

## Chewed, Broken, Repaired Points & Antler Beams

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By the spring of the year, most antlers have been shed except in the most southern regions of the United States and in Mexico where southern latitudes cause antlers to remain attached into late May and June.

Antlers are, by their very existence, vulnerable to various forms of damage before and after being shed. During the rut, antler points are often broken from fighting with other bucks or bulls while some are damaged by the inevitable close encounter with hunters. After they are shed, rodents actively search for them upon the arrival of spring. Because of these inherent problems, detailed information of any repairs must be brought to the attention of the measurer prior to scoring, including photos, if available.

If the repairs are so good that the measurer cannot determine where the real antler bone ends and the repair begins, it probably will not be accepted. If it falls within the top five in the world in its respective category, it may be required to be x-rayed to determine its authenticity. A broken or chewed antler point or main beam can only be measured to the farthest end of the still attached real bone and not to the tip of the repair.

When a main beam is chewed or damaged partially through, it will still receive credit by using the *Fair Measurement Rule* adopted by the NASHC. This rule provides a main beam measurement where the circumference has been chewed away by rodents, broken by way of injury or during hunting season.

To accomplish this in the fairest possible manner, the measurer would add the circumference measurement on each side of the damaged area together and divide the total score by two. The average will now be the new reading for the circumference which was damaged but still intact. *Example:* If C-2 is damaged and C-1 and C-3 are okay, add C-1 and C-3 dimensions together and divide by two. If C-1 is damaged, use the same circumference found in C-2. If C-4 is damaged, use the same measurement found in C-3. The *Fair Measurement Rule* allows a shed antler the opportunity to be recognized which would normally be penalized due to damage.

Points chewed along the outside surface but which are still intact are often repaired without