

# NEW MEASURING MANUAL UPDATES

## TROPHY TALK



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Director of Big Game Records

**What I had hoped would be an exciting announcement that the new joint Official Measurers manual for Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young is at the printer as you read this has been overshadowed by the passing of one of the main contributors to this effort, Eli Randall, the Director of Big Game Records for Pope and Young. Eli started for their organization in 2017 but had been a very active Official Measurer for Boone and Crockett since 2005. Eli also served many roles for the Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club during that time. His contribution to records keeping and the integrity of the system and processes will be forever memorialized with the work he accomplished for all these organizations.**

Eli was at the first joint meeting between the organizations when the process of combining the two manuals began back in October 2019. Throughout the process, Eli worked in conjunction with B&C staff to provide documents, editing, and verification of varying policy adoption

between the organizations. Eli leaves behind a wife and four children as well as an army of friends and peers who will greatly miss him throughout the world of big game scoring in North America.

The work both organizations undertook to pull together their respective manuals into a single unified manuscript involved the review of many rules and processes that had slightly diverged between the organizations over time. With each variation, the committee and records staff investigated the differences and worked to find a common ground by which both groups could move forward in a unified fashion while maintaining the integrity of their records system.

I will highlight some of the major modifications but between both organizations, there are far too many areas to highlight to ensure OMs are familiar with both organizations policies.

First, in the policy section, you will find updated wording in regard to the use of cellular trail cameras. Boone and Crockett's stance

on using these devices has not changed—we feel their use could easily violate Fair Chase entry standards; the new wording simply clarifies what is appropriate use of this technology. As previously written in the original version, a cellular image of a buck as a spike would bar entry of the trophy four or five years later. The current wording for the policy of both organizations is “The use of any technology that delivers real-time location data (including photographs) to target or guide a hunter to any species or animal in a manner that elicits an immediate (real-time) response by the hunter is not permitted.” OMs should note that “any technology” would include drones, cellular telephones, sending a GPS point via text or through satellite messaging. Basically, any electronically delivered information revealing the location of game is not permitted if the information elicits an immediate response.

The next change involves establishing the starting point on the bottom of a bison horn. Generally

speaking, bison bulls that have obtained enough age to qualify for Boone and Crockett entry develop a definitive ridge on the bottom of the horn. If a ridge is present, both organizations require the Official Measurer to begin the length of horn at this location. Should a ridge not be present, it is appropriate to card the bottom edge of a bison horn to determine the starting point of the horn-length measurement.

Another change many Boone and Crockett Official Measurers will notice is that we have always referred to the two styles of tape measurers as a ring-end and clip-end tape. Pope and Young has referred to them as ring-end and lip-end. There has been a long-standing, friendly debate between both organizations' records staff on the correct terminology. The debate was again brought up with this manual, and when ordering a new supply of the tapes, the manufacturer clearly refers to them as lip-end tapes—so that debate has been settled.

A change to the wording in the elk chapter regarding normal points beyond the G-4 was made. It now reads “normal points must come off the top outside edge of the beam.” Previously, the manual just stated the top of the beam.

The book contains a few updated and altogether new figures. The most significant depicts the test to determine if a normal point

This photo was taken in October, 2019, when (left to right) Kyle Lehr, Assistant Director of Big Game Records, Justin Spring, Director of Big Game Records, Mike Opitz, B&C Records Committee Chairman, Ed Fanchin, Pope and Young Club Records Chairman, and Eli Randall, the Pope and Young Club Records Director, met at B&C Headquarters to work on a joint Official Measurers manual. Eli's contribution to records keeping and the integrity of the system and processes will be forever memorialized with the works he accomplished for all these organizations.

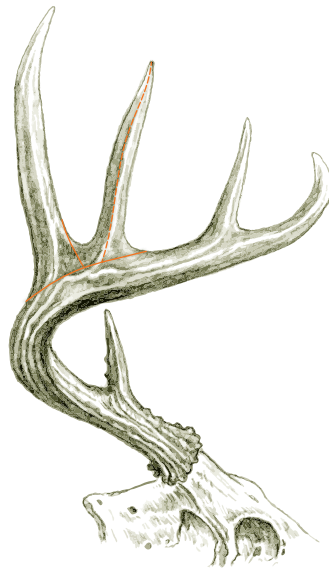


connected by webbing originates off the top of the beam or if the base material is indeed shared, which would then be determined by the ruling of common-base points. **(3-P)**

A new figure clarifying excessive flare highlights that the intent of the rule is for antlers damaged early in development where an actual bend of the beam exists **(6-D)**. A natural flaring of beams is allowed. As a reminder, excessive flare can be present in other categories beyond just the elk categories, though these are the most common categories it is seen in.

New figures have been added depicting the appropriate place to take measurements on caribou when only a single or no top points are present **(11-M)**, as well as a set of figures to help clarify when a protrusion that does not qualify as a stand-alone point should be used as the termination point of a beam **(6-E)**. This is most commonly encountered in elk and Sitka blacktail.

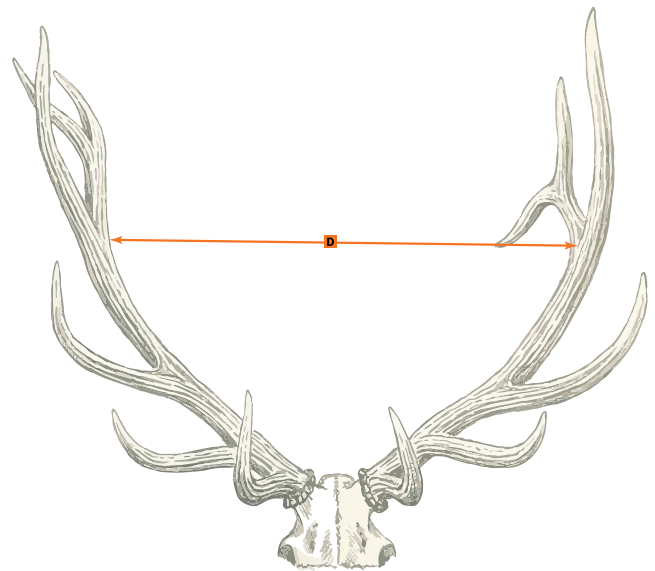
All in all, there has been extensive work done to bring both organizations closer together on how the scoring programs are administered. Some differences remain, such as Pope and Young's requirement that the third circumference on pronghorn must be taken above the prong, their lower entry minimums, the required inches of abnormal points determining which category the trophy must be entered into, and their requirements and definition of archery gear for inclusion in their record books, which is not a requirement for entry into B&C.



**FIGURE 3-P**  
When determining origination of a tine off a beam or tine, place base lines on the front or rear edge of the established tines and top edge of the main beam. A center line is extended down the tine in question. If the center line strikes the base line on the edge of the tine first, separation must extend down to the main beam to be two separate tines. If the center line intersects the base line on the top of the beam, the point should be treated as a point connected with webbing. Ensure to account for natural swelling at the base of the tine when establishing lines and determining origination.

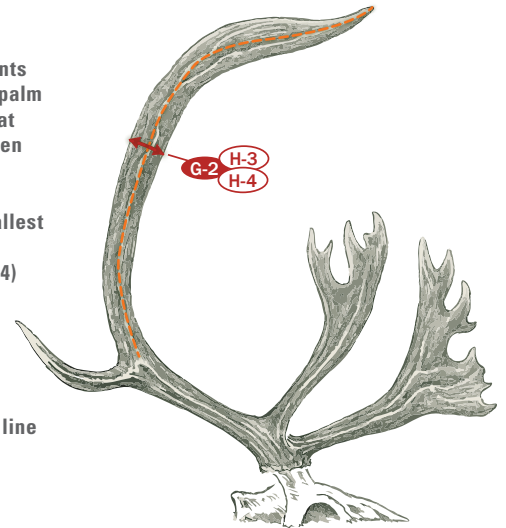
Much discussion has taken place in the last few years regarding panel procedures, shrinkage allowances, Special Judges Panels, policy clarifications, measurer requirements, and OM workshop teaching formats. It will benefit all Official Measurers to review this new manual extensively. Even those of us that use it daily still find wording and reminders that may not always stay front of mind when scoring.

All Boone and Crockett Official Measurers will receive a copy of the manual once it has been printed. We are hoping to have these shipped out sometime in June. ■

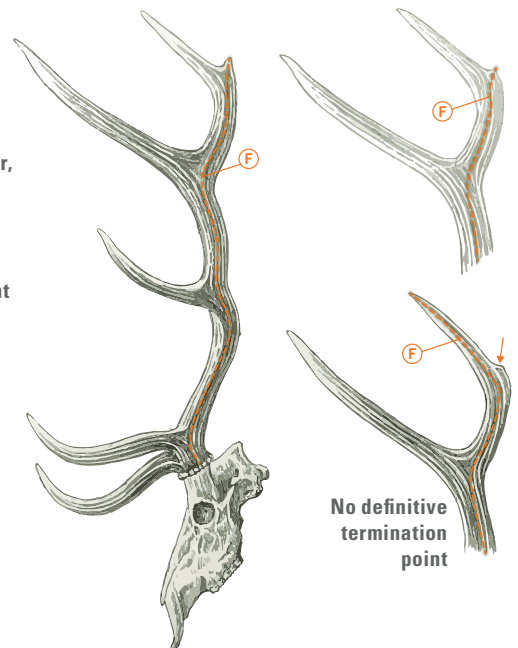


**FIGURE 6-D**  
When one or both antlers curve outward excessively near their tips, the inside spread measurement (D) must be taken where the "flaring" antler(s) begins to diverge from the normal curvature or at a location below the point of divergence, whichever is greater.

**FIGURE 11-M**  
If there are no top points present, width of top palm (G-2), circumference at smallest place between rear point and first top point (H-3), and circumference at smallest place between two longest top points (H-4) are all taken at the midpoint of a line which follows the length of main beam line from the center of the rear point base line to the beam tip.



**FIGURE 6-E**  
In rare cases, the beam tip may not qualify as a point by itself. However, beam length (F) is still measured to the tip of the bump, and it is counted as a point in the point total for each antler.



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\*As of April 20, 2021

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