

JUDGES PANELS

TROPHY TALK



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This past February, Boone and Crockett Club staff and Records of North American Big Game Committee Chairman Mike Opitz traveled to Reno, Nevada, for the Pope and Young Club's Biennial Convention Judges Panel. Nearly 170 trophies were sent for verification.

Even though the panel verification process has been in place since the inception of both records programs, there is still a need for clarification for many trophy owners on the processes and terminology associated with panel verification. What follows is an overview of the three ways a trophy can be verified and a comparison between Boone and Crockett Club's and Pope and Young Club's processes.

SPECIAL JUDGES PANEL

Both organizations allow a Special Judges Panel for potential World's Records. The first Special Judges Panel occurred in August 2001 when three potential World's Records were entered right after the cut-off for invitation to the Awards program Judges Panel. Two of them were sent to Missoula, where the first Special Judges Panel took place at the University of Montana.

A Special Judges Panel was convened at the Wild Sheep Foundation's 2023 Sheep Show in Reno, Nevada, to confirm Justin Kallusky's Rocky Mountain goat a new World's Record. Justin had his goat on display at the Club's booth during the panel scoring. LEFT TO RIGHT: Mike Opitz, Records Committee Chairman, Justin Kallusky, and Bucky Ihlenfeldt, B&C Official Measurer.

Upon completion of the first Special Judges Panel, the records committee reviewed the process, and it was officially added as a procedure going forward. In addition, the committee voted to include a shrinkage allowance into World's Record confirmation scores.

For this type of panel, the Boone and Crockett Club or Pope and Young Club must receive an official entry that is reviewed and accepted at a score equal to or higher than the current World's Record. Regardless of the number of Official Measurers involved in the initial scoring, the trophy must be reviewed and accepted, then panel verified by a Boone and Crockett Club or Pope and Young Club appointed panel. If the trophy owner chooses a special panel, the committee chairman will select a team of at least three Official Measurers and

a Special Panel chairman. In some cases, the chairman will elect not to be involved in the actual team scoring. In this case, a fourth Official Measurer is appointed to the panel. The same two independent scorings are done as with any judges panel and then compared. In the case of a special panel that happens far sooner than a regular panel, shrinkage is considered, but allowances are not as generous as a regular panel measurement.

The most recent Special Judges Panel conducted by the Boone and Crockett Club was to confirm Justin Kallusky's World's Record Rocky Mountain goat. The two teams were only 1/8-inch apart, with one team of measurers getting the same as the entry and the other team 1/8-inch below. The original score was confirmed, and his goat declared a new World's Record.

REGULAR PANELS

Pope and Young Club's Convention panels operate nearly identical to Boone and Crockett Club's Awards panels. This allows both organizations to reciprocate scores depending on which panel occurred first.

Boone and Crockett's awards programs are on a triennial cycle, with our 31st Awards Judges Panel in the spring of 2022. The next is scheduled for spring 2025. Pope and Young's conventions are held biennially, and was





The Pope and Young Club's Biennial Convention Judges Panel was held in February 2023, in Reno, Nevada.

recently held in Reno, Nevada. Their next Judges Panel will also happen in 2025, making for a busy spring for both Club's records programs.

The selection criteria for judges differs slightly between the organizations. The Boone and Crockett Club collects names of Official Measurers expressing interest throughout the awards program. Those names are forwarded to the records committee chairman and vice president of big game records for consideration. Judges are selected from different regions around North

America to ensure each species invited has highly experienced measurers with each category present. The Boone and Crockett Club stipulates that any Official Measurer can serve as a judge only three times and a panel chairman for one additional panel. After that, they are only eligible as a consultant. Consultants generally score on a team, usually paired with a first-time panel judge, but this is at the discretion of the panel chairman.

The Pope and Young Club's panel is always chaired by the current Pope and

Young records chairman. The chairman extends invitations to long-serving measurers at their discretion. Quite commonly, there is significant overlap between panel members for both organizations.

Each organization invites the top five trophies from each category for verification, not rescoring. This is an important distinction. Neither panel assigns a new score to a correctly scored trophy. Two teams of two measurers at Boone and Crockett panels and two teams of three measurers at Pope and Young panels

independently score each trophy. The panel chairman then looks at the scores, and any discrepancies are identified. Quite commonly, the re-scores will be slightly lower than the original score, and this is expected with continued drying. In fact, there is an agreed-upon allowable shrinkage, depending on the species. If no errors are detected within the original score after being verified by the two teams, most entries are confirmed at the entry score.

For both organizations, if an error by an



Mike Opitz was the chair of the Special Judges Panel but chose to not be involved in the team scoring. The two teams of Official Measurers were Vern Bleich and Dave Turchanski (top) and Bucky Ihlenfeldt and Brett Ross (bottom). Both teams were only 1/8-inch apart and confirmed the score of 60-4/8 points, which is three points bigger than the previous World's Record.



Read more about the new World's Record Rocky Mountain goat.



Records of North American Big Game Committee Chairman Mike Opitz, seen here with Pope and Young Official Measurer Gary Martin, at Pope and Young Club's 33rd Biennial Convention Judges Panel.

Read about Justin Kallusky's World's Record hunt on page 32.

original measurer is detected that, when corrected, increases the score, even if the increase is minimal, the adjustment is made. If a mistake is detected that causes the trophy to drop, only the erroneous measurement is corrected. The rest of the initial scoring is confirmed. Rarely a trophy falls significantly on all measurements. If none of the original scoring can be confirmed, the panel chairman may reject the entire initial scoring, but this situation is very rare.

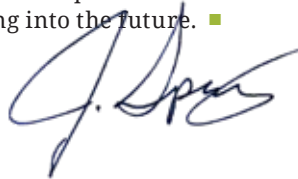
Initially, neither organization allowed shrinkage nor were trophies not in attendance able to be included in publications.

ADDITIONAL SCORECHART VERIFICATION

For trophy owners unable to send a trophy to panel verification, the Boone and Crockett Club allows two additional verifying measurements to be completed by two different Official Measurers independently. These measurers cannot be the original measurer of the trophy. In this

case, the trophy is given an asterisk in the awards period book for which it was invited. It will be ranked accordingly in the next all-time book. Invited trophies will appear with an asterisk in one awards and one all-time book. If the additional verification still needs to be completed by the publication of the next all-time book, the Boone and Crockett Club drops the trophy from its records. The Pope and Young Club gives trophies two chances to send their trophy to panel. Those that are not sent are dropped.

In sum, we do our best to work with all trophy owners to help them verify their trophies, which is why we have three ways to verify scores. Our records are a testament to the conservation success story created by the Boone and Crockett Club more than 130 years ago. With any luck, we'll continue to build upon that foundation long into the future. ■




OFFICIAL MEASURERS ON THE ROAD

Tyler McMahon (left) owner of Sherwood Outfitters, Alberta, talks with OM Chad Collins (right) about sheep hunting. Chad Collins was measuring bighorn sheep at the Midwest Sheep Show in Minnesota.

B&C SIGN-UP INCENTIVE PROGRAM LEADER BOARD

As of April 14, 2023

CONGRATS TO OUR TOP 10 PRIZE WINNERS!

1. Philip A. Herrnberger - 270
2. Stanley Zirbel - 170
3. Bucky Ihlenfeldt - 157
4. Ken Witt* - 113
5. Dale Weddle - 79
6. Steven Taylor - 69
7. Jerry E. Lunde - 52
8. John Bogucki* - 46
9. (tie) Eric Stanosheck - 33
9. (tie) Robert Wood - 33
10. Ab England - 29

*deceased

SEE THE COMPLETE LISTING IN THE COMMUNITIES SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE.



EACH TIME AN OM GETS SOMEONE TO JOIN B&C WE PUT A CREDIT BY THEIR NAME!

HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN

- 3 Members - \$25 off any item in the B&C store
- 5 Members - Buck Knife
- 10 Members - B&C Boyt Sling
- 25 Members - OM Wool Vest
- 50 Members - SITKA Gear (value up to \$350)
- 75 Members - YETI Package (value up to \$500)
- 100 Members - Kimber Rifle
- 150 Members - \$800 Gift Card to Bass Pro Shops/Cabelas!
- 200 Associates - Vortex Optics Gear! (value up to \$1400)
- 300 Members - Kenetrek Boot Package (value up to \$1,500)
- 400 Members - Kimber Rifle! (value up to \$1,500)
- 500 Members - Hotel & registration plus \$500 travel stipend to the next Awards Banquet



Want to Become an Official Measurer?

Scan the QR code to Fill out the Official Measurer Application!



Would you like to give an Official Measurer credit for your renewal? Let them know when it is your time to renew and they will provide their OMID number to include with your renewal so they will receive credit.