

1. Scribing Best Practices.

This document, and sample score sheets, will be added to the NEBCA website after the annual meeting. Again, with many thanks to OBCC for collaborating with NEBCA on this, as well Rose Redick and Mary Ellen Young for coordinating the work and doing the writing, and Tara Dier for permitting use of the original scribe document.

SCRIBING TIPS

Scribing is a great way for inexperienced handlers to help out at a trial and learn about more aspects of trialing. You have the best seat in the house to watch each handler run and can see firsthand how the runs are scored. Your job is to run the clock and write down the scores so the judge doesn't need to take his/her eyes off the run. While an important task it does not require much if any prior experience.

Here are some pointers you will need to know.

You will be provided with a stack of score sheets, a running order and a time clock. Make sure that the dog and handler are as marked on the running order. Most handlers announce their name and their dog's name. However, if you aren't sure who is coming to the post just ask the handler (or the judge or course director). Most likely someone has been assigned to collect the sheets and post the scores and that person will quietly approach you every few runs. Hand that person the sheets of completed runs

THE CLOCK

Usually the scribe operates the clock/timer. Some judges like to do it themselves and some run their own clock in addition to the official one. The clock/timer runs down to zero from the maximum time allowed. Start the clock the moment the handler sends his/her dog from the post and don't touch it unless the judge tells you to.

If the time runs out before the run is complete, usually the judge (but sometimes the scribe) calls Time. If something unexpected happens during a run (e.g. a loose dog on the field, sheep goes down) make a note of the time remaining but leave the clock running.

As soon as a run is complete, reset the clock to be ready for the next handler. Please reset the timer before you do anything else, including tallying the scores of the last run, because the next handler will approach the post promptly. If you aren't ready

with the clock when the next handler is at the post, say so and ask the handler to wait until you have it set.

SCORE SHEETS

The scribe keeps track of the judges point deductions and totals these points at the end of the run. Some judges give the clerk the points off at the end of each phase of work. Some judges will give you the points off with each infraction and rely on the scribe to total them up for each phase. Write big and bold. For any changes, cross out the entire incorrect entry and write in the correct number.

If time expires before a run finishes, write "Time" in the phase of work where time ran out on the left side. All available points for that phase and all subsequent phases will be lost but a total score is still given. If a run ends due to a retirement or disqualification, write "RT" or "DQ" in the phase of work where it occurred on the right side and also in the total score box. There is no need to record the elapsed time if the run is finished before the time runs out.

At the end of the run, total up the points off and subtract from the total available for the final score. Double check it, or make sure whoever takes them from you double checks them. If there is something you aren't sure about in the scores, ask the judge before you give the sheet to the person assigned to collect them. Some trials require the judge to review and initial each score sheet before it leaves the judge's tent and some judges insist on doing this. If this is the policy, do not release a score sheet until a judge has reviewed it.

Every trail manager should provide to every person scribing an example of the score sheet for each class and how the points off, retires, D.Q.'s, etc. are to be recorded on the score sheet so that consistency is maintained by everyone scribing and that it is clear to the person recording the scores on the board and the judge how everyone is recording the points off.

A FEW MORE POINTS

During runs, the scribe should intercept and respond to anyone coming into the judge's tent (e.g. questions, delivering food, etc.)

Scribes should not discuss anything that they observed or heard while scribing with anyone including comments made by the judge.

One more thing... Judging takes concentration. Some judges like to chat, some don't. Take your lead from the judge and don't initiate conversation during a run. If you have questions, save them for between runs or the end of the day. Don't comment on a run or fill the judge in on a dog and handler you know unless they ask. Judges appreciate the help scribes provide and recognize that it is a learning opportunity.

