the tunnel which do not lead to an exit. The tunnel can contain jogs at the entry/exit only, jogs do not count as turns. The Official tunnel can be on ground level or can be elevated; there can be more than one Official tunnel on the course.

7.Bale height requirements: There must be at least one place on the course where at least two bales are grouped at the three-high level.

8.Required elements within course time allowed: Execute a Climb. Complete an Official tunnel. Correctly indicate four tubes with the rats. These elements can be achieved in any order.

SENIOR B- RATSX

1.Eligibility Criteria: Dogs may enter Senior B once they have attained a RATS or any level title above a RATS. Dogs are not required to finish the RATSX class before moving

to another class and can move in and out of the RATSX class at will, retaining their qualifying scores

2.Number of Qualifying Scores required: 10 under a minimum of two different Judges. Multiples of RATSX may be acquired, each time a dog achieves 10 additional qualifying scores from the Novice B class a number will be appended to this Title. For example: 20 qualifying scores will be awarded RATSX2, 30 qualifying scores will be awarded RATSX3 and so on.

All other rules and elements are identical to those in the Senior A class. Senior A and Senior B dogs compete on the same course.

MASTER A - RATM

1.Eligibility Criteria: Any dog may enter Master A any time after attaining the Senior Title RATS, and prior to completion of the Master Title, RATM.

2.Course time allowed: Four minutes, 30 seconds (4.30).

3.Number of Qualifying Scores Required: Five, under two or more different Judges.

4.Start Box location: Anywhere on the course.

5.Tube specifications: 8 tubes; one to five tubes will have rats. All tubes without rats will have bedding. The number of rat tubes to bedding tubes is random for each competitor. Tubes may be at any level; all tubes may be elevated. For each Blind group the tubes remain in the same location, with only the number of rat versus bedding tubes changing for each dog. Between Blind groups all 8 tubes are moved. In some Blind groups the location of the tubes will be quite challenging. Tubes must be at least 6 inches (15 cm) apart.

6.Distance Challenge (DCs): A Distance Challenge requires the dog to work a horizontal distance away from the handler in an area the handler cannot enter or readily reach/touch the dog.

a)A DC is bordered by bales with one or more marked entryways of at least 31 cm in width.

b)DC entryways will be marked off at the leading/exterior edge with mats/rugs placed on the ground and anchored by bales so they cannot shift. The mats must be a light, bright or contrasting colour and easily seen.

c)Handlers stepping on or over a bale or stepping on/over/touching any part of a mat prior to calling rat will be NQ'd at the end of their run.

d)There can be more than one DC, but the total DC area can be no more than 50% of the ring.

e)The DC cannot encompass/surround the start box.

f)Any or all portals of the tunnel may be inside the DC. If all portals are inside the DC, one tunnel portal must be less than 1 metre from the outside boundary of the distance challenge.

g)Any 3-high spaces inside a DC cannot hide a dog from view for handlers outside the DC.

h)After calling rat, entering the DC, praising, and redirecting/restraining/removing the rat tube, the handler must exit the DC without delay. If the handler is not yet out of the DC and the dog finds another rat inside the DC, the handler may call rat again and stay in the DC long enough to praise and redirect/restrain/remove again. However, if a handler lingers, asks or calls the dog back to hunt the DC, or asks or directs the dog to a tunnel portal located inside the DC, the handler must stay in the DC and handle the dog from there until they call rat again or finish the run. The handler may encourage the dog to hunt or tunnel any area outside the DC while the handler is still exiting the DC area.

7.Tunnel requirements: The tunnel must have a minimum of two and a maximum of three 90° degree turns and is 4.2 to 6.7 metres in length as designed. It may be on the ground or elevated. The tunnel may have multiple portal openings, as long as a dog entering any opening will have completed the minimum number of turns and at least the minimum length of 4.2 metres to the nearest/next portal. The tunnel can contain jogs at the entry/exit only, jogs do not count as turns. There can be more than one Official Tunnel.

8.Bale height requirements: There must be at least two separate places on the course where at least two bales are grouped at the three-high level. Five or more three-high bales grouped together in a single location count as two places.

9.Required elements within course time allowed: Execute a Climb. Complete an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate to the Judge when all rat tubes have been found by declaring the course clear of rats. Elements can be completed in any order. A handler may choose to declare the course clear of rats then ask the dog to complete another required element such as a tunnel.

CHAMPION A - RATCH / CHAMPION B RATCHX

1.Eligibility Criteria: All dogs working on RATCH or RATCHX titles and above must enter Championship class.

2.RATCH: 10 qualifying scores under two or more Judges of Record are required for the RATCH.

3.RATCHX: The RATCH title and 10 qualifying scores under at least two Judges are required for the RATCHX. 20 qualifying scores will be awarded a RATCHX2, etc.

All other rules and elements are identical to those in the Master A (RATM) class. Master A and Championship Class dogs compete on the same course

MASTER B - REMX (Elite Master)

1.Eligibility Criteria: All dogs entered in Master B are eligible for Elite scores.

2.REMX: 10 qualifying scores from the Master B class with a course time of 2:30 or under. Dogs completing a Master course in 2:30.00 or under will receive both a regular RATCH leg and a REMX leg. 20 qualifying scores of 2:30 and under get REMX2, etc.

No extra steps are required to complete the REMX title.

Non Regular Classes

Line Drive

Line Drive Class Line Drive is a Non-Regular class, and as such is not required to be offered at any Licensed Trial or Fun Match. Line Drive classes held at Trials are titling. Line Drive classes held at Fun Matches do not count toward Line Drive titles.

1. Prerequisite: None. Dogs do not have to have any other Barn Hunt title to enter Line Drive.
2. Course Time: 1 minutes (1:00).
3. Course Size: Can be held inside a fully enclosed area, or along a 6-7.3 metres long, 1.2-1.5 metres high fence in an otherwise open area with marked boundaries. Spectators/dogs must comply with existing rules on distance away from the area.
4. Number of Qualifying scores required: 10, under any appointed official (see below).
5. Start Line: A start line will be positioned 1 metre from the designated line of bales.
6. Tube and course specifications: 9 Tubes. Four will contain rats, 5 will contain bedding. Arranged in a single fixed set of bales, using either one of the two designs shown below. The tops of the tubes will be lightly covered with straw, but the grate ends will be uncovered.

Line Drive Course 1



Line Drive Course 2



7. Special Leash/collar/harness rules: Dogs may wear collars in this class and be on or off leash, but must be on leash if the class is in any area that is not securely fenced. Blind dogs must be on a collar/leash. Retractable (flexi) leashes may be used. No-pull harnesses, slip/choke collars, and covered prongs are not allowed to be used in this class. The leash cannot be used to drag the dog, pop the dog, or as a correction. The leash can be untangled as needed.

8. Allowed Judges: Licensed Judges and Apprentice Judges.

9. Judging and Faults: Time starts when any part of the handler or dog crosses the start line (they should start at approximately the same time.) If the dog goes around the start line there is no penalty as long as the handler crosses immediately. Time ends when the fourth rat is called. A Rat Wrangler will be available to remove rats if the handler wishes. All regular rules on Penalties. apply in this class.

10. Touch/praise: Handlers may touch/praise their dogs at any time during this class.

11. Titles: 10 Qualifying scores receive an LD. 20 Qualifying scores receive LD2, etc.

Crazy 8s

Crazy 8s is a Non-Regular class, and as such is not required to be offered at any Licensed Trial or Fun Match. Crazy 8s classes held at Trials are titling. Crazy 8s classes held at Fun Matches do not count toward Crazy 8s titles. The start box, tunnels, and steps are in accordance to Senior classes. There are no distance challenges.

1. Eligibility criteria: None. Dogs do not have to have any other Barn Hunt title to enter Crazy 8s.
2. Course Time Allowed: 2 minutes (2.00).
3. Course Size: Master sized course. Judges/Clubs may opt to use an existing Senior or Master course, modified as specified below, for Crazy 8s.
4. Bales: There must be at least one place on the course where at least two bales are grouped at the two-high level, touching or close enough to safely hide a tube at that level. Bales cannot be higher than 2-high.
5. Tube specifications: Eight rat tubes. Four bedding tubes. At least one rat tube must be elevated. Tubes must be at least **6 inches (15 cm)** apart.

Crazy 8s Scoring

All general Regular class rules apply. Special scoring is:

1. 10 points per correct rat call.
2. 10 points for tunnel.
3. 10 points for climb.
4. Points are acquired until all rats are found and tunnel and climb are completed, or until Time is called. A Clean Run (100 points) is awarded when there is no fault called and all 8 rats are found, plus climb and tunnel executed in two minutes or less. A Clean Run which is completed in 1:45 or less (rounded down to the nearest second) earns a bonus of 5 points. The Judge will call BONUS. A Clean Run which is completed in 1:30 or less earns a second bonus of 5 points. The Judge will call SUPER BONUS. No more than 10 total bonus points per run are allowed. Total possible points per run are 110.
5. Penalties (in addition to all general Barn hunt penalties) are: ▪ Failure to Tunnel -20 points. ▪ Failure to climb -20 points. ▪ First incorrect rat call (**bedding** or no tube) -20 points. ▪ No rats found or Second incorrect rat call (**bedding** or no tube) NQ score (dog shown a rat before exit).
6. To receive a qualifying score, the dog must find at least one rat and have a cumulative score of 10 points or over. Zero and negative scores are not used

Crazy 8s Judging and Faults

1. After calling rat on an incorrect bedding tube, if the falsely-called bedding tube is lifted from the straw prior to the Judge's verbal call of FAULT, the tube is to be removed from the ring. If the tube has not yet been lifted from the straw when the Judge calls FAULT, the tube must remain in place. If the handler has touched their dog after calling Rat and before the Judge calls FAULT, no touching penalty is assessed even if the tube remains in place.
2. There are no tie-breakers allowed in Crazy 8s

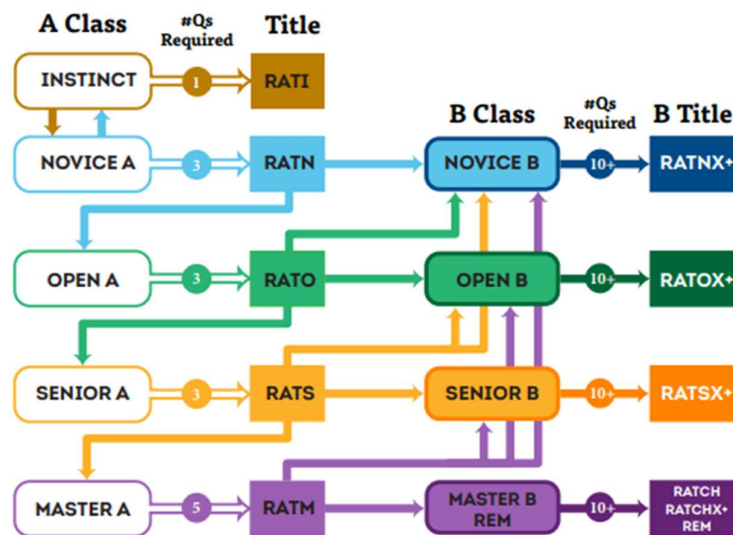
Titles

1. CZ8B: Crazy 8s Bronze, 500 points accumulated.
2. CZ8S: Crazy 8s Silver, CZ8B plus 500 points for a total of 1000 points
3. CZ8G: Crazy 8s Gold, CZ8S plus 500 points for a total of 1,500 points.
4. CZ8P: Crazy 8s Platinum, CZ8G plus 500 points for a total of 2000 points.

After the dog reaches the Platinum level, further titles are earned in 500 point increments. A dog with 2500 for example, is awarded Crazy 8s Platinum Bronze, or CZ8PB, and so on. Double Platinum will be abbreviated as CZ8P2

Part 6: Title Progression

CLASS TYPE AND ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTRY FLOW CHART, REGULAR CLASSES



A Class

Instinct 1 x QS - RATI

Novice, Open, Senior 3 x QS - RATN, RATO, RATS

Master 5 x QS - RATM

RATCH - 10 x QS

B Class

Novice, Open, Senior 10 x QS - RATNX, RATOX, RATSX

Master 10 x QS - REMX

RATCHX 10 x QS

Part 7: Eligibility to Compete

All dogs are entered in Barn Hunt International UK events at their owner's risk, and whilst every care will be taken, Barn Hunt International UK/Barn Hunt UK Ltd and the

show management will not accept responsibility for loss, damage or injury however caused to dogs, persons or property whilst at the event.

All Dogs competing in Barn Hunt® must be able to travel through a tunnel that is 18 inches (46 cm) wide and the height of one straw/hay bale on its tall side.

Dogs Eligible to Compete

- a. Dogs aged 6 months or older.
- b. Deaf Dogs. Dogs with partial or complete hearing loss.
- c. Dogs with limited or partial vision. That includes dogs missing or blind in one eye as well as dogs with partial vision in one or both eyes.
- d. Dogs with missing or partial limbs. Dogs missing a limb or a short withered limb are not automatically to be considered as lame and can be considered eligible to compete as long as they can safely navigate the course and all elements of course without showing signs of pain. Dogs must be sound on the functioning limbs. For dogs with a full length non-functioning limb, please see Dogs Ineligible to Compete.

These rules are in place to ensure that the physical health and wellbeing of dogs is protected.

Dogs Ineligible to Compete

- a. Blind dogs. Blindness means without useful vision. Line Drive is an exception.
- b. Dogs with open wounds, sutures, post-surgical bandages/wrapping. Minor scrapes may be eligible and the determination of eligibility for participation would be made by the Instructor/Judge.
- c. Dogs in wheeled carts. Line Drive is an exception.
- d. Dogs who are physically unable to complete all elements of a course, or attempting to complete the course would result in pain/discomfort for the dog. A Judge reserves the right to dismiss any dog they believe would be physically unable to complete the course or doing so would cause pain/discomfort.
- e. Bitches in Season
- f. Dogs who are people reactive; Barn Hunt Officials must be inside the ring during Trials – their safety has to be ensured. In Training events Instructors can be outside the ring and coach from the sidelines, enabling people reactive dogs to participate as canine enrichment.

Part 8: Overall Competition Rules

Assumption of Risk. All persons attending and/or entering a Barn Hunt International UK Trial or Fun Test in any capacity do so at their own risk and agree to assume responsibility for damage caused by them, or by their dogs and hold the Fun Test/Trial hosting Club and Barn Hunt International UK/Barn Hunt UK Ltd harmless for any injury sustained by their dog or by a dog or person during the Fun Test/Trial. By entering a Fun Test/Trial, owners attest that they have read, understand and will abide by all Barn Hunt International UK rules and regulations.

All Dogs competing in Barn Hunt® must be able to travel through a tunnel that is 18 inches wide and the height of one straw/hay bale.

Juniors. There is no specific minimum age for handlers to compete in Barn Hunt®. All able handlers of any age must be able to safely handle and control the dog without assistance on the way to the Blind, waiting in the Blind, on the way to the Ring, in the Ring and exiting the Ring. An appropriate adult can accompany a Junior handler but may not handle the dog. If the Instructor/Judge is of the opinion that the dog cannot be safely handled due to the handler's young age then a substitute handler will be requested. If there is no substitute handler available then the dog will be ineligible to compete.

Handler Accommodations. Some handlers may require special accommodation due to a disability, those accommodations will be tailored to that handler's specific needs. Special accommodations may include assistance getting to the blind or holding a dog in the blind (two persons in blind for that one dog), assisting the handler to the ring or even inside the ring taking the collar and leash off and replacing the collar/leash at the end of the run. If an assistant is used inside the ring to aid in unleashing and leashing the dog, the assistant remains standing at the gate in the ring while the dog is run, with their back to the ring. The assistant cannot interact with the handler, restrain the dog during the run, or accept a rat tube.

Special Considerations. All dogs competing in Barn Hunt® are expected to do so under the same general conditions for each class. The following requests cannot be made and will not be considered:

- Asking for a specific Rat Wrangler
- Asking for the Instructor/Judge/Rat Wrangler to turn their backs
- Ask that Instructors/Judges/Rat Wrangler do not move or stand in a specific place.
- Ask that friends are not Instructors/Judges/Rat Wranglers
- It is not possible to list all possible special considerations that may be requested at any event and in the scope of these rules but the intent is to convey that we strive for equity for all competitors within a class.

FUN TESTS. All Barn Hunt International UK Official Rules apply to Fun Tests (Mock Trials) Fun Test runs **DO NOT** count towards Barn Hunt Titles.

- Dogs do not need a Barn Hunt registration number to compete in Fun Tests.
- Competitors may enter any level they wish at a Fun Test, and may enter more than one level and/or multiple times at the same level if allowed by the hosting club.
- Clubs may choose to allow training in the ring, and if allowing training, whether or not treats will be allowed in the ring. All regular ring rules apply. Training must be completed within the course time allowed for the class entered. As soon as the Judge confirms training is occurring the Judge calls TRAINING to the Scribe who will mark an X on the Scribe Sheet. The Judge monitors but does not aid or assist any training activities with the exception of revealing the rat location on request. Dogs being trained in the ring do not qualify for any awards.

Entering Events. In order to compete in a Fun Test or Licensed Official Trial all competitors must fill out the entry form of the hosting Club with complete and accurate information; failure to provide complete and accurate information may result in your

entry being returned. Clubs will advise of entry opening/closing dates and may or may not allow late entries or day of entries.

Wait Lists. Clubs which fill all available entries before their closing date may choose to maintain a waiting list; those of a waiting list will be offered an entry if one becomes available before Late entries/day of Trial(s) is considered.

Clothing/Attachments. There is no specific dress code, however, clothing items which are obscene, offensive, depict racist sentiments or hate speech are forbidden. Handlers **cannot** enter the ring with treat bags/pouches, any timing device, including mobile phones or any other attachments. Anything hanging from the handler which may be considered an attachment will be requested to be removed, failure to do so may result in a NQ run.

Smoking/Vaping. No smoking or vaping is permitted in any building containing a ring or bale(s) of straw, and/or within **15 metres** of any outdoor bale(s) of straw or within **6 metres** of any outdoor blind. Clubs may impose further smoking/vaping restrictions at their discretion.

Double Handling. Double handling is aiding the competitor inside the ring from the outside of the ring. It includes telling the Judge "Climb" or "Tunnel" when the Judge has not so indicated, talking about rat locations. Most incidents of double handling are accidental or inadvertent

- **a.** If the Judge feels that the accidental/inadvertent double handling aided the handler and/or dog in the ring, the Judge must re-run the team in a later blind.
- **b.** If the Judge feels that the accidental/inadvertent double handling did not aid the handler and/or dog in the ring, a verbal warning will be sufficient for the first offense. Any person who repeatedly gives cues to the handler in the ring may be dismissed from the area around the ring or from the event grounds for the duration of the day. If the person is dismissed from the event grounds, the person would not be allowed to run in any classes, if entered, they have not yet competed in that day. The team in the ring will not be rejudged and their score is unaffected.
- **c.** Persons who are dismissed due to deliberate double handling are subject to a Misconduct review.

Loud/Disruptive dogs. If the host Club has a designated area for crating, dogs that are loud/disruptive may be asked to relocate away from the rings/regular crating area. Barn Hunt International UK allows reactive dogs to participate in Barn Hunt events; it is expected that Handlers will ensure that they locate in an area that ensures the safety of their own and other dogs.

Spectators, Dogs and Food near or in the ring. Barn Hunt is a spectator sport and spectators can stand ringside; Clubs may specify the distance spectators can be from the ring. Dogs, other than the dog in the ring and the blind, cannot be within **3 metres** of the ring and blind unless entering the blind.

Judge Decisions. If a competitor has a question about a call or action of the Judge, the competitor may politely address the question to the Judge after their run. Impolite or angry inquiries may be grounds for a Misconduct review. Video footage cannot be used during an event to change a Judge's call. The Judge may decide to uphold or reverse their decision. All Judge decisions during a Fun Test or Trial are considered final. No

Judge call can be reversed after the Fun Test or Trial is concluded and scores recorded by the Trial Secretary.

Appeals Process. If the competitor feels a Judge's final decision on a call was in error, the competitor may contact Barn Hunt UK office at info@barnhuntuk.co.uk with a written explanation of the incident and the Barn Hunt UK office will investigate. Results of the investigation may or may not be shared with the competitor. A video link may be shared with the Barn Hunt UK office, however it will not change the Judge's decision of the day, but may be used for review with the Judge.

Collars, Leads, Harnesses, Muzzles

Barn Hunt Grounds:

- We do not allow the use of electronic collars on any Barn Hunt grounds.
- We do not allow the use of prong collars including covered prong collars or chain choke collars on any Barn Hunt grounds.
- Retractable leads can be used on Barn Hunt grounds' exercise/toilet areas but dogs must be under control of the handler at all times and the lead must not enable the dog to approach another dog whilst in the exercise/toilet areas.
- All other collar, lead, harness combinations are permitted on Barn Hunt grounds. All collars/harnesses must be well fitted and not causing the dog discomfort or pain.
- Muzzles are permitted on Barn Hunt grounds.

In the Blind and going to the Ring:

- Dogs cannot be brought to or sit in the Blind on a retractable lead.
- Leads must not have attachments such as treat bags, poop bags, toys, tug toys etc.
- Dogs should be brought to the ring on a lead no longer than 6ft with collars/harnesses, that are easily and quickly removed. Barn Hunt International UK recommend that dogs run "naked" but handlers can decide to run their dogs in a flat collar or harness at their own risk. There must be no dangling or loose parts on the collar/harness (this includes ID tags) and must be well fitted. GPS type trackers must be removed from collars before entering the ring.

In the Ring:

- The recommendation is to run the dog without a collar and/or harness.
- Flat collars can be worn at owners own risk – there should be no dangling attachments on the collar or GPS type trackers.
- Well fitted harnesses can be worn at owners own risk – there should be no parts of the harness that are not flat to the dogs body (such as handles).
- Muzzles can be worn in the ring; the dog must be muzzle trained and must not be wearing a muzzle for the first time. Even with a muzzle the dog must pose no risk to the Judge, Gate steward, Rat Wranglers.

At no point can any dog be left attached to anything other than a human when outside of the ring, there must be no tying out.

Training at Trials.

Trials are a test of the knowledge, skills, and ability of the competitor and dog.

- Barn Hunt training is not allowed at Trials in unused Rings for the duration of the Trials.
- Dogs are not allowed on any course without permission except when competing on that course.
- No Rats can brought into Blind/Ring areas at any time for the duration of the Events other than those being used for the Trial(s).
- Workshops/Classes/Training held within one week of the Trial(s) cannot include the same course design(s) of the upcoming Trial(s)

Measuring Dogs

It is the responsibility of the person registering the dog and entering the Trial to correctly measure their dog, enter that information in the dog's record on the Register, and use the correct height category at Events. Judges will measure any dog(s) they feel may be in the incorrect height division. Competitors may also request that a dog be measured. If the Judge measures a dog and determines a different height division than the one registered, the competitor is required to update the registration as soon as possible.

Briefings

General Briefings will be held by the Trial Hosts prior to competition covering grounds rules, amenities locations, where to toilet dogs, introduce the Judge of Record/Relief/Backup Judge, conjunction events, running order and awards. Class briefings will be held by the Judge ringside for Instinct, Novice, and Line Drive classes. Class briefings may not be held for Open, Senior, Master, or Crazy 8s, this will be at the Judge's discretion. Base level maps will be available for competitors.

Pants/Belly Bands

Pants and Belly bands can be worn in the ring to prevent urination in the ring/on the bales. Please see Penalties section.

Part 9: Ring Information

Ring Dimensions and number of bales by Class/Level

	Instinct*	Novice*	Open*	Senior*	Master	Crazy 8s	Line Drive
Ring size	Min. 4.5 x 6 metres Max 7 x 7 metres	Min. 6 x 6 metres Max 7 x 7 metres		Min. 7 x 7 metres Max 8 x 8 metres	Min 7 x 7 metres Max 7 x 9 metres		Min. 1 x 6 metres
Minimum No of Bales required for course design/building	10 – 12 (if instinct in own ring)	20 - 30	25 - 40	35 - 55	Minimum 55	Minimum 40	7 - 11

1. All rings are to be designed according to the specifications for each class level as per the table above.

2. The majority of each ring must be physically accessible by the handler without the handler having to climb or jump over bales or bridges. Any part of the ring (other than some parts of the tunnel) not physically accessible must be visible to the handler. The area from the blind to the entrance gate, the entrance gate itself, and the area inside the ring from the entrance gate to the start box must be wheelchair accessible.

3. The course is identical for all dog heights within each class level, and must be designed with all dog heights in mind.

The Start Box

The start box is an approximately **1.2 m² mat or marked area** inside the enclosed ring area from which all teams will release their dog. Teams must be able to exit at least 2 sides of the box without encountering a bale, fence, or wall. The start box can be a mat/rug, or other solid-piece item **or a taped area**. Puzzle matting can be used. Cones, rubber discs, etc. are not allowed in a Trial/Fun Test (as they are easily moved).

Steps

Steps are used as climbing aids. They are to be placed where they are not a tripping hazard, and such that a dog using the step is able to exit onto a landing area large enough for a large dog to place all four feet. At least one step is required on all courses other than Instinct. At least one step must be at ground level. Steps may be placed at any level. Steps can be made out of any materials that can hold 200 lbs and should be approximately 50% of the height of a bale that is string side up. Ideally 12-18 inches (30-46 cm) wide and 18-24 inches (46- 61 cm) long.

Bridges

Bridges are an optional tool for Judges to add variety to a course. Bridges are boards spanning an open space in such a way that the dog could walk from one bale to another across the bridge.

1. Bridges must be anchored and stable.
2. Bridges must be as close to possible to horizontal and cannot go from one level of straw to a higher or lower level.
3. Bridges must be fully visible and bare of straw.
4. In Novice, Open, and Senior bridges cannot block a portion of the course in such a way that a handler would have to circle around a majority of the course or step over the bridge to access the area on the other side of the bridge.
5. Dogs are never required to negotiate a bridge.

Boards

Boards are used as a safe, sturdy base for straw placed on top of tunnels and for safe step up/downs. All 18" **(46 cm)** wide tunnels must be completely covered by boards

Part 10: Blind & Ring Rules

The Blinded Staging area: the area where a dog and handler wait for their run, they will **enter the Blinded area and wait to be called to the ring**. The Blind is **4.5 – 6 metres** from the ring and prevents handlers observing placement of tubes by the ring crew and/or from observing another handler's place in the ring when they call Rat.

1. Every effort must be made to keep dogs calm and quiet. Food, toys, or mats may be used in the blind as long as all food/toys/mats are removed as the dog exits

and are not disruptive. Items that make noise are not permitted in the blind. Tugging wildly, swinging the dog around, playing with other dogs, etc. is not allowed.

2. It is the handler's responsibility to get to their designated blind on a timely basis. The Blind Steward will not hold blinds for tardy handlers. Failure to enter the blind on a timely basis and/or to proceed immediately to the start line when called may result in being skipped in the order and/or up to an NQ if the delay is repeated or pronounced. The Trial Hosts and/or Judge will choose whether and when to allow the handler who has missed their blind to run.
3. Handlers in the blind may speak freely with the Blind Steward or the Trial Chair/Secretary/Judge discussing critical trial-related issues. Handlers cannot speak with anyone else whilst in the Blind.
4. Only handlers and dogs waiting to go into the ring are allowed in the blind; with the exception of differently-abled handlers and young handlers.
5. Any communication/smart device brought into the blind must be in a pocket or otherwise put away, on mute, or turned off (smart watches/devices may be worn but not used). Trial Hosts may allow handlers to put the device on a table as they enter the ring. **You are not permitted to use any type of timing device in the ring.** You should alert the Trial Secretary and Judge if you wear a medical alert device that may alert whilst you are in the Ring.
6. All dogs and handlers must be physically inside the boundaries of the blind including all of the dog's body and the handler's body.

The Blind Group

Dog and Handler Teams will be grouped between 3-6 Teams to a group; the hides of the tubes will be the same for each Blind Group. Each new group will have a different set of hides.

Handlers cannot spectate any of the dog and handler teams in their own Blind Group, however they can watch other Blind Groups in their class and any other classes.

Entering the Ring and Releasing the Dog

1. Dogs may be carried into the ring if they are of a size to be comfortably carried.
2. Recommendation is to run the dog without a collar or harness, if choosing to run with a collar and/or harness the handler does so at their own risk.
3. The dog must remain on lead until the gate is secure, after which it may be removed at any time and placed in the basket or hung on the gate. Leads cannot be left on the ground or in the starting box.
4. **Handlers are required to inform the Judge whether the rat tube(s) are to be removed if found prior to completing all elements, handlers are also required to inform how the tube will be removed. Examples may be: Handler informs Judge that they will restrain their dog whilst the Rat Wrangler removes the rat. Handler informs the Judge that they will hand the tube to the Rat Wrangler whilst restraining their dog. Clear instruction needs to be provided by the Handler prior to the run commencing.**
5. Handlers must wait for the Judge to verbally instruct them with a command such as "go when ready," before releasing their dog. If a team leaves the box before being verbally released by the judge it is a False Start. Please see "Penalties"

- After the Judge's verbal instruction to go, handlers should release the dog without delay. Handlers are allowed to take a few moments to get their dogs settled and focused after the Judge's verbal prompt to go.
 - If a Judge feels a competitor is hesitating too long in the start box, the Judge will prompt the handler, "Start now please." If the handler does not then release the dog promptly, the handler may be assessed a Stalling penalty. See "Penalties"
6. All dogs must be released from inside the start box. At least two of the dog's feet must be on the floor prior to release with the exception of wheelchair bound or other differently-abled competitors who request and receive permission of the Judge to use alternate release methods (i.e., from their lap). If a very large dog does not fit completely inside the start box, the front feet and chest of the dog must be inside the start box, facing into the course.
 7. Time starts when any part of the handler or dog exits the start box after the verbal instruction from the Judge (in the case of a very large dog, when any part of the dog previously contained in the box or any part of the handler leaves the start box). Handlers cannot put their dog in a **stay in the start box** and leave their dog to enter the course **ahead of their dog**.

Whilst in the Ring

Handlers May:

1. Move around the course while the dog works to be able to view and call the mark of the correct rat tube.
2. Speak and gesture at will and verbally praise and encourage the dog to search certain areas, climb and/or tunnel through voice and/or hand gestures.
3. Step over (but not on) the Instinct cradle.
4. Tip up or move a bale (such as a leaner) to access a tube for removal. If the competitor does not return the bale to its original position without delay and before moving on, the bale will remain where it falls for the duration of the run even if it blocks other parts of the course or the tunnel.
5. Touch/lean on the outer barrier or a post as a balance aid or use bales/boards or other course equipment to catch themselves if they slip and/or as an aid to get back up if they fall.
6. Use an obedience command such as stay/wait, sit or down.

Handlers May Not:

1. Bring food/toys/gum into the ring
2. Self-time in the ring.
3. Deliberately lead out from the start box to get an advantage. The handler and dog should leave at approximately the same time. An inadvertent lead out (e.g., handler leaves box and dog fails to move with handler) is not penalised.
4. Bowl or Drop the dog to start. Bowling is pushing/shoving/tugging the dog forward during the release.
5. Touch/pat, lean on, pick up, sit on, or step on/over any bales, boards, steps, bridges, tubes, board bumpers, distance challenge mats, or other course materials or equipment except as outlined above and in Handlers May section. Accidentally brushing an object or bale does not count as a deliberate touch and is not penalised.
6. Deliberately use hands or feet to sweep or shuffle through straw to try to find a hidden tube.

7. Deliberately touch the dog at any time after the release from the start box and before the finish of the course except for during tube removal, including body blocking with contact, pushing or nudging the dog with hip, knee, leg, or foot.
8. Grab, scruff, shake, or pull/hold the dog by the ear(s) or tail or skin alone. Scruffing is defined as holding on to the dog, with or without pulling, with fingers closed and gripping around hair and/or skin and hair only. Open fingers buried in a long coat is not scruffing.
9. Deliberately get on hands and/or knees, crawl, or lay on the ground in the ring.
10. Peer directly into a tube to check for a rat before or after calling Rat.
11. Carry a dog out of the ring as a punishment/corrective action and/or into the ring if carrying is physically uncomfortable for the dog.

Handlers Notes:

1. Phones cannot be brought into the ring; if wearing a smart device it must be set to silent. If a smart device rings or vibrates whilst in the ring, it will result in an NQ score.
2. Handlers may request to be excused from the ring at any time (e.g., dog has stopped working, is stressed, out of control, etc.). In regular classes (Instinct through Master) an NQ score will be assessed. In Crazy 8s, the team will keep accrued points (must have found at least 1 rat and have a total score above zero).
3. Elimination on the course is an NQ (non-qualifying) score for the dog. **The dog is not allowed to continue however, will be taken to a rat tube but must not spend more than 20 seconds with the tube before exiting the ring in a controlled way.** If a dog lifts its leg or squats, NQ will be called (see pants/belly bands below). Elimination includes urination, defecation, and/or throwing up. Normal slobber is not elimination. Pants and belly bands can be worn in the ring to prevent elimination on the course, please see penalties if choosing to run a dog in pants/belly band.

Tunnelling

The Tunnel effort is completed when the dog enters any entry/portal of any Official Tunnel and exits any other portal of that tunnel with its entire body, excluding the tail.

1. If there is more than one Official Tunnel on the course, successful completion of any one Official Tunnel counts as the tunnelling effort.
2. Handlers may stand in front of a tunnel entrance to try to prevent a dog from backing out. However, if the dog backs out and touches the handler's body, or the handler in any way touches the side bales or the board while attempting to block the dog, it is considered a deliberate touch and will result in an NQ score.

Climbing

The climb is completed when the dog mounts the top of any bale or completely straw covered area of a board with all feet. If a large dog climbs up with front feet and follows with rear feet while one or more front feet come back off to go back to the ground (walking over a bale) that is acceptable as a climbing effort. Climbing only one bale high is acceptable at all class levels.

The following examples are not acceptable as climbing efforts:

1. Putting only front feet or back feet on straw.

2. Jumping a bale without touching the bale or with only incidental touching of the bale such as a brush with a hind foot.
3. Putting a foot or feet on a step, bridge, or bare area of a board.

Marking the Find of the Rat

How the dog marks/indicates the find of the correct rat tube is only relevant to the handler. The handler indicates the find of the rat clearly and unequivocally and the Judge notes that indication.

1. The general indication is the word RAT with raised hand gesture clearly and unequivocally marking the find. Phrases such as "there it is", "that's it" will not be accepted as it is not possible for the Judge to know whether the handler is communicating with their dog or declaring a find.
2. Calls must be declarative, not questioning. The handler cannot ask the Judge if the call is the correct one (i.e., "is this right?" or "rat?"). It is the handler's responsibility to make the call in such a way that the Judge hears and understands it without question.
3. Dogs are not required to put their nose on a rat tube or be a specific minimum or maximum distance from the rat tube for the handler to call the find. It is only necessary for the dog to indicate the rat tube to the handler in such a way that the handler understands where the rat tube is, and for the handler to make the call and be capable of indicating the correct tube location to the Judge. The handler may call the tube after the dog has left it and/or when the dog is in a different area of the course.
4. If requested by the Judge, the handler must be able to indicate the exact location of the correct rat tube.
5. In Master, the handler must declare the course "Clear" when all rats are found. The handler may say "Clear," "Finished," or any other unequivocal word or phrase to the judge indicating that the course is clear of all rats.

Allowed Praise

After the dog finds the correct rat tube, the handler may physically and/or verbally praise the dog.

1. The handler may pet the dog, point at and/or touch the tube, move/wiggle the tube gently then follow the steps outlined in "Safely Handling/Removing the Rat Tubes".
2. Handlers may praise for as long as they like. Time does not stop during the praise period.
3. Physical praise may happen before, during, or after rat removal/handoff and can be combined with restraint. Once a handler completely removes their hands from the dog after praise or restraint, touching the dog again prior to another rat call or the end of the course will result in an NQ score.

Exiting the Ring

Dogs and handlers must exit the ring promptly at the end of each run.

1. Dogs who have been assessed a non-qualifying score for being over time or for the handler calling an incorrect tube will be immediately shown the nearest location of a rat and may be briefly praised before exiting the ring. The dog may be carried/touched/gently guided and either on or off leash. The handler is strongly encouraged but not required to take advantage of this opportunity to

praise the dog. In Master, the handler may request the total number of rats that were on the course.

2. The collar/harness and leash must be attached to the dog prior to the exit gate being opened and the dog exiting the enclosure, even if the dog is being carried. The dog tugging on the leash as it is being leashed up prior to exiting the ring is not to be penalised unless the tugging is prolonged and/or so out of control that it may delay the Trial or endanger the Judge, Rat Wranglers, or damage the course. The penalty assessed in that instance would be Lack of Control. See Penalties.

Part 11: Scoring & Penalties

Qualifying Scores (QS)

A team receives a qualifying score/leg toward a Barn Hunt title at a Licensed Trial when all of the requirements of the entered level/course are completed within the set standard course time for that level/course without incurring any errors which would result in an NQ.

Non-Qualifying Scores (NQ)

A Non Qualifying (NQ) score will be assessed for teams who do not meet the minimum criteria for each class level and/ or who do not meet the criteria of the rules as written. While most areas of these rules identify when an action will result in an NQ, competitors are advised to carefully read the rules for words such as must and cannot. Those indicate areas where failing scores will be assessed.

Dogs/handlers are immediately dismissed from the ring if:

1. The handler or dog takes any action in the ring which would result in that handler or dog written up for misconduct (dog aggression, handler aggression or unsportsmanlike behaviour).
2. The handler's cell phone/smart device audibly alerts or rings inside the ring.
3. The dog destroys the course or the tunnel (other Lack of Control issues may also result in dismissal).
4. The Judge decides that in the interest of safety or for other substantial cause, the team must be dismissed.

The Handler will be advised of an NQ score and the reason why – the course is finished. Dogs who have been assessed a non-qualifying score for being over time, for the handler calling an incorrect tube or dog eliminating in the ring will be immediately shown the nearest location of a rat and may be briefly praised before exiting the ring.

Penalties

1. False Start. For Regular classes and Line Drive, handlers and/or dogs who leave the start box before being directed to/released by the Judge are assessed a 20 second penalty. If the Judge was able to click their stopwatch immediately, the 20 second penalty is added to their time for that run. If not, or if they hit a rat tube prior to notification of the false start, they are run in a later blind and the 20 seconds added to that time. For Crazy 8s, if there is a false start and the judge is able to click the timer as the team leaves the box, the course time goes to 1:40. If the judge is unable to click the timer as the team leaves the box, and the handler moves to a later blind and the time to complete their second run will be 1:40. Crazy 8s teams who false start are not eligible for bonus points. A second false start is an NQ in all Classes.

2. Stalling. Stalling may be called if a handler excessively delays at the start after the judge has instructed the handler to exit the start box and begin the hunt; a 10 second penalty will be assessed.
3. Lack of Control. Lack of Control can be assessed if the handler demonstrates an inability to control their dog in a timely manner. For Instinct, Novice, and Line Drive a Lack of Control error is assessed a 10 second penalty for the first instance during a run and an NQ for a second instance. For Open, Senior, Master, and Crazy 8s any Lack of Control error is an NQ. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - a. The dog refuses to be caught within a reasonable amount of time during an attempt to restrain or after a run.
 - b. Takes a tube into a tunnel and does not emerge immediately.
 - c. Causes excessive destruction to the ring structure, materials, or bales.
 - d. Will not allow the handler to remove the tube from its mouth (tug of war), etc. Judges should give handlers some time to get their dog under control, but if the Judge, and/or workers are in danger and/or if the dog refuses to be caught, is destroying the course/bales/tunnels to the extent that they must be rebuilt/replaced, and/or and is unduly delaying the Trial, the Judge may call a Lack of Control error.
4. Pants/Belly Bands. A 20 second penalty will be assessed should a dog wearing pants or belly bands squat or lift their legs to urinate. **The time penalty will be added at the end of the run which may take the run over the course time resulting in an NQ.** Defecating in the ring even wearing pants is an NQ.

Part 12: Rats in Barn Hunt

Barn Hunt International UK operates under License to Barn Hunt Association LLC; we are as authentic to the sport of Barn Hunt in North America as we can be. We are not able to use live rats/gerbils as they do in North America, however we use rats that are from reptile food suppliers. The rats are partially thawed/thawed ahead of the start of Trials; handlers and dogs do not have sight of the rats and handlers cannot smell the rats.

All Rats must be sourced from reputable reptile food suppliers, no other source of rats can be used at any Barn Hunt International UK Event.

Part 13: Rat Tube Locations

Tubes (rat, bedding and empty) may be hidden almost anywhere on the course within the ring enclosure.

1. All tubes must be hidden at least **60 cm** from any side or corner of the start box
2. Tubes must be hidden so the average handler can see at least part of the dog.
3. In some blinds the live tubes may be in a more accessible place than in others. That is the "luck of the draw."
4. Tubes must be loosely covered with straw in such a way that they cannot be seen by handler or dog.
5. **Tubes must be set horizontally not vertically.**

Part 14: Removing Rat Tubes

At any class level, if a rat tube is found before all elements of the course are completed the handler may choose any of three different ways to safely interact with the rat tube. The handler may either Redirect their dog and leave the live tube in place (or the dog may Self-Redirect); Remove the live tube with or without physical restraint; or Restrain

the dog so the Rat Wrangler can remove the live tube. The handler may choose any of the three options after calling rat for any or all of the live tubes on the course, and may praise their dog as outlined in Allowed Praise.

Important General Rat Tube Removal Rules

1. The tube is not picked up by any Barn Hunt Official unless the dog is restrained and **60 cm** from the tube.
2. If the rat tube is found as the last element of the course, every effort should be made to leave the tube in place if possible.
3. The dog running after the Rat Wrangler/tube is not Lack of Control or aggression/grounds for an NQ unless the dog interferes with the Barn Hunt Official in such a way as to put them in danger (trips the wrangler, grabs clothing, body slams/bounces off the wrangler causing them to lose their balance, etc.).
4. As soon as the competitor calls Rat, they may step on/over any bales and into a distance challenge to get to their dog, even before the judge confirms the call.

Methods of Removal

1. Redirects - The handler may leave the tube in place and Redirect the dog to other elements of the course through hand and/or voice gestures. Any tubes left in place by the handler will remain in place for the duration of the run and cannot be removed.
 - a. When the dog voluntarily moves away from the tube before the handler can restrain the dog, that is considered a Dog Self-Redirect. The handler may try to call the dog back to the tube for praise and/or restraint, but if the dog refuses to come promptly, the handler must move on with the dog. Before moving on the handler may either remove the tube and hand it to the Barn Hunt Official (see Method 2: Removes) or leave the tube in place.
 - b. **A Handler cannot leave the tube in place and then return to remove it.**
 - c. If the dog returns to a tube left in place and the handler calls the same Rat again, they are assessed an NQ score.
2. Removes - The handler may choose to Remove the tube and hand it to the Barn Hunt Official.
 - a. The handler must be able to safely remove the tube without an extended wrestling match/tug of war. If handlers cannot both restrain their dog and safely remove the tube they should choose Method 3: Restrains.
 - b. The handler must control the dog. The dog may be partially or wholly physically and/or verbally restrained, have moved on, or otherwise be under the handler's control. Praise, tube removal and restraint may be combined.
 - c. Once the handler picks up the tube after praising the dog, he/she may briefly show it to the dog briefly. The tube should be handed off to the Barn Hunt Official without delay.
 - d. The Barn Hunt Official will not take a tube if the dog is leaping up or otherwise interfering with the tube or Official. The dog's teeth must be at least **60 cm** away from the tube for the Official to accept it from the handler.
 - e. The handler may hand the tube directly out of the ring but cannot choose this method as a special consideration training aid (i.e., cannot hand all tubes out of the ring as a way of not having inside Barn Hunt Officials move.

- f. If the handler does not feel confident about being able to safely remove the tube, the handler must restrain the dog for the Barn Hunt Official to remove the tube.
- 3. Restrains - When the dog is completely physically Restrained by the handler, the Barn Hunt Official will remove the rat tube. Handlers should choose this option even with a compliant dog if they feel they could not brace a hand/foot and/or climb on/over a bale in order to reach a higher tube for safe removal.
 - a. The Official will automatically step forward; the handler does not call the Official, only restrain their dog. If the handler releases or redirects the dog before the tube has been removed from the straw, the Official will leave the tube in place.
 - b. Handlers may physically turn their dog away from the Official to facilitate safe removal and/or move/scoot the dog into a safer place on the course while restraining (i.e., to prevent the dog from being at a risk of falling when released).
 - c. Handlers violently tackling or laying on their dogs in a way uncomfortable to the dog may be called for Lack of Control.
 - d. The handler may choose to call the dog to be restrained. The dog must come as directly as it safely can to the handler for restraint. If the dog instead moves away from the handler to explore other areas of the course, it is considered a Dog Self-Redirect, see Method 2: Removes.
 - e. If the Official moves in to remove the tube prior to the end of the praise period or before the dog is properly restrained, the handler may politely ask the Official to wait.
 - f. The handler cannot deliberately pick up the dog, but may place one or both hands on the dog's chest area, and/or gently cupped around the forelegs at the shoulder, and/or one or both arms loosely around the neck, and/or torso, with a hand or hands on the chest. A "flyball hold" (hands cupped around the top front of the rear legs above the stifle) can be used to move the dog back from the tube, but the hold must then shift to the chest area without delay.
 - g. At least two of the dog's feet must remain in contact with the ground/surface at all times while the handler is touching the dog. If the dogs feet inadvertently leave the ground despite the handler's best efforts there is no penalty if the handler immediately returns the feet to the ground or surface.
 - h. The dog must remain restrained until the Barn Hunt Official is safe. Only the handler can determine, based on the individual dog's personality, when the Official is safe. The Barn Hunt Officials will not verbally mark when the rat has left the ring.

Releasing the Dog after Restraint

After praise and reward, once the handler feels the Barn Hunt Official is safe, the handler may turn the dog in place to point a specific direction, but cannot scoot/walk the dog forward prior to release in order to get an advantage (i.e., closer to the tunnel). The handler cannot bowl the dog to release from restraint.

Part 15: Ribbons, Rosettes & Awards

FUN TESTS

Ribbons and Awards – Are optional and at the discretion of the Trials Hosts. If awarded they will not have the term “Qualifying Score” or have a Title. No awards at Fun Tests count towards Barn Hunt Titles.

There are no placements in Barn Hunt International UK Fun Tests.

OFFICIAL TRIALS

Qualifying Scores – Awards will be given for all Qualifying Scores in all Classes; the design and type of Qualifying Score awards are at the Trial Hosts discretion – they could include but not limited to ribbons, medals, certificates, rosettes. They will have the BHI UK logo.

New Titles – Awards will be given for all New Titles in all Classes; the design and type of New Title awards are the Trial Hosts discretion – they could include but not limited to ribbons, medals, rosettes, certificates. They will have the BHI UK logo.

High in Trial – Trial Hosts can choose to issue awards for High in Trial scores, this is discretionary and not to be expected. If awarded they will have the BHI UK logo.

There are no placements in Barn Hunt International UK Official Trials.

Colours of ribbons and rosettes will vary based on the Trial Host; there are no required colours for ribbons and rosettes – the only requirement is that they have the BHI UK logo.