

MASTERS OF DRAGHOUNDS AND BLOODHOUNDS ASSOCIATION

(MDBA)

(Masters of Draghounds & Bloodhounds Alliance Ltd. Company number 15179449)

CONSTITUTION, RULES & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION December 2025

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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 Draghounds or Bloodhounds not located in England, Wales or Scotland Northern Ireland & Crown Dependencies that is affiliated to the Association as detailed in Section A Rule 5.

“Association” means The Masters of Draghounds and Bloodhounds Association.

“Association Committee” means the voting member from each member hunt, who shall advise the Executive committee.

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

“Committee” mean the Executive committee constituted in accordance with Section A Rule 6

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

“Corresponding Member” means the master/person nominated on the application form by a member hunt to receive correspondence. Any changes to be notified to the Executive secretary.

“Disciplinary Board” means a board convened by the executive committee to investigate a complaint or disciplinary matter in accordance with Section B Rule 1.

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

“Hounds” means Draghounds and/or Bloodhounds.

“Hunting” means the use of hounds to provide pleasure without the pursuit or killing of wild animals or any attempt to imitate such pursuit and killing.

“Hunting Compliance Scheme” means the scheme used to ensure all hunts provide information regarding all meets and planned hunt routes in advance to the Association, as detailed in the scheme rules.

“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 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.

“License” means a license issued by the association in accordance with the rules adopted by the association

“Licensed activity” means an activity that is authorised under a licence as detailed in the license guidance document;

“Master” means a Master of a Member Hunt.

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

“Member” means Member Hunt

“Misconduct”: 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 8 to 10

“Point-to-Point Authority (PPA)” The Point-to-Point Authority is the body responsible for the administration, promotion, and development (governance and strategy) of point-to-point racing.

“President” means the president of the Association as detailed in Section A Rule 9.

“Voting member” means the master/person nominated on the application form by a member hunt to vote and represent their hunt. Any changes to be notified to the Executive secretary.

“Rules” means these rules of the Masters of Draghounds and Bloodhounds Association.

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

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

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

“Voting member” means one of the Masters, Chairman or owner of the hunt and notified to the Executive Secretary.

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 Draghound and Bloodhound Hunts in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland & The Crown Dependencies.

Purposes of the Association

- 2) The purpose of the Association shall be to oversee the promotion and proper management of Draghound and Bloodhound Hunts. To this end the Association aims to:
 - a) Promote the sport and fundamental ethic of draghunting and hunting the 'clean boot', the essence of which involves the use of hounds to provide pleasure without the pursuit or killing of wild animals or any attempt to imitate such pursuit and killing;
 - b) Set and maintain standards of conduct and performance of Member Hunts in kennels and in their other activities;
 - c) Encourage development and breeding of the best working qualities of the Draghound and Bloodhound;
 - 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; and
 - g) Liaise with other organisations whose legitimate interests are aligned to those of the Association.
- h) The Company "Masters of Draghounds and Bloodhounds Ltd" will be bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee.

Membership of the Association

3. Member Hunts

Membership is open to every bona fide Draghound and Bloodhound hunt that can fulfil the criteria laid out below. Each Member Hunt must: -

- a. Have Masters, who are registered with the Association;
- b. Ensure that its Hunt Chairman, where appointed, shall be registered with the Association;
- c. Ensure that its huntsman / Kennel-Huntsman, where appointed, shall be registered with the Association;
- d. Where a Hunt is incorporated its officers shall be Registered with the Association;
- e. Have a registered country whose boundaries are approved by the Association;
- f. Be able to administer properly the affairs of the Member Hunt; and to conduct its operations to the expected standards of the Association; and
- g. Care for its hounds and associated horses where applicable, as provided for by Law and these Rules.

4. Probationary Membership & New Hunts

Applications must be made in writing accompanied by the appropriate application fee to the Executive Secretary and include evidence that proper arrangements have been made with other member 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 Executive Committee, the probationary status will last for a period of at least two years subject to renewal forms and fees being paid, during which time the new Hunt will be expected to have conducted its affairs generally in a manner acceptable to the Committee. During the probationary period the probationary hunt will be appointed a mentor from the current membership to assist and guide where necessary. If during the probationary period, the new Hunt's affairs are:

- (a) Acceptable to the Executive Committee, the new Hunt shall be invited to become a Member Hunt at the expiry of such probationary period; or
- (b) Not acceptable, then the Executive Committee may either refuse the application or extend the probationary period.

5. Affiliated Member Hunts

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.

Officers of the Association

6. The Executive Committee

The Association shall be served by an elected Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be formed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and no more than two voting Members who are officers of Member Hunts who hunt with Draghounds and two voting Members who are officers of Member Hunts who hunt with Bloodhounds. The Executive Committee shall be assisted by an Executive Secretary and Honorary Treasurer and other such staff whom they shall appoint on such terms as they shall think fit. The Committee shall meet at least twice per year and as often as circumstances require. The executive committee shall report to the Association Committee at least twice per year and as often as circumstances require.

7. The President

A President may be appointed by the Executive Committee for a term of one year. He shall also be president of the Association's annual Hound Show. The president shall be appointed to raise the profile of the association within the wider community.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman

8) The Executive Committee shall elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman from within their number to serve for a recommended term of three years each. The Chairman shall be the spokesman of the Association and be responsible for all statements issued and shall chair all general meetings of the Association. The Chairman shall be a member of all committees and sub-committees save the Disciplinary Committee. The Vice-Chairman shall be the Chairman's deputy in all instances when necessary and in the chairman's absence and shall chair the Disciplinary Committee (unless it relates to or is too closely associated with the vice chairman in which case the chairman shall take his place) Only voting Members are eligible to be Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Association. A Chairman and/or Vice Chairman may stand again for re-election.

9. The Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary shall be elected by the Executive committee and reporting to the Executive Committee and shall administer the Association on a day-to-day basis, dealing with all correspondence, keeping minutes of meetings and the register of membership, and shall carry into effect the decisions of the Elected Committee.

10. The Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer shall be elected by the Executive committee and shall be responsible for the finances of the association and shall prepare and submit to the AGM accounts for the preceding 12 months, or required accounting period

11. Other Committee Appointees

The Executive Committee shall be able to co-opt additional members for purposes and periods as the Executive Committee shall decide but such co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote at Executive Committee Meetings. Unless stated otherwise co-opted members shall cease to be co-opted at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive 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 Executive Committee. As in point 8, The Chairman or Vice chairman shall be a member of all committees and sub-committees save the Disciplinary Committee They shall report to the Executive Committee.

12. Point-to-Point

The Committee will appoint a person to represent it on the British Horseracing Authority Point-to-Point Committee.

Administration of the Association

13. Annual General Meeting

The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year at which the annual statement of accounts from the Honorary Treasurer and reports from the Chairman and Executive Secretary will be provided. Will as appropriate review and approve motions put forward and appointment of the Executive committee.

Voting at all General meetings is by the one voting member from each hunt.

Only Full members of the Association are eligible to vote although probationary members are welcome to attend.

14. Election of Executive committee

At least one quarter of the members of the Executive Committee excluding the Officers and co-opted members shall retire annually by rotation. Such retiring Executive 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 Executive Secretary not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by voting Members of the Association.

15. General Meetings

The Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) provided that at least 14 days' notice is given to members. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by voting Members provided a letter signed by voting Members from at least one third of member Hunts is lodged with the Executive Secretary stating the business to be discussed. The Executive Committee will convene the meeting.

16.) Any amendment to the Rules proposed by any corresponding member must be sent in writing to the Executive Secretary no less than 30 days before the AGM. Notice of such proposed amendment shall be circulated to members not less than 21 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 by voting members is required for approval of any amendment to the Rules.

17. Casting Vote of the Chairman & Quorums

At all meetings of the Association, the Chairman shall have a vote and shall have a casting vote.

18. The Chairman, or his nominee, and three executive Committee members shall form a quorum at Committee Meetings; and one third of voting members shall form a quorum for any General Meeting of the Association.

19. Annual Events of the Association

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

20. There shall be annual Association Hound Show and or shows unless the Executive 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 Executive Committee may make such other arrangements for the Association Hound Show/s as may from time to time be necessary.

21. Authorities

The Executive Committee shall have the following authorities:

- a) Authority to regulate a registered 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 a disciplinary board for 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 Executive 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.

22. Members' Fees

Member Hunt fees shall be levied and are due in accordance with the arrangements as set by the Executive Committee from time to time. All Members must pay fees to the Association by the due date with fully completed forms. Any Member who is three months in arrears with the payment of fees and fully completed application form shall cease to be a Member of the Association. Any subsequent re-application shall be considered as a probationary member at the Executive Committees' absolute discretion.

23. Dissolution of the Association

The Association shall be dissolved on the resolution of the Members passed with a two thirds majority of the Members voting on the resolution. On dissolution the Elected Committee shall dispose of all property and assets of the Association on such terms (including outright gifts) they shall see fit. Any surplus shall be distributed equally to each full Member hunt of the Association at the date of the resolution to be dissolved.

B) COMPLAINTS DISPUTES AND MISCONDUCT

1. Complaint Procedures:

The Association's 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 Disciplinary board 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) 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; Or relegated to probationary status.
- d) Expulsion from membership;
- e) A compensation payment commensurate with any loss claimed by a third party;
- f) Placing a Member Hunt under the control of a nominee of the Executive Committee for a given period;
- g) Require the Member Hunt to take disciplinary action against any member of the Member Hunt.

3 Disputes

Disputes affecting Member Hunts and/or Members:

- a) Every Member shall be bound to refer to the Executive 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 Executive Secretary 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 Executive 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 Executive 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

1. Hunt Constitution.

Member Hunts are advised to 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, 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.

2a. Masterships and Hunt Chairmen

Masterships of Member Hunts shall commence as of 1st May in any year.

Hunts must advise of changes in Masterships and relevant information especially any change of kennel address. All notifications should be in advance except in exceptional circumstances when it must be without delay.

2b. Change of management

Any change on the management, control or legal entity of a hunt may require a new application or reversal to probationary status at the absolute discretion of the Executive Committee.

3. Corresponding Master

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. All such notices shall be by email to the address provided.

4. Voting Officer

Each Member Hunt must nominate a 'Voting Officer' This member is the only one entitled to vote at the AGM or EGM and may only be varied by giving 7 days advance notice to the Executive secretary in writing.

6. Responsibility of Masters

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. Insurances

All Member Hunts are required to maintain adequate public liability and employers' liability insurance cover. If requested by the Executive Secretary, they are to provide evidence of such insurance. The Association does not under-write Member Hunts that fail to make such provisions.

8. Point-to-Points

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 in accordance with all PPA and British Horse Racing Authority regulations pertaining to Point-to-Point Steeplechases in force at the time.

9. Convictions

No officer or member of hunt staff of any member pack may have any conviction under the Hunting Act 2004 or the Animal Welfare Act 2006 as amended.

D) MEMBER HUNT COUNTRY

1. Registration

Every Member Hunt's Country, including its boundaries, must be registered with and be subject to the approval of the Association. Draghound and Bloodhound packs may at times share the same country.

2. Loan of Country

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.

3. Country of a Disbanded Member Hunt

When a Member Hunt is disbanded, the Hunt Chairman of such Member Hunt shall inform the Executive Secretary, 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 or to new applicants.

5. New Hunts

Application for membership by a new hunt must be made in writing to the Executive Secretary and be accompanied by evidence that proper arrangements have been made with other member 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 two years, during which time the new Hunt will be expected to have conducted its affairs generally in a manner acceptable to the Committee. During the probationary period the probationary hunt will be appointed a mentor from the current membership to assist and guide where necessary. If during the probationary period, the new Hunt's affairs are:

- (a) Acceptable to the Executive 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 Executive Committee may either refuse the application or extend the probationary period.

6. Amalgamation

Member Hunts seeking to amalgamate must give notice in advance to the Executive Secretary who shall place the matter before the Executive 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.

7. Visiting

A Member Hunt must consult the Member Hunt if a meet is to be held in another hunt's country. The Master of the visiting Hunt is fully responsible for the conduct of the day and any liability that may arise. 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.

8. Kennels

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 the association unless prior approval has been given by the Committee. Any change to the kennelling arrangements must be advised/approved by the Executive committee in advance (except in an emergency, in which case must be advised without any delay)

E) THE CONDUCT OF HUNTING

1. General Principles

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 and the license issued by the MDBA;
- 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;
- f) Any Scent used must not be of animal origin;
- g) All Member Hunts must adhere to the Hunting Compliance Scheme.

2. Hunting Restrictions and Advice

- a) Masters must make proper arrangements for access with farmers, landowners, and owners and tenants of shoots.
- b) Every member must endeavour to hunt its entire registered country truly and fairly save in exceptional circumstances.
- c) A member hunt should hunt at least one day in each week during the season, save in exceptional circumstances and in the case of university hunts, one day each week during term, unless agreed with the Executive committee.

3. Responsibilities during Hunting

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.

F) HOUNDS

1. Animal Welfare Legislation

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 and subsequent amendments 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. The Executive Committee have the right to act as they see fit which could include involving the RSPCA or other agencies and the removal of all hounds until their concerns are addressed to their satisfaction.

2. Ownership

a) 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.

b) 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

3. Kennel Inspections

From time to time the Executive Committee shall arrange for inspections of Member Hunts' kennels and hounds by appointees of the Executive committee. 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 members and appointed representatives of the Executive committee, at the discretion of the Executive Committee

4. Puppies

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

b) Breeding The charging of stud fees for the service of stallion hounds of Member Hunts, however owned, is prohibited.

c) Member Hunts shall only accept bitches for service from Member Hunts or by hunts recognised by the MDBA. Any other cases must be approved by the Executive Secretary whose decision shall be final.

d) Breeding Hounds as a commercial enterprise is prohibited.

5 Drafting Hounds

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.

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

Hounds may only be drafted to:

- a. Hunts recognised (Full or Probationary) by the MDBA and
- b. Hunts recognised by the relevant hunting association in countries outside the United Kingdom only after consultation with the Executive Secretary.
- c. No hunt shall accept hounds that have been drafted 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.

6. Retiring Hounds

Hounds should 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.

7. Selling Hounds

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 Executive Secretary.

8. Drafting To Non-Members.

Any member Hunt drafting hounds to non MDBA member packs (Other than allowed for at 5b or with specific permission in writing from the Executive committee) will revert back to Probationary Status and receive a fine.

9. Stud Book

A Stud Book or Stud Books may 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

1. Contracts of Employment

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.

2. Hunt Staff and Enquiries

Hunt Staff may be required to assist with any enquiry conducted by the executive committee

3. Employment Year

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.

4. Engagement and Disengagement

a) 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.

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

5. Seminars

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.

6. Health and Safety

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.

7. Protective Equipment

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.

8. Firearms

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

The under-mentioned documents will be available from the MDBA in Due course:

- License guidance document
- Agreement form regarding ownership of hounds
- MDBA Visiting Strategy
- BHA Regulations for Point-to-Points
- Competencies Required within a Mastership
- MDBA Health and Safety Policy
- Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing (PPE & C) recommendations
- MDBA Code of Practice for the Welfare of Hounds in Hunt Kennels
- MDBA Kennel Inspection Forms
- Current MDBA Guidance Notes
- Form for entering hounds into the Stud Book
- Hound Show Rules and Entry Forms
- Legal Fees Insurance advice
- Liability Insurance advice
- Personal Accident Insurance advice
- Employment Advice
- Recommended Contract of Employment
- Recommended Agreement between Masters and Hunt Committee
- New Pack Protocol
- Existing Pack Changing Premises