

ASSOCIATION OF MASTERS OF HARRIERS AND BEAGLES
CONSTITUTION, RULES & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

INDEX

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

A. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 1 Jurisdiction
- 2 Purposes
- Membership of the Association**
- 3 Member Hunts
- 4 Affiliated Member Hunts
- 5-6 Individual Members
- Officers of the Association**
- 7 The President
- 8 The Chairman and Vice Chairman
- 9-10 The Committee
- 11 The Director
- 12 Other Committee Appointees
- 14 Point-to-Point Committee
- Administration of the Association**
- 15 Annual General Meeting
- 16-18 General Meetings
- 19-20 Casting Vote of the Chairman and Quorums
- 21-22 Annual Events of the Association
- 23 Authorities
- 24 Members' Fees

B. COMPLAINTS, MISCONDUCT AND DISPUTES

- 1-2 Complaints, Misconduct and Disciplinary Procedure
- 3 Disputes

C. ADMINISTRATION OF MEMBER HUNTS

- 1-2 Hunt Constitution
- 3-4 Mastership and Hunt Chairmen
- 5 Corresponding Master
- 6-7 Responsibility of Masters
- 8 Insurances
- 9 Point-to-Points

D. MEMBER HUNT COUNTRY

- 1 Registration
- 2 Loan of Country
- 3-4 Country of a Disbanded Member Hunt
- 5 New Hunts
- 6 Amalgamation
- 7-9 Visiting
- 10 Kennels

E. THE CONDUCT OF HUNTING

- 1 General Principles
- 2-3 Hunting Restrictions and Advice
- 4 Responsibilities during Hunting

F. HOUNDS

- 1 Animal Welfare Legislation
- 2-4 Ownership
- 5 Kennel Inspections
- 6-7 Puppies and Stud Dogs
- 8 Restrictions on Hound Showing
- 9-12 Drafting Hounds
- 13 Stud Book

G. HUNT STAFF AND EMPLOYMENT

- 1 Contracts of Employment
- 2 Hunt Staff and Enquiries
- 3 Employment Year
- 4-5 Engagement and Disengagement
- 6 Seminars
- 7 Health and Safety
- 8 Protective Equipment
- 9 Firearms

APPENDIX 1: RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR RUNNING A HUNT

APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FROM THE AMHB AND THE HUNTING OFFICE

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings ascribed to them:

“Affiliated Member Hunt” means a pack of harriers or beagles not located in England, Wales or Scotland that is affiliated to the Association as detailed in section A Rule 4

“Association” means the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles.

“Association Complaints Members” means the persons appointed by the Association for the purpose of dealing with complaints and disciplinary matters in accordance with the Association’s Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure.

“Chairman” means the chairman of the Association as detailed in Section A Rule 8.

“Committee” mean the committee constituted in accordance with Section A Rule 9.

“Council of Hunting Associations (CHA)” is the umbrella body for the Member Associations in the UK.

“Country” means the country of a Member Hunt as registered with the Association.

“Director” means the director of the Association as detailed in Section A Rule 11.

“Disciplinary Board” means a board convened by the Association’s Complaints Members to investigate a complaint or disciplinary matter in accordance with Rule B 1.

“Guidance Notes” means notes for Members published by the Association from time to time.

“Hounds” means harrier and/or beagle hounds.

“Hunt Chairman” means the chairman of a Member Hunt.

“Hunt Club” means a Member Hunt without hounds.

“Hunt Staff” means all Huntsmen, Kennel Huntsmen, Whippers-in, Kennelmen, Countrymen, Terriermen or any other person whether professional or amateur and whether employed by, or legally self-employed and contracted to, the Hunt or Master thereof. Grooms employed by the Hunt in that capacity shall be exempted for these purposes.

“Hunting Office” means the administrative office of the Council of Hunting Associations.

“Individual Member” means a person as detailed in Section A Rule 5.

“Master” means Master of a Member Hunt.

“Member Hunt” means a hunt as detailed in Section A Rule 3.

“Members” means Member Hunts and Individual Members together.

“Misconduct” means a Member or a member of Hunt staff will be said to be guilty of misconduct if they act or

permit others to act:

- a) Contrary to any of the Rules;
- b) Contrary to any instructions from the nominated representative of their employer or the entity which engages them and/ or where clearly communicated, anyone else with direct authority over their employment; or
- c) Against the better interests of Hunting and/or in a way which brings Hunting into disrepute and/or in a way which may cause reputational damage to Hunting.

“Officers” means those persons listed in Section A Rules 7 and 8 and 11 to 14.

“Point-to-Point Authority (PPA)” is the governing body of Point to Point Racing, set up jointly as a Limited Liability Company by the MFHA, the Jockey Club, the Point to Point Owners & Riders Association and the Point-to-Point Secretaries Association.

“President” means the president of the Association as detailed in Section A Rule 7.

“Rules” means these rules of the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles.

“Scottish Hunts” are those Member Hunts operating in Scotland.

“Stud Book” means the stud books published by the Association detailing the breeding of harriers and beagles.

“Vice-Chairman means the vice-chairman of the Association as detailed in Section A Rule 8.

Except so far as the context otherwise requires words denoting the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and words denoting any one gender shall include all genders. The headings are included for ease of reference only and shall have no effect on the interpretation or construction of these Rules.

A. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Jurisdiction of the Association

1. The Association is the governing body for member Harrier and Beagle Hunts in the England, Scotland & Wales.

Purposes of the Association

2. The purposes of the Association shall be to oversee the promotion and proper management of Harrier and Beagle Hunts.

To this end the Association aims to:

- a) Set and maintain standards of conduct and performance of Member Hunts in kennels and in their other activities;
- b) Encourage development of the best working qualities of the harrier and beagle;
- c) Promote the maintenance of a sustainable hare population;
- d) Assist Member Hunts to make a meaningful contribution to the wider management and conservation of the countryside;
- e) Promote the social and economic values that hunts bring to rural communities;
- f) Protect Members from adverse legislation;
- g) Liaise with other organisations whose legitimate interests are concerned with the hare, the hound or the countryside.

Membership

Member Hunts

3. Membership is open to every bona fide harrier and beagle hunt that is capable of fulfilling the criteria laid out below. Each Member Hunt must: -

- a) Have a Master or Masters, who are Individual Members of the Association;
- b) Ensure that its Hunt Chairman, where appointed, shall be an Individual Member of the Association;
- c) Ensure that its amateur huntsman, where appointed, shall be an Individual Member of the Association;
- d) Ensure that the chairman of its board of directors (where the Member Hunt is incorporated and where that person is not also the Hunt Chairman) and Honorary Secretary shall be Individual Members of the Association;
- e) Ensure that its professional huntsman, where appointed, shall contract to abide by the Rules and any Guidance Notes relevant to his duties;
- f) Have a registered country whose boundaries are approved by the Association;
- g) Be able to administer properly the affairs of the Member Hunt; and to conduct its operations to the

expected standards of the Association;

h) Care for its hounds and associated horses where applicable, as provided for by Law and the Rules;

Affiliated Member Hunts

4. Affiliated Member Hunts are affiliated to the Association only for the purpose of registering their hounds (at their option) in the Stud Book (subject to (i) payment of the appropriate fee to make an entry and (ii) qualification in accordance with the rules of the Stud Book). In order for a pack of beagles or harriers not located in England Wales or Scotland to qualify as an Affiliated Member Hunt all its Masters must become Individual Members of the Association.

Individual Members

5. New candidates for Individual Membership shall be proposed and seconded by existing Individual Members of not less than one year's standing, who shall have been personally acquainted with the candidate for not less than two years, unless such condition is waived at the discretion of the Committee. The candidate must sign a membership application form and thereby undertake to abide by the Rules. Thereafter, the candidate's name shall be submitted to the Committee for election at its discretion. Consideration will be given to a) whether the applicant has previously acted in breach of the Rules or the rules of another hunting association or been found guilty of Misconduct, b) whether the applicant is considered to be of good reputation and character within the hunting and wider rural community. The decision of the Committee concerning eligibility for membership is final.

6. Individual Membership is open to all who support the role of the Association as laid out in these Rules but is mandatory for those persons described in Rule A 3 clauses (a) to (d).

7. The Committee has the right to take suitable action, including withdrawing or suspending membership of the AMHB if, in the opinion of the Committee, a Member or an individual/s under his control is guilty of Misconduct. A Member may appeal against the Committee's decision in writing within 14 days, whereupon the Committee will convene a panel, subject to the Complaints and Disciplinary procedure herein. A Member's membership may be suspended at any time, pending the outcome of these Disciplinary Procedures.

Officers of the Association

The President

7. The President shall be appointed by the Committee for a term of one year. He shall also be president of the Association's annual Hound Show.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman

8. The Committee shall elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve for terms of three years each. Only Individual Members are eligible to be Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Association. A Chairman and/or Vice Chairman may stand again for re-election.

The Committee

9. The Association shall be served by an elected Committee. The Committee shall be formed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, President, and a minimum of three Individual Members who are associated with Member Hunts who hunt with harriers and a minimum of six Individual Members who are associated with Member Hunts who hunt with beagles. The Committee shall meet at least twice per year and as often as circumstances require.

10. One third of the members of the Committee excluding the Officers and co-opted members shall retire annually by rotation. Such retiring Committee members' places shall be filled by election at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. Retiring members of the Committee are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for election or re-election to the Committee must be received by the Director not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by Individual Members of the Association.

The Director

11. The appointment of the Director shall be approved by the Committee. The Director attends meetings of the Committee.

Other Committee Appointees

12. The Committee shall appoint a Registrar of Countries, an Editor of the Stud Book and a Hare Conservation Officer for such terms as the Committee require. Each of these appointees may be invited to attend but not vote at meetings of the Committee unless they are also elected members of the Committee.

13. The Committee shall be able to co-opt additional members for purposes and periods as the Committee shall decide but such co-optees shall not be entitled to vote at Committee Meetings. Unless stated otherwise co-optees shall cease to be co-opted at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may appoint such other sub-committees or ad hoc groups as are necessary to carry out the proper working of the Association. Any such groups are to be chaired by a member of the Committee. They shall report to the Chairman of the Committee.

Point-to-Point

14. The Committee will appoint a person to represent it on the MFHA Point-to-Point Committee

Administration of the Association

Annual General Meeting

15. The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year at which the annual statement of accounts and reports from the Chairman and Director will be provided and made available.

General Meetings

16. The Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting provided that at least 14 days' notice is given to members. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by Individual Members provided a letter signed by not less than twenty Individual Members is lodged with the Director stating the business to be discussed, not later than 28 days prior to the proposed date of the meeting.

17. An Individual Member who is unable to be present at a General Meeting may appoint another member to vote as his proxy on a matter that has been specified in the agenda, provided that a written authority is passed to the Director before the meeting.

18. Any amendment to the Rules proposed by an Individual Member must be sent in writing to the Director. Notice of such proposed amendment shall be circulated to members not less than 28 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Any amendment to the Rules proposed by the Committee may be put to an EGM or at the AGM provided Members are given not less than 14 days' notice of such EGM or the AGM of any such proposed amendment. A two-thirds vote cast is required for approval of any amendment to the Rules.

Casting Vote of the Chairman & Quorums

19. At all meetings of the Association, the Chairman's vote shall be used only as a casting vote.

20. The Chairman, or his nominee, and five Committee members shall form a quorum at Committee Meetings; and twenty Individual Members shall form a quorum for any General Meeting of the Association.

Annual Events of the Association

21. There shall be an annual Association Conference unless the Committee decides otherwise which may be held with the Annual General Meeting.

22. There shall be an annual Association Hound Show unless the Committee decides otherwise. The Committee shall draw up the prize list and conditions of showing, provide the cups and appoint the judges for the Association Hound Show. The Committee may make such other arrangements for the Association Hound Show as may from time to time be necessary.

Authorities

23. The Committee shall have the following authorities:

(a) Authority to regulate an Individual Member or a Member Hunt in accordance with the Rules.

(b) Authority to investigate matters brought before it concerning Members as well as to adjudicate on all such matters and resolve all disputes brought before it.

(c) Authority to appoint Association Complaints Members or the purposes of dealing with complaints and disciplinary matters and, more generally, authority to implement and enforce the Association's Complaints and

Disciplinary Procedure, including the provision for payment of compensation and the imposition of penalties and other remedies as provided for therein.

(d) Authority to recommend new or revised Rules for adoption by the Annual or any General Meeting.

(e) Authority to issue Notes that provide specific instructions to Members and Hunt Staff on any matters

(f) Authority to set the rate of the annual fees paid by Members and the arrangements by which it will be paid.

(g) Authority to maintain the Stud Book.

(h) Authority to take suitable action if in the opinion of the Committee the actions of a Member bring hunting into disrepute or seriously damage the future opportunities for hunting in the United Kingdom.

(i) Authority to do such other acts as are reasonably necessary to enable the Association to carry out its regulatory and advisory functions.

Members' Fees

24. Member Hunt and Hunt Individual Members' fees shall be levied and are due in accordance with the arrangements as set by the Committee from time to time. All Members must pay fees to the Association by the due date. Any Member who is three months in arrears with the payment of fees shall cease to be a Member of the Association.

B. COMPLAINTS DISPUTES AND MISCONDUCT

Complaints & disciplinary procedures

1. The Association's Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure will be deployed in the event of a complaint or an alleged breach of the Rules or other Misconduct being made against any Member, Member Hunt or its Masters or other officers (chairmen or employers of Hunt Staff) , or Hunt Staff. Masters and Hunt Chairmen must familiarise themselves with these procedures:

- a) The Association Complaints Members shall have the power to deal with complaints and disciplinary matters made against any Member, Member Hunt or its Masters, or other officers, or Hunt Staff.
- b) In the event that the Association Complaints Members deem it necessary, they may refer the matter to a Disciplinary Board of up to three members, selected by the Committee of the Association. A Disciplinary Board shall have the power to decide upon and resolve the complaint or disciplinary matter;
- c) Members appearing before a Disciplinary Board are to be informed of the procedure to be adopted and are entitled to legal or other reasonably suitable representation at their own expense;
- d) The Disciplinary Board shall apply the civil standard of proof and make its decisions by a majority or by unanimity;
- e) Decisions of a Disciplinary Board are first notified to the Chairman of the Association before being published and implemented.

2. If a complaint is upheld against a Member or the Member is adjudged to have been guilty of a disciplinary matter, the Association Complaints Member or the Disciplinary Board may impose one or more of the following sanctions:-

- a) A formal reprimand;
- b) Payment of the costs of the enquiry;
- c) Suspension of membership for a defined period;
- d) Expulsion from membership;
- e) A compensation payment commensurate with any loss claimed by a third party;
- j) Placing a Member Hunt under the control of a nominee of the Committee for a given period;
- k) Require the Member Hunt to take disciplinary action against any member of the Member Hunt.

Disputes

3. Disputes affecting Member Hunts and/or Members:

- a) Every Member shall be bound to refer to the Committee any unresolved dispute between Member Hunts or Members and to submit to and comply with any decision of the Committee thereon.

- b) Each party to the dispute shall submit in writing two copies of its case to the Director within three weeks of being called upon to do so.
- c) The parties involved in the dispute shall at the time of the initial referral lodge such a sum as shall from time to time be agreed by the Committee by way of a deposit to cover the costs of any subsequent enquiry. Such deposit may be returned at the conclusion of the enquiry at the sole discretion of the Committee.
- d) The Committee shall forward to each party a copy of the case lodged by the other party and shall have the authority to take any further evidence it deems necessary.
- e) The Committee shall have the authority to refer such disputes to whatever body or person it deems appropriate to resolve such disputes. This decision is final.

C. ADMINISTRATION OF MEMBER HUNTS

Hunt Constitution.

1. Member Hunts must have a written constitution or memorandum and articles of association (where the Member Hunt is incorporated) adopted, where applicable, at a general meeting of that Member Hunt compatible with these Rules and in a form approved by the Association. Each Member Hunt's constitution or articles and memorandum of association shall be lodged with the Director.

2. Member Hunts shall also include in their constitutions and/or articles and memoranda of incorporation an obligation to remain a Member Hunt and an undertaking to accept the Rules and jurisdiction of the Association.

Masterships and Hunt Chairmen

3. Masterships of Member Hunts shall commence as of 1st May in any year. Appointed Masters shall be notified in advance to the Director by 1st February.

4. New Masters and Chairmen are expected to attend the next available "New Masters'/Chairmen's Course" run by the Association from time to time.

Corresponding Master

5. Each Member Hunt must nominate a 'Corresponding Master'. The content of Association notices sent to the 'Corresponding Master' shall be deemed to be communicated to and known by all the Hunt's Masters and its Chairman or as otherwise advised.

Responsibility of Masters

6. It is the duty of Masters to ensure that all Hunt Staff, or amateurs acting as such, are fully conversant of the Rules of the Association. This obligation shall be included in the employment contracts of Hunt Staff.

7. Masters of Member Hunts are expected to maintain a basic knowledge of the hare population in their Hunt Country and to promote the encouragement of this population at a sustainable level. It is fundamental to the work of the Association that Member Hunts provide in a timely manner such data concerning hare populations and other matters as the Association requests from time to time.

Insurances

8. All Member Hunts are required to maintain such adequate public liability and employers' liability insurance cover as the Committee shall from time to time direct. If requested by the Director, they are to provide evidence of such insurance. The Association cannot be relied on to under-write Member Hunts that fail to make such provisions.

All Member Hunts must maintain legal fees indemnity insurance.

Point-to-Points

9. A Master of a Member Hunt that runs a point-to-point is responsible for ensuring that the meeting is run in compliance with Rules issued by, and from time to time updated by, the Point-to-Point Authority (PPA) and by the MFHA Point-to-Point Committee, and in accordance with all PPA and British Horse Racing Authority regulations pertaining to Point-to-Point Steeplechases in force at the time.

D. MEMBER HUNT COUNTRY

Registration

1. Every Member Hunt's Country, including its boundaries, must be registered with and be subject to the approval of the Association.

Loan of Country

2. Subject to the approval of the Committee, Member Hunts may, lend a portion of their Country to another Member Hunt. The loan may be terminated by either party giving at least six months' notice in writing, provided that such a notice to terminate, if given by the Member Hunt which granted the loan, shall not be effective until it has received the approval of the Committee. The Committee will consider each notice on its merits. Any loan of Country must be registered with the Association. From 1st May 2011 any loan in excess of 10 years shall cease to be a loan and shall form part of the Country of the Member Hunt to whom it was originally loaned.

Country of a Disbanded Member Hunt

3. When a Member Hunt is disbanded, the Hunt Chairman of such Member Hunt shall inform the Director, who shall place the matter of the future registration of that Member Hunt's Country before the Committee. In the absence of an application from a Member Hunt for all or part of the Country, the Committee may temporarily assign it to a Hunt Club which may invite Member Hunts in for hunting days. On no account may unilateral arrangements be made by the outgoing Master(s) with regard to the disposal of the previously registered Country.

4. When a Member Hunt is considered by the Committee to be inactive; not to have acted properly over a reasonable period; not to have hunted all or part of its Country fairly; or to have effectively disposed of its hounds, the Committee may after due warning disband the Member Hunt; reallocate all or part of the Country and/or allocate the hounds to other Member Hunts.

New Hunts

5. Application for membership by a new hunt cannot be accepted from a hunt that seeks to register country already registered to a Member Hunt. Applications must be made in writing to the Director and be accompanied by evidence that proper arrangements have been made with other registered Hunts within whose boundaries the proposed New Hunt may be situated and with all adjoining Member Hunts of the Association. The Association shall be entitled to inspect the proposed kennels of such new hunt. If such kennels are not in a condition acceptable to the Association, such new hunt shall be required to carry out the recommendations of the Association before their application for membership can be considered further. If accorded probationary Member Hunt status by the Committee, it will be granted for a period of at least one year, during which time the new hunt will be expected to have conducted its affairs generally in a manner acceptable to the Committee. If during the probationary period the new hunt's affairs are:

- (a) acceptable to the Committee, the new hunt shall be deemed to have become a Member Hunt at the expiry of such probationary period; or
- (b) not acceptable to the Committee, then the Committee may either refuse the application or extend the probationary period.

Amalgamation

6. Member Hunts seeking to amalgamate must give notice in advance to the Director who shall place the matter before the Committee who shall have approval over the boundaries of the Countries of the two Member Hunts seeking to amalgamate as well as other material elements of the amalgamation including but not limited to the future of hounds.

Visiting

7. A Member Hunt may not meet in the Country of another Member Hunt without the permission of the Master of the resident Hunt. The Master of the visiting Hunt is fully responsible for the conduct of the day and any liability that may arise even where the resident Member Hunt is making the arrangements for the day's activities.

8. A Master who is, by invitation, taking his hounds to meet in country that is not registered to any Member Hunt must ensure that he complies with the visiting strategy promulgated by the Association from time to time.
9. Member Hunts that visit Scotland must operate within the bounds of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and such other legislation as may from time to time apply in Scotland.

Kennels

10. No Member Hunt shall kennel outside its Country unless agreed by the Member Hunt in whose Country it is proposed that such kennelling shall take place. No Member Hunt may kennel with or may kennel a hunt which is not a member of an association recognised by the Council of Hunting Associations unless prior approval has been given by the Joint Committee.

E. THE CONDUCT OF HUNTING

General Principles

1. As a general principle Member Hunts agree:
 - a) Every person engaged in any hunting activity must at all times act in accordance with the law;
 - b) Every hunting activity must be carried out in a manner that respects wild, farm and domestic animals and property including land, trees, crops and watercourses;
 - c) All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that hunting activities are only carried out on land with the permission of the owner, tenant or occupier of the land in question;
 - d) Every hunting activity must be carried out in a manner which respects any other lawful activity being carried on by any other person on the land or in the vicinity;
 - e) No one may carry out any hunting activity that is likely to bring hunting into disrepute.

Hunting Restrictions and Advice

2. Masters must make proper arrangements for access with farmers, landowners, and owners and tenants of shoots.
3. Member Hunts must use every effort to prevent hounds hunting into a "built-up" area or unsuitable areas.
8. Mobile phones and radios should only be used in the hunting field for matters of hound safety and welfare or in an emergency.

Responsibilities during Hunting

4. The hunting of a country is the sole responsibility of the Masters. They are responsible for the actions of the Hunt Staff and the conduct of the followers. In the absence of the Master, whether in the field or otherwise, he must appoint a suitable and experienced deputy to act for him. However, the Master remains fully responsible for his deputy's actions.

Scottish Hunts

5. Scottish Hunts and Member Hunts visiting Scotland must operate within the bounds of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and such other legislation as may from time to time apply to hunting in Scotland.
6. Accordingly the Rules and any Instructions or Guidance Notes shall not apply to Scottish Hunts in so far as they relate to any activity regulated by the Law of Scotland.

F. HOUNDS

Animal Welfare Legislation

1. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 sets out the duty imposed on any person who is responsible for any animal in order to ensure its welfare. Members and their Hunt Staff must be conversant with this law.

Ownership

2. The ownership of hounds in each Member Hunt shall be set out in its constitution or memorandum and articles of association. Where hounds belong to a Member Hunt they should be vested in the name of at least two trustees by deed or in a company limited by shares or guarantee, which is owned by or on behalf of the Member Hunt.

3. When a Master takes over a pack which belongs to a Member Hunt, both he and the Member Hunt's committee should enter into a written agreement which should state:

- (1) the total number of hounds in the kennels, both entered and un-entered, and the name, age and sex of each hound taken over;
- (2) that no Master can take hounds from a Member Hunt at the termination of his Mastership unless with the agreement of the hunt committee who shall be entitled to keep the equivalent number of hounds of approximately the same age and sex, as specified under Rule (1) above and provided the retiring Master is going into the Mastership of another Member Hunt;
- (3) that no hounds shall be drafted after November the 1st by a retiring Master in his last season without the written consent of the hunt committee or other owners of the hounds of the Member Hunt.

4. All hounds over 8 weeks old must be individually microchipped in Accordance with The Microchipping of Dogs Acts 2015 in England, Wales 2015 and Scotland 2016. Hounds may also be individually identified by the initial(s) of its Member Hunt and/or a record number. Member Hunt's 'initials' are to be registered with the Director.

Kennel Inspections

5. From time to time the Association shall arrange for inspections of Member Hunts' kennels and hounds by appointees of the Association. Member Hunts must agree to co-operate in such inspections and to implement any recommendations made to Member Hunts following such inspections. All Member Hunts shall agree to their kennel premises (excluding personal dwelling places) being open to announced or unannounced inspections by Hunting Office Officials, at the discretion of the AMHB Director.

Puppies

6. Puppies must not be sent to 'walk' in the Country of another Member Hunt without informing the Master of that Member Hunt.

Stud Dogs

7. The charging of stud fees for the service of stallion hounds of Member Hunts, however owned, is prohibited. Member Hunts shall only accept bitches for service from Member Hunts or by hunts in the Irish Association of Masters of Beagles or recognised packs of Harriers in Ireland. Any other cases must be approved by the Director whose decision shall be final.

Restrictions on Hound Showing

8. Member Hunts shall not show hounds at any show held under Kennel Club rules unless approved by the Director whose decision shall be final. Further, Member Hunts must not register hounds with the Kennel Club.

Drafting Hounds

9. The responsibility for drafting hounds lies solely with Masters, unless otherwise arranged in the agreement between the Masters and the Member Hunt's committee. On no account may hounds be drafted by or to Hunt Staff.

10. Hunts must keep records of all hounds drafted to and from kennels and by whom. The responsibility for moving hounds on the database rests with the pack drafting the hound, not the pack in receipt of the drafts.

11. Hounds may only be drafted to:

- (a) Hunts recognised by the AMHB, the MBHA, or the MFHA and

- (b) Hunts recognised by the relevant hunting association in countries outside the United Kingdom after consultation with the Director.
- (c) No hunt shall accept hounds that have been drafted in in contravention of the Rules. It is the Masters' responsibility to know what hounds are in their kennels at all times.
- (d) Drafted hounds may not be redrafted without the agreement of the Master of their originating pack.

12. Hounds may only be retired to homes within the member hunt country to farmers, landowners or puppy walkers known by the Master. Such retired hounds should not be further rehomed but returned to kennels if necessary. On no account should retired hounds be rehomed through third parties. It is recommended that bitches are spayed on re-homing.

13. Hounds of Member Hunts may not be sold, except for export outside the United Kingdom and provided that the foreign hunt buying hounds is recognised by the relevant hunting association in that country and after consultation with the Director.

Stud Book

14. A Stud Book or Stud Books shall be published annually by the Association unless the Committee decides otherwise. The Stud Book or Stud Books shall contain eligible entries of hounds. The criteria for eligibility for entry into the Stud Book or Stud Books shall be set out by the Committee from time to time.

G. HUNT STAFF & EMPLOYMENT

Contracts of Employment

1. All Hunt Staff (unless legally self employed) must have a valid contract of employment, which conforms to current employment law and includes provisions to adhere to and abide by the Rules and Guidance Notes in force, such as directly apply to them. Legally self employed Hunt Staff must sign an agreement to abide by the Rules and Guidance Notes in force; such as directly apply to them.

Hunt Staff and Enquiries

2. Hunt Staff may be required to assist with any enquiry conducted by the Association.

Employment Year

3. Subject to other arrangements, the employment year runs from 1st May to 30th April. Notice should normally be given to or received from Hunt Staff by the 1st February of the year subject to current employment legislation.

Engagement and Disengagement

4. No Master shall approach, with a view to engagement, a member of Hunt Staff who is not known by his present employer to be disengaged at the end of the current season without first communicating with the present Master.

5. A Member Hunt or Individual Member considering whether to employ a person as a member of Hunt Staff should first make all proper enquiries (including from the Director) as to that person's fitness and experience for the relevant post.

Seminars

6. The Association may from time to time require Masters to instruct members of their Hunt Staff to attend seminars or other courses of instruction organised by the Association or other relevant bodies.

Health and Safety

7. All Hunt Staff, whether full or part time, must confirm that they have read and understand the Member Hunt's Health and Safety Policy by signing a declaration set within the policy.

Protective Equipment

8. By law Member Hunts or Masters must provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing (PPE & C) to Hunt Staff free of charge. PPE & C must be worn and used by all employees in accordance with the instructions provided. The Association will issue updated advice and guidance as appropriate.

Firearms

9. By law any Master, member of Hunt Staff or other Hunt employee who handles or uses a firearm of any sort must have the appropriate certificate or licence.

APPENDIX 1: RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR RUNNING A HUNT

The Association recommends and advises as follows:

Annual General Meetings and arrangements for ensuing Seasons

A. A Hunt Annual General Meeting should be held each season by no later than the 1st February, to endorse any recommendations which the Hunt Committee may have made.

B. In the event of a General Hunt Meeting not approving the Hunt Committee's recommendation(s) the following options are open:-

- i. The Hunt Committee may accept a reference back for further consideration.
- ii. The Hunt Committee should resign and a new Hunt Committee be appointed forthwith.

C. At the Hunt Annual General Meeting the Hunt Committee should be elected or vacancies of the said Committee, according to local rules, filled up.

D. When a decision has been taken at a General Meeting of the Hunt affecting the Mastership, it is imperative that any minority should loyally abide by the wishes of the majority of those present at the Meeting and not attempt to re-open the question subsequently.

E. As soon as the arrangements for the ensuing season are resolved, the Director shall be notified of the name and address of any new Master in accordance with Rule B 1.

Neighbouring countries

G. It should be appreciated by Masters that regular incursions into neighbouring countries are likely to cause tension between Hunts and farmers, and should be avoided.

Meets by Invitation

H. If a Master is asked to bring his hounds into another country for a day's hunting, the words "by invitation" should be inserted with the advertised meet, but no such words need be added if a portion of a country is lent by a written agreement for the whole season.

Supporters Clubs

I. Supporters Clubs should be run under the auspices of and for the general benefit of the Hunt that they support.

Pension Arrangements

J. It is strongly recommended that Hunt Committees give serious consideration to arrangements for pensions for their Hunt Staff and other Hunt employees, particularly at an early stage in their careers. The Director can advise how this can be implemented through the Hunt Staff Benefit Society.

APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTS

The under-mentioned documents are available from the AMHB and the Hunting Office:

- Agreement form regarding ownership of hounds
- AMHB Visiting Strategy
- BHA Regulations for Point-to-Points

- Competencies Required within a Mastership
- Council of Hunting Association's Health and Safety Policy
- Council of Hunting Associations Code of Practice for the Welfare of Hounds in Hunt Kennels
- Kennel Inspection Forms
- Current AMHB Guidance Notes
- Form for entering hounds into the Stud Book
- Peterborough Hound Show Rules and Entry Forms
- Legal Fees Insurance advice
- Liability Insurance advice
- MFHA Rules
- MFHA Rules for Team Chasing
- Personal Accident Insurance advice
- Employment Advice
- Recommended Contract of Employment
- Recommended Agreement between Masters and Hunt Committee

RT 22/06/20