

Effective March 1, 2026

BHCA MATURITY STAKES RULES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the maturity is to validate the expectations of Basset Hound breeders from the previously nominated litters and entries. The Maturity Stakes is intended to encourage the breeding of the best possible “Basset Hound” and to reward breeders for their efforts. Recognition is also given to the owners in whose hands lies the responsibility of developing the inherited potentialities.

GENERAL

The Maturity Stakes will be held immediately following the Futurity Stakes at the BHCA Nationals. All financial transactions will be coordinated and reviewed by the BHCA Treasurer. All rules and regulations in regard to the Futurity Stakes shall apply to the Maturity Stakes where applicable.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The Maturity Stakes is open to all breeders, co-breeders, co-owners, or owners at the time the dogs and bitches that have previously completed their enrollment in the futurity, according to the futurity stake rules and are listed in the futurity catalog or the futurity section of the catalog under futurity. Dogs nominated for the Maturity must be co-owned by a BHCA member in good standing at the time of maturity entry.
2. A list of eligible dogs will be kept by the Futurity/Maturity Secretary.
3. Individuals are not eligible to enter the Maturity Stakes as a breeder, co-breeder, owner or co-owner nor are they allowed to exhibit if:
 - A. Any individual or member(s) of their immediate family is accepting entries.
 - B. They are judging any BHCA National event held in conjunction with the BHCA Nationals.
 - C. They are members of the immediate family or household of the person elected to judge the Maturity Stakes.

ENROLLMENT

1. Any breeder, co-breeder, owner or co-owner of a previously eligible futurity nominated litter may continue their enrollment into the maturity year and class for which they are eligible. The maturity nominated dog or bitch must be nominated using the Maturity Nomination Form individually for each year in which they choose to compete. A \$15 nomination fee must accompany the form.
2. The dog or bitch must be nominated by the nominating breeder/co-breeder or owner/co-owner, by July 1 of the current futurity/maturity year. The Futurity/Maturity Secretary on or before January 15 & April 1st of the current maturity year shall send to each eligible maturity participant a notice along with the Maturity Nomination Form,

advising them of the deadline for nominating their individual dog(s). This notice may be sent either electronically or by snail mail. The nominating form will also be available on the website.

3. In the event of ownership change on the maturity nominated dog or bitch it will be the responsibility of the previous owners to notify the Futurity/Maturity Secretary within 30 days of that change to continue in the maturity.

CLASSES

The Maturity Stakes will be judged in separate classes each year, divided by dogs and bitches, and the year in which they were nominated, except for Maturity Class III & Veterans. The winners of each of the four (4) classes will compete for best in maturity and best of opposite sex in maturity.

1. MATURITY CLASS I—Dogs and bitches eligible from the prior 12 months futurity competition and have been born April 1 to March 31 of that futurity year.

2. MATURITY CLASS II—Dogs and bitches eligible from the 24 months prior futurity, born, between April 1 to March 31 of that futurity year.

3. MATURITY CLASS III—Dogs and bitches eligible from the prior Futurity years that do not qualify for Maturity Class I or II up until such time they are eligible for the veteran Maturity Class.

4. VETERAN MATURITY CLASS IV—Dogs & Bitches eligible from prior futurity years that have attained the age of 7 years or older. Spayed & Neutered dogs maybe entered in the VETERAN CLASS ONLY

5. ENTRIES: Remember even though you have correctly nominated dogs throughout the Futurity/Maturity Process, **you must make your Futurity/Maturity entries in accordance with the Premium List.** The show entry fee for the maturity will be \$20.00

PRIZE MONEY

1. All monies collected from the enrollment fees and entry fees will be pooled. BHCA will retain 35% to cover maturity expenses. The remaining will be divided as follows: BEST IN MATURITY - 60% & BEST OF OPPOSITE IN MATURITY - 40%

2. There will be no money prizes given in the four maturity classes.

JUDGES

1. All BHCA members in good standing are eligible to judge the Futurity/Maturity Stakes. Currently AKC regulations prevent BHCA members who Judge the Futurity/Maturity from competing at the National specialty show if they judge the event. BHCA member judges who currently exhibit and participants nominating prospective judges should be mindful of such constraints.

2. Nominations of BHCA members will be solicited from the Futurity/Maturity participants by May 1 of each year.

- a. Each nominating breeder of a Futurity or Maturity dog shall have one vote for the Futurity/Maturity judge regardless of the number of litters nominated by the nominating breeder during the Futurity year or nominated for the Maturity.
 - b. No one entered in the Maturity may nominate or vote for the Futurity/Maturity Judge who has not nominated the dog by May 1st for the Maturity.
 - c. A list of all previously eligible Futurity dogs will be kept by the F/M Secretary beginning with the 2010 Futurity year going forward.
3. Individuals are ineligible to be nominated to judge a particular stake if they:
 - a. Are the Futurity Secretary or Assistant Futurity Secretary or members of their immediate family of that particular stake.
 - b. Are judging any BHCA event held in conjunction with the current National Specialty.
 4. The Futurity /Maturity judge will receive \$400.00 as an honorarium towards expense. As well as a medallion or tie tack.

NOMINATION AND VOTING

1. A teller will be selected by the Futurity/Maturity Committee prior to the nominations and selection process for the Futurity/Maturity Judge being sent out to the eligible participants in both events. The teller must be a member in good standing and not a member of the immediate family or household of the Futurity/Maturity Secretary or committee.
2. On May 1, the Futurity /Maturity Secretary shall email to all eligible Futurity/Maturity participants a nomination ballot that allows up to three (3) nominations for potential judges for the Futurity/Maturity, with instructions, closing date for nominations, and whom to email the nomination ballot. The Futurity/Maturity Secretary will keep and provide a list of individuals who have previously agreed to judge the event based on their prior participation in the event. This does not preclude a nominating breeder from nominating any BHCA member in good standing from nominating other individuals who may be interested in judging. The nomination ballot must be emailed to the selected teller or postmarked by May 25 to be counted. In the event an individual participant does not have access to an email account the ballot will be mailed to them using the USPS with the same closing date as the original nomination and final ballot.
3. On June 1 or as soon as the top three (3) nominees are confirmed by the teller, a final ballot shall be emailed by the Futurity/Maturity Secretary to all eligible participants listing those three (3) or in the case of a tie the top nominees who have agreed to judge the Futurity/Maturity stakes. The final ballot will include instructions to vote for one of the three (3) or more nominees, whom to return the ballot by email and the deadline for receipt of the ballot. The ballot must be emailed no later than June 25. In the event an individual participant does not have access to an email account, the ballot will be mailed to them using the USPS. The ballot must be postmarked on or before June 25.
4. The nominee receiving the most votes will be selected as the judge. The final nomination ballot may be extended further in case of a tie.

All acknowledgements and communications between the Futurity/Maturity Secretary will be made via email, except when an individual participant requests otherwise.

Adopted: Oct. 2005
Revised: Jan. 10, 2007
Oct. 9, 2009, Nov. 2014
Feb 13, 2019
Feb 16, 2026