

# TROPHY ENTRY PROCEDURES

## TROPHY TALK



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**If you're like me, you're usually either hunting or planning for the next hunting season. At the moment, most hunters are recalling and reliving their experiences during this past hunting season by telling their stories and sharing field photos with fellow hunters, friends, and family. Some experiences were good; others weren't.**

Now that most seasons are over and the 60-day drying periods are up for many animals tagged during July through November, many hunters are presently navigating, perhaps stumbling, their way through the process of finding out how to score their trophies with high hopes of their bigger ones making the Boone and Crockett records book.

Here at B&C, I can assure you that we are looking forward to receiving a significant influx of incredible entries during the next few

months as hunters take the time to have their animals evaluated. Who knows what new entries we'll be receiving in the months ahead?

New B&C entries are always exciting, and we're looking forward to receiving score charts and photos.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss something in Trophy Talk that I haven't covered for years. I would like to use this space to review and capsulize trophy entry procedures and requirements, and examine the tools available.

The internet is making this task much simpler than it was back in 1971 when a friend of mine took an exceptional deer with a rack we wanted to score. That was five years before I went to work for B&C and/or even had a clue about how to score a trophy. Personal computers hadn't yet been introduced, let alone the invention of the internet, so we couldn't "Google" B&C.

Instead, I went to the public library and checked out a copy of B&C's 1964 edition of *Records of North American Big Game* that included copies of the score charts so we could score his trophy. We had no clue how to contact a B&C Official Measurer or B&C's records office. We couldn't figure out where it was located at that time. In fact, I'm not sure today where it was located back then.

When we were done, we were really excited. Our calculations told us he had taken a new World's Record. That excitement was short-lived, however, when we quickly realized we had made a basic scoring error. And, while it was still a nice trophy, it definitely wasn't a new World's Record.

### B&C'S WEBSITE

All you need to do today to evaluate an animal is use one of the many search engines to find Boone and Crockett Club's

website, [boone-crockett.org](http://boone-crockett.org). Once there, you'll find answers to everything you need to know about how to score and enter a trophy in B&C's records book.

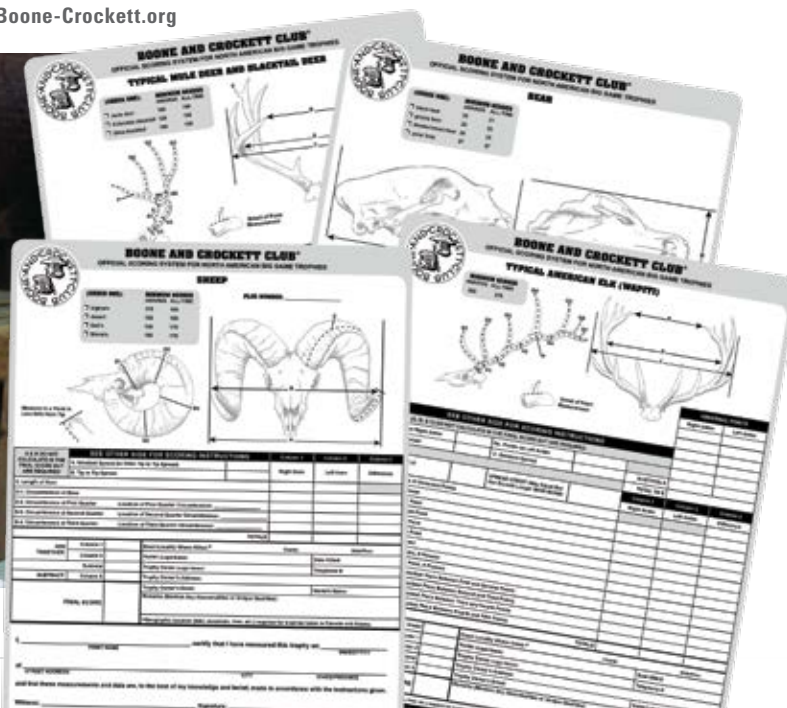
The "Big Game Records" section will provide you with hours upon hours of entertainment, and importantly all sorts of information about B&C's records program. If you have a trophy you want to score you can find printable pdfs of the score chart you need. There is a complete list of B&C's 17 score charts used to record measurements and calculate scores for all 38 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club.

Once you have the score chart you need, you can score your own trophy with a few basic tools you probably already have in your own

Score charts are available for download online at [www.Boone-Crockett.org](http://www.Boone-Crockett.org)



Official Measurers in 1973 used the same scoring system as they do today.





Official Measurers are volunteers who help provide a service to the Club.

toolbox just by following the limited instructions on the front of the score chart. Tools include a roll of masking tape, pencil, quarter-inch-wide flexible steel measuring tape, carpenter's level, and a folding carpenter's ruler or some other straight edge. If you don't have all these tools, you can probably improvise. The idea is to arrive at an approximate score for your trophy to see if you should pursue the matter further and contact a B&C Official Measurer. If you don't have the tools, our resource is listed at the bottom of this article.

Once you have finished scoring your trophy, you can add it up on our website calculator. We have calculators for each species you need. Step by step instructions are provided. If your final score is near or above the minimum score for the category, you should be ready to proceed to the next step, which is contact a qualified B&C Official Measurer near you.

Before it can be officially scored, however, your trophy needs to air dry at a habitable ambient room temperature for 60 days after it has been completely cleaned of all adherent flesh. Additionally, if it has been submerged in a liquid or frozen, it has to dry 60 days after it is removed from the liquid or freezer. Contrary to popular belief, a trophy cannot be officially scored 60 days after it was harvested unless it was completely cleaned the day it was taken. It's a 60-day drying period.

### CONTACTING A B&C OFFICIAL MEASURER

After the 60-day drying period is complete, it is time to contact an official measurer. Our website provides a complete state-by-state list. Once you have the list of Official Measurers for your state or province, contact the one nearest to you (possibly in an adjoining state/province) to arrange a time and place of mutual convenience to have your trophy officially scored.

Since Official Measurers are volunteers, the hunter needs to plan on taking the trophy to the measurer. There are rare exceptions to this policy. For example, I would be willing to travel to a trophy owner's home if he/she has a life-size mount or a pedestal mount that would be too cumbersome to transport. In such instances, it is acceptable practice for the trophy owner to reimburse the measurer for out-of-pocket expenses, such as mileage, meals, lodging, etc.

### SHOPPING FOR SCORES POLICY

It is important to remember that all Official Measurers are equally qualified, and only one can score your horns, antlers, skull, or tusks. B&C has a policy against having an animal scored by more than one Official Measurer. Also, be sure to keep your appointment and be on time. Official Measurers are volunteers and cannot be paid to score trophies, though they can be reimbursed for incidental expenses as mentioned above.

You can score your own trophy with a few basic tools you probably already have in your own toolbox just by following the limited instructions on the front of the score chart. Tools include a roll of masking tape, pencil, quarter-inch-wide flexible steel measuring tape, carpenter's level, and a folding carpenter's ruler or some other straight edge.

## MINIMUM ENTRY SCORES NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME

CATEGORY	AWARDS ALL-TIME	
black bear	20	21
grizzly bear	23	24
Alaska brown bear	26	28
polar bear**	27	27
jaguar**	14 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	14 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
cougar	14 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	15
Atlantic walrus**	95	95
Pacific walrus**	100	100
American elk (typical)	360	375
American elk (non-typical)	385	385
Roosevelt's elk	275	290
tule elk	270	285
mule deer (typical)	180	190
mule deer (non-typical)	215	230
Columbia blacktail deer (typical)	125	135
Columbia blacktail deer (non-typical)	155	155
Sitka blacktail deer (typical)	100	108
Sitka blacktail deer (non-typical)	118	118
whitetail deer (typical)	160	170
whitetail deer (non-typical)	185	195
Coues' whitetail deer (typical)	100	110
Coues' whitetail deer (non-typical)	105	120
Canada moose	185	195
Alaska-Yukon moose	210	224
Shiras' moose	140	155
mountain caribou	360	390
woodland caribou	265	295
barren ground caribou	375	400
Central Canada barren ground caribou	345	360
Quebec-Labrador caribou	365	375
pronghorn	80	82
bison	115	115
Rocky Mountain goat	47	50
musk ox	105	105
bighorn sheep	175	180
desert sheep	165	168
Dall's sheep	160	170
Stone's sheep	160	170

\* Minimum entry scores are current as of January 1, 2010. However, they are subject to change without notice. Check [www.booneandcrockettclub.com](http://www.booneandcrockettclub.com) for the most current listing.  
\*\* Must be taken and/or possessed in full compliance with the Marine Mammals Act, Endangered Species Act and/or other federal and state game laws.

# TROPHY TALK

If your Official Measurer comes up with a score that equals or exceeds a B&C minimum score, let me be the first one (after the scorer) to congratulate you. Only a handful of animals attain the singularly unique distinction of being called a “B&C trophy” or “Booner” each year.

## ENTRY PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS

**At this point in the process, the Official Measurer should provide you with a complete list of entry requirements and assist you with entering your trophy in B&C records. If you need additional entry information it is all available on the Big Game Records section of our website.**

There are many other interesting features you will find on B&C’s website, but I’ll mention only a couple of them. If you need any scoring tools, which I mentioned earlier, they are all available online. You can get masking tape and pencils almost anywhere, but so far as I know, B&C is the only place you can find a quarter-inch-wide flexible steel measuring tape, especially the ring-end variety, of this quality in North America anymore, except for perhaps the Pope and Young Club. They just don’t sell these “Lufkin-style” tapes like this anywhere else.

There is one other tool you need that I haven’t mentioned until now—a copy of *How to Score North American Big Game—Boone and Crockett Club’s Official Measurers Manual*. In addition to copies of each of the copyrighted score charts, this manual includes complete and

detailed scoring drawings by renowned wildlife artist and Official Measurer Chris Lacy along with complete and highly detailed scoring instructions for scoring all 38 categories of native North American Big Game accepted by the Club. In addition, there are chapters on general procedures and policies of the Boone and Crockett Club and another chapter on the scoring differences between Boone and Crockett Club and Pope and Young Club.

There is one other item that many hunters find indispensable for planning all future hunts and possibly taking that B&C trophy of a lifetime—Trophy Search. For the price of an All-time records book, you can obtain access to B&C’s list of 47,730 accepted trophies with new ones being added nearly every week. Once you’re into the database, you can search for counties, states, provinces, geographic areas, etc., that have produced top-ranking trophies in all 38 categories, since the Club began records-keeping in 1950. Or, you can search for top trophy producing areas for the last 10 years, 5 years, etc. Your options are nearly unlimited.

If you have any questions at any time while going through this process and/or checking out B&C’s website and store, please don’t hesitate to call Boone and Crockett Club at (406) 542-1888 and ask for the records department or the sales department. ■

*Jack Reneau*

## B&C AWARD MEDALLION MEASURING TAPE

Our classic, 1/4-inch wide, flexible steel tape is available in two different styles—ring-end for measuring circumferences and clip-end for measuring lengths. Shipping and handling included.

**RING-END TAPE  
ITEM CODE: MTBC | \$9.95**

**CLIP-END TAPE  
ITEM CODE: MTBCC | \$9.95**

## HOW TO SCORE NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME, 4TH EDITION

In addition to easy-to-follow instructions for scoring all 38 categories of North American big-game animals recognized by the Boone and Crockett Club the book delivers chapters on the Club’s history and its records-keeping program. The new edition also includes an expanded chapter on category boundaries enhanced with detailed, full-color maps from onXmaps.

- Spiral bound, paperback
- Over 125 drawings and photographs
- 9 x 11.4 inches
- 224 pages

**ITEM CODE: BRMS4 | \$34.95  
ASSOCIATES PAY ONLY \$27.95**

## B&C’S ON-LINE TROPHY SEARCH

Trophy Search gives you complete Internet access to the Boone and Crockett Club’s trophy records database. Every trophy entered and accepted into the Club’s Records of North American Big Game from 1830 to present are available through this searchable database. Search by species, score, rank, location, date, range of dates, specific measurements, hunters name—this list of query questions is endless. Also includes links to hundreds of B&C field photographs as well as portrait photos of top scoring trophies for each category.

**ITEM CODE: TDBS | \$50  
ASSOCIATES ONLY \$40**

