

## ***Rules and Course Requirements by Level/Title***

### **Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI)**

**Prerequisite:** None. Dogs may enter this class and Novice in the same Trial. Dogs may continue to enter this class until the Novice title (RATN) is attained. Dogs with a RATN or above cannot enter Instinct. An Instinct pass is not required to enter Novice. Dogs pre-entered in both Novice and Instinct who finish the Novice title during the event can continue to show in Instinct for that event only, even if they choose to move up.

**Course time allowed:** One minute.

**Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** One, under one Judge.

**Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, one litter tube, one rat tube.

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

**Summary:** RATI is an optional class for any dog without a Barn Hunt Novice (RATN) title. RATI is a set course (see Appendix A: RATI Course Construction, page 59 in the barn hunt rules). The three tubes will be placed secured and uncovered in plain sight on the course. While the course is set up in such a way that tunneling and climbing are difficult to avoid, the purpose of RATI is correct identification of the live rat tube. A dog who avoids the tunnel/climb yet finds the rat will be marked as a passing effort for RATI. Time starts when the dog leaves the start box. Time ends when the handler indicates a rat tube.

### **Novice Barn Hunt: (RATN)**

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

**Course time allowed:** Two minutes.

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

**Start Box location:** One flat side not less than three nor more than four feet from the opening to an Official Tunnel.

**Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, one litter tube, one rat tube. At least one tube of any type must be elevated. All tubes may be elevated.

**Tunnel Requirements:** The tunnel is straight and consists of two bales placed sideways across boards for safe step-downs (see Judge Guidelines Part 6: Course Design, page 45 for specific tunnel course build). At least one Official Tunnel is at ground level. There can be more than one Official Tunnel.

**Bale height requirements:** There must be at least two and not more than three different places on the course where a minimum of two adjacent bales are placed two-high in a single area so that a rat tube can be safely hidden along the top of the two-high bales without it dislodging or rolling. Leaner bales (either from Level 1 to 2, or at Level 2) count for the two-bale minimum as long as there is at least one adjacent bale placed flat at that height.

**Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate one live Rat tube.

**Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler indicates the rat and has executed both a tunneling and climbing effort. The required elements can be achieved in any order. If the dog/handler indicate the incorrect tube or run out of time before finding the live tube, the dog is NQd but will be immediately escorted to the nearest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised .

### **Open Barn Hunt: (RATO)**

**Eligibility Criteria:** Any dog may enter Open any time after attaining the Novice title of RATN and prior to completion of the Open title, RATO.

**Course time allowed:** Two minutes 30 seconds.

**Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** Three, under one or more Judges.

**Start Box location:** Anywhere on the course. The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.

**Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, two litter tubes, two rat tubes. At least one live rat tube must be elevated. All tubes may be elevated.

**Tunnel Requirements:** The tunnel must have one 90 degree turn and the exit cannot be readily visible from the entrance; the tunnel must look dark. The tunnel cannot have more than two entry/exit openings. At least one Official Tunnel must be at ground level. There can be more than one Official Tunnel.

**Bale height requirements:** There must be a minimum of three different places on the course where at least two adjacent bales are stacked two-high so that a rat tube can be safely hidden along the top of the two-high bales without dislodging or rolling. A group of five or more bales at two-high in a single location can count as two areas. Leaner bales (either from Level 1 to 2, or at Level 2) count for the two-bale minimum as long as there is at least one adjacent bale placed flat at that height.

**Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate two live Rat tubes.

**Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler has indicated both live rat tubes and has executed both the tunneling and climbing effort. If the dog/handler indicate an incorrect tube or run out of time before finding all of the live tubes, the dog is NQ but will be immediately escorted to the closest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised. Dogs are only to be shown one live tube and are not allowed to find all remaining live tubes after they are NQ.

## Senior Barn Hunt (RATS)

**Eligibility Criteria:** Dogs may enter Senior any time after they have attained the Open title of RATO, and may compete in Senior A until they receive the Senior title, RATS.

**Course time allowed:** Three minutes 30 seconds.

**Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** Three, under one or more Judges.

**Start Box location:** Anywhere on the course. The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.

**Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, three litter tubes, four rat tubes. All tubes may be elevated, at ground level, or any combination of the two. While not required in every blind, some tube locations in this class will be moderately challenging.

**Tunnel Requirements:** The tunnel must have a minimum of two and a maximum of three 90° turns. The tunnel may have multiple entry/exit openings, as long as a dog entering any opening will have completed the required number of turns prior to exiting any other opening. The tunnel must appear dark. The tunnel cannot contain "blind alleys," areas inside the tunnel which do not lead to an exit. The tunnel must appear dark. The official tunnel may be either on the ground or elevated. There can be more than one Official Tunnel on the course.

**Bale height requirements:** There must be at least one place on the course where a minimum of two adjacent bales are stacked three-high in such a way that a rat tube can be safely hidden along the top of the three-high bales without it dislodging or rolling. Leaner bales (either from Level 2 to 3, or at Level 3) count for the two-bale minimum as long as there is at least one adjacent bale placed flat at that height.

**Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate four live Rat tubes.

**Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler has indicated all four live rat tubes and has executed both the tunneling and climbing effort. The required elements can be achieved in any order. If the dog/handler indicate an incorrect tube or run out of time before finding all of the live tubes, the dog is NQd but will be immediately escorted to the closest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised before exiting the course. Dogs are only to be shown one live tube and are not allowed to find all remaining live tubes after they are NQd.

## **Master Barn Hunt (RATM, RATM, RATCH, RATCHX, RATCHX#)**

**Eligibility Criteria:** Dogs may enter Master any time after they have attained the Senior title of RATS

**Course time allowed:** Four minutes 30 seconds.

**Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** Five, under two or more different Judges.

**Start Box location:** Anywhere on the course. The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.

**Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** 8 tubes. One to five tubes will have rats. All tubes without rats will have litter. The number of rat tubes to litter tubes will change with every competitor. Any/all live tubes may either be on the ground or elevated or a mix of both. For each blind all 8 tubes remain in the same location, with only the number of live versus litter tubes changing for each dog. The extra four tubes are used to swap out rats and litter. Between blinds, all 8 tubes are moved. While not required in every blind, some tube locations in this class will be challenging with close discrimination required between tubes. Rat tubes in this class may be placed so as to pose a challenge to the handler in that depending on course design, the dog may need to work away from the handler in an area the handler cannot step into prior to the rat call.

**Tunnel requirements:** The tunnel must have a minimum of two 90° turns and may have a maximum of five 90° turns. The tunnel may have multiple entry/exit openings, as long as a dog entering any opening will have completed the minimum number of turns prior to exiting any other opening.

The tunnel cannot contain "blind alleys," areas inside the tunnel which do not lead to an exit. The Master tunnel must appear dark. The Official Tunnel may be either on the ground or elevated. There can be more than one Official Tunnel.

**Bale Height Requirements:** There must be at least two places on the course where a minimum of two adjacent bales are stacked three-high in such a way that a rat tube can be safely hidden along the top of the three-high bales without it dislodging or rolling. A group of five or more bales at three -high in a single location can count as two areas. Leaner bales (either from Level 2 to 3, or at Level 3) count for the two-bale minimum as long as there is at least one adjacent bale placed flat at that height.

**Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate to the Judge when all live rat tubes have been found. The typical term is CLEAR. While the word CLEAR is not required, the handler must inform the judge in a declarative, unequivocal manner that all rats have been found. Even if there are five rats on the course the handler must declare the course clear of rats. A handler may choose to declare the course clear of rats then ask the dog to complete another required element such as a tunnel.

**Special Master Staging and Rat/Litter Tube Changes:** Competitors are staged in each Master blind in groups of 3, 4, or 5. The Club, with Judge input, determines the optimal number of blind participants for that Event based on entries, Judge preference, etc. The number of competitors per blind must be published and/or posted and announced in the general briefing. Once published and/or posted and announced, the Master staging group size must stay the same for that entire Event, allowing for smaller blind-group sizes as needed to accommodate conflicts and odd numbers.

**Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler has correctly indicated all live rat tubes, has declared the course clear of rats, and has executed both the Tunneling and Climbing effort. If the dog/handler indicate an incorrect

tube, run out of time before finding all of the live tubes, or the handler indicates all the tubes are found when there are still unfound live tubes on the course, the dog is NQ but should be immediately escorted to the closest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly before exiting the course. Dogs are only to be shown one live tube and are not allowed to find any remaining live tubes after they are NQ. Handlers who have NQd can request to know the number of live tubes on the course.

### **Non-Regular Classes (Crazy 8s)**

**Prerequisite:** None. Dogs do not have to have any other Barn Hunt title to enter Crazy 8s. Dogs are not required to have a Barn Hunt Registration number to enter Crazy 8s at a Fun Match but must have a Barn Hunt Registration number to enter a titling Crazy 8s class at a Licensed Trial.

**Course Time:** 2 minutes.

**Course Size:** Senior/Master sized course. Judges/Clubs may opt to use an existing Senior or Master course, modified as specified below, for Crazy 8s.

**Start box:** The Start Box may be anywhere on the course. The area from the entry gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.

**Tunnel:** At least one Official tunnel with 2-5 turns. Any number of optional tunnels. Any tunnel with fewer than two turns will not count for the tunnel effort. Official tunnels may be at ground level or elevated.

**Bales:** At least one area on the course with bales 2 high. Bales cannot be higher than 2 high. Bale numbers are to be consistent with Senior or above challenges. If deconstructing a Senior or Master course for Crazy 8s, remove the bales at 3 high and use them where possible to add areas of 1 and 2 high bales to increase overall hide areas.

**Ramps, boards, and bridges:** At least one wooden/constructed ramp must be used from the ground level to a first level bale. Any number of boards and/or bridges may be used. All Board/ramp/bridge specifications from Senior/ Master apply to Crazy 8s.

**Tubes:** Eight live rat tubes. Four litter tubes. At least one live rat tube must be elevated.

**Staff:** One Judge, 2 inside Rat Wranglers, 2-4 outside Rat Wranglers.

**Blinding/Staging:** Competitors may be blinded in groups of 3, 4, or 5 depending on entry and in accordance with current Master blind rules.

#### **Scoring:**

All general BH 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 Race is 100 points (all rats plus climb and tunnel) in two minutes or less. A Clean Race 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 Race 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.

**Penalties (in addition to all general Barn hunt penalties) are:**

- 1 Failure to Tunnel -20 points.
2. Failure to climb -20 points.
3. First incorrect rat call (litter or no tube) -20 points.
4. No rats found or Second incorrect rat call (litter or no tube) NQ score (dog shown a rat before exit).
4. Any dog which finds at least one rat and has a cumulative score above zero when time is called gets a Qualifying score. Zero and negative scores are not used.

**Judging and Faults**

1. When judging Crazy 8s, all regular Barn Hunt rules apply with the exceptions noted in this document. Rats are to be called by number, (i.e., "Rat 1, Rat 2" etc.) until all rats are found or time runs out.
2. If a handler calls an incorrect (litter) tube, the first incidence is a Fault with a penalty of -20 points, but the handler may continue on with a chance to acquire more points by finding more rats. The Judge must call FAULT. The litter tube must stay in place and is not removed from the course. If a handler calls a second litter tube (or the first tube a second time), the handler is NQd and must leave the ring. The dog should briefly be shown a rat prior to exiting the ring and the handler allowed to praise the dog as allowed in regular Barn Hunt rules.
3. If the dog reaches the time of two minutes without finding all rats, the dog should briefly be shown a rat prior to exiting the ring and the handler allowed to praise the dog as allowed in regular Barn Hunt rules.
4. 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.