



The CWTF North American Turkey Call Making Championship March 14th, 2024 Contest Rules and Categories (Open to all call makers)

CHARTER

The basis for this competition is to determine each call's stand-alone merit of how well it performs in the hands of a hunter. The judges of this competition will be a qualified panel of experienced turkey hunters who will grade each call on the prescribed criteria. Please note that this is not a contest to determine who the best caller is, rather it is a contest to determine the best call in each specific category.

While it is expected that call makers can run their own calls with great precision, the question with turkey hunters is, how simple or easy the turkey call is to use and how much does it sound like a turkey. In determining and selecting the best hunting turkey call each year, the CWTF strives to ensure fairness and impartiality without prejudice towards commercial or custom call makers or with the design of any call entered in the hunting call competition. Criteria for determining and selecting the best call places equal emphasis on sound quality and tone, ease of use, versatility and its ability in attaining what is commonly referred to as a break over. (Crow and Locater calls will be judged a bit differently).

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RULES

The purpose of the hunting call competition is to select the most consistent, user friendly and best sounding calls. Entry into the event is open to commercially manufactured as well as custom, handmade calls. In addition, the CWTF Best of Show and Best of Class Call Makers will be recognized, as well as Youth Call Maker of the Year.

We will be posting entries for sale on eBay. Name recognition and competition placement (if applicable) will be displayed with each entry that's for sale on all eBay listings. All call makers must submit a brief description of the call they are entering. Information must include the call makers name and address along with a description of call including types of material used in the call and any information that will enhance the sale of the call at Auction and on eBay. Information should be submitted on a 5" x 7" note

card or a half-page maximum. Call makers wishing to purchase their calls back from CWTF may place a reserve bid on their calls. If at auction the call does not reach the reserve bid the maker can buy the call for that price. This must be noted on the registration form.

General Hunting Call Competition rules:

1. All call makers are required to pre-register, with the CWTF Contest Secretary, all entries they plan to enter in the 2024 competition. The pre-registration deadline for all entries should be received no later than March 1, 2024.

- *Bob Fulcher (Contest Secretary)*
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2. Entries must be original works of the call maker. **Entries must be signed and dated by the call maker.**

3. All call makers are limited to 2 entries per category.

4. Call makers are responsible for selecting the category in which they wish to enter each call. The CWTF reserves the right to place any call in a different category than the one designated by the entrant if the CWTF believes the call is more correctly suited to a differing category/class. In this event the competition chairman and co-chairs will convene and make the decision to move the call in question to the best suited category/class.

5. All entries will be opened at the competition site. When mailing your calls to the CWTF, please include 2 copies of the registration form. 1 copy inside the package and the other placed in an envelope or under the shipping label on the outside of the package and mail to:

John Jones
CWTF
314 Summerset Ave.
Kingsville, ON
N9Y2B9

- Packages can be sent USPS Priority, UPS, or FedEx.
- NOTE: If entering multiple calls of the same type, it is the makers' responsibility to include a brief description of each call on the entry form so the call can be properly identified.

6. It is the call maker's responsibility to place an acceptable insurance value on the entry for shipping purposes, as the CWTF will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to entries that are beyond the control of the contest.

7. Awards will be mailed out from the CWTF after the competition. Please allow 1-3 weeks for additional score validation process, treasury report, and shipping of awards.

8. Restrictions: Calls made with box turtle or turtle shell are not permitted.
9. The calls will be listed and sold on eBay.
10. Call makers may place absentee bids by filling out the bidding form and including it with their registration form. This amount will be the starting bid price and if this bid is not surpassed the call will be purchased by the call maker for the absentee bid amount.
11. All 1st place winners in the Hunting Categories will then be re-judged from the Best of Hunting Call.
12. Winners of The CWTF North American Turkey Call Making Championship will be announced the day following the competition.

II. JUDGING

A panel of five (5) judges per category will individually rate each entry. Each maker is limited to 2 entries per category. Scores of each call will be totaled. The winner of each category will be determined by the highest score. The preliminary round of judging will begin at 8 a.m. March 14, 2024. The Contest Co-Chairs will serve as facilitators. Judging normally takes about 4 to 6 hours.

Division 1 – Hunting Categories 1 – 7

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- Ability to produce turkey-like sounds. Examples include, but are not limited to: yelp, cluck, kee-kee, cackle, cutting of the hen, purr, putt, gobble, tree call.
- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Break over or roll over.
- Versatility: the ability to obtain a vast range of turkey-like sounds – i.e. both spring or fall type calls, gobbler or hen sounds, including the ability to sound like more than one turkey.

Division 1 – Hunting Category 8 Turned Trumpet

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- Ability to produce turkey-like sounds. Examples include, but are not limited to: yelp, cluck, kee-kee, cackle, cutting of the hen, purr, putt, gobble, tree call.
- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

Division 1 – Hunting Category 9 Turkey Wing Bone

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- Ability to produce turkey-like sounds. Examples include, but are not limited to: yelp, cluck, kee-kee, cackle, cutting of the hen, purr, putt, gobble, tree call.
- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

Division 1 – Hunting Category 10 Cane Yelper

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- Ability to produce turkey-like sounds. Examples include, but are not limited to: yelp, cluck, kee-kee, cackle, cutting of the hen, purr, putt, gobble, tree call.
- Ease of use to produce turkey-like sounds -- i.e. how simple or user-friendly the call is too use.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

Division 1 – Hunting Category 11, 12, and 13 Air Operated Open (Locator & Deer calls) and Tube Calls

The following characteristics of each call will be scored.

- Ability to produce the sound of the animal or object the call is meant to mimic.
- Ease of use to produce the sound of the specific animal.
- Tone, pitch, and sound quality.
- Projection quality – i.e. loudness and clarity of the sound of the call.

Divisions and Classes of Turkey Calls

Division 1

Category 1 – Short Box - Hinged lid design, overall length not to exceed 10” and sound chamber 5.5” or less with slight variations.

Category 2 – Long Box - Hinged lid design, overall length 11” or greater and sound chamber greater than 6.5”

Category 3 – Slate Pot Call

Category 4 – Glass/Crystal Pot Call

Category 5 - Other material, Pot call - Aluminum, copper, stone, ceramic, rock, fossil, bone

Category 6 – Scratch Box Design - Any hinged design with a screw and/or spring will be moved to Category 1 Short Box

Category 7 – Trough Call & Striker (i.e.: Ray & Ira Chisholm, Pap Nelson, Ben Lee) - Depth of trough must recede a minimum ¼” or more to qualify with the ends open. Playing surface may be of any material and striker may be of any design.

Category 8 – Turned Trumpet Call - Turned or machined barrel with mouth piece, mouth piece is not required to be turned.

Category 9 – Turkey Wing Bone, Open - Minimum of 2 bones must be used. NO migratory bird bones allowed.

Category 10 – Cane Yelpers – Must be made with materials consistent with a Jordan Yelper. (ie: river cane, thread, metal ferrule, and turkey wing bone mouth piece) NO turned barrels allowed.

Category 11 – Locator Call - Any style Turkey Locator call. Calls may include owl call, peacock call, crow call, woodpecker call, hawk call, etc. All calls are played as the makers send them. Judges will not move or adjust any reeds.

Category 12 – Buck Grunt or Doe Bleat - Any turned style Buck Grunt or Doe Bleat. All calls are played as the makers send them. Judges will extend the grunt tube when judging. Judges will not separate, move or adjust any reeds! Unless the call is built with an exterior adjustable reed system that doesn't require the call to be separated (opened).

Category 13 – Tube Calls

Category 14 – Jakes – kids 17 and under, calls built with assistance from an adult.

Class breakdown:

Class 1 – Categories 1 and 2

Class 2 – Categories 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

Class 3 – Categories 8, 9, and 10

Class 4 – Categories 11, 12, and 13

Additional information:

1. The calls with highest scores in each category will be declared: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.
2. In the event of a tie, the calls in question will be re-scored by the judges to determine the winner.
3. All 1st place hunting calls will be rescored for Best of Hunting Class.
4. The judges will collectively score all of the 1st place hunting class category winners. The call with the highest score shall be declared the Best of Hunting Class.
5. Once judging is completed all awards will be placed next to calls.

AWARDS will be as follows:

Hunting Categories

- 1st Place - Plaque & Medallion
- 2nd Place – Medallion only
- 3rd Place – Medallion only
- Best of Show - \$1000.00, Plaque, Medallion
- Best of Class - Plaque
- “Youth Call Maker of the Year” - Medallion

Special note: Judges shall not be permitted to converse with one another during judging. This is to discourage one judge from influencing another judge’s score. Call makers who enter calls will not be permitted to judge the categories they compete in.

The Canadian Wild Turkey Federation is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting the establishment, restoration, preservation, and sustainable management of wildlife and habitat in Canada, with a focus on wild turkeys.