



AUSTRALIAN SHEEPDOG WORKERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

SUPREME RULES

Adopted 19.3.99 Revised 7.4.00

Revised and adopted 26/3/04

Revised and adopted 16/4/07

1. The judges' decision shall be final and they shall be in command of the trial from the time the competitor, with their dog released, enters the trial course.

1a. The entry form for all events conducted at the Supreme must contain a declaration to be filled in and signed by all triallers and will read as follows:

I do hereby agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the host State and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as shown below. Failure to abide by these requirements will result in immediate suspension from competing at this event and at the next Supreme Trial in the year of 200

Code of Conduct

- A competitor shall not inflict verbal or physical abuse on any person
- A competitor shall not inflict pain nor cause willful distress to any animal
- A competitor shall not engage in actions or dialogue which result in sexual harassment or discrimination
- A competitor shall not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct
- A competitor must wear appropriate clothing and footwear
- A competitor must present themselves for competition in a state of sobriety

2. Time of trial be 15 minutes and to start and finish with a bell or siren.
3. The stick used by competitors shall be a solid stick, and not more than 18 inches or 46 cms long and without flaps.
4. Sheep to be brought out from the fence a distance of 18 metres to give every dog a chance for a pick-up.
5. When a competitor's name is called, the worker must proceed to the peg promptly, from an entry gate near starting peg and should a dog leave the arena after the worker has been called to the peg, they should be disqualified.
6. Should the dog break away before the sheep release signal has been given, the worker may move away from the peg but not forward of it to recall the dog.
7. After the sheep release signal has been given, and before the starting bell, should a dog break, it must be recalled from the peg with no penalty. If the dog cannot be recalled before coming into contact with the sheep it must be disqualified.
8. In any trial, if a dog fails at first attempt to sight the sheep, they may be recalled and re-directed and penalised accordingly.

9. The dog may be cast from area 9 metres in front of peg, 9 metres to either side and behind the peg in a line to the fence. Peg to be at least 30 metres from fence. See diagram. If dog is cast from in front of handler, it must not cross.
10. If a dog should in any way injure a sheep, such dog shall at once be disqualified and the competitor held responsible for any damage done to the sheep. Should the sheep charge a dog or exhibit defiance and the dog then snaps at or nips the sheep, no points need be deducted and the dog should not be disqualified. If the dog is the aggressor and bites the sheep when not in self-defence, the Judge must disqualify them.
11. If the working of the dog is of inferior merit, the Judge has the power to terminate the trial before the expiration of time allowed.
12. During the course of the trial, any dog coming between the worker and sheep shall be disqualified, except the judge, at their discretion, need not disqualify a dog getting between worker and sheep provided the dog is or has been forcing in a proper manner at the obstacle. When negotiating obstacles, points may be deducted if sheep are allowed to circle the obstacle or if they pass the wing and brought back
13. The competitor will not be allowed to control the dog in any way, except by signal, whistle or word of mouth. Any competitor, who by action, sound or unfair manoeuvre stops or turns the sheep at any obstacle, shall have points deducted and if the obstacle is negotiated by such action, all maximum points may be deducted at judge's discretion.
14. The draw shall be considered completed when the sheep have crossed the balance marker as per diagram on "Course" page.
15. If the sheep pass the worker on the right hand side, they must be unwound, anti-clockwise, back on to the original course and brought around the left hand side of the peg before negotiation is completed. If the sheep circle the peg more than once from the right hand side, the sheep need be unwound once and no further unwinding is necessary.
16. When taking sheep from one obstacle to another, competitor should walk in a straight line – sheep should be on competitor's right side unless otherwise specified. Points must be deducted if competitor stops between obstacles.
17. Points may be deducted for slow work.
18. If any sheep escape from the pen through the gate after the worker has left the set they may re-pen the sheep but must not stop walking. If sheep are not then penned, the trial terminates when the gate is shut and the worker forfeits points for the sheep escaping and for the pen.
19. Course as per diagram which includes points and measurements for obstacles as well as set-up of course.
- 20.** Scale of Points as per allocation on diagram.
21. All points lost must be deducted including points for negotiated obstacles if required.
22. At the conclusion of each trial, the sheep must be taken to a point indicated by the trial committee as expeditiously as possible. Put-away area preferably to be at same end as let-out and not on side of arena.
23. IF, in the opinion of the Judge or Committee, or any body conducting a trial under these rules, any worker ill-uses their dog, they will be subject to a fine of up to \$200, forfeit all prize money and may be debarred from competing at any trial conducted under these rules.
24. Any worker who handles the dog during a trial shall be disqualified unless permission has been granted by the judge.
25. No competitor shall be allowed on the trial course with any dog prior to or during the currency of the trial except when directed by a trial steward. The owner or nominee of a

dog allowed to run loose by mistake, or otherwise may be fined subject to Trial Committee.

26. Owners of all dogs competing in all trials must be financial members of the Working Sheep Dog Association in the State in which they reside and their dogs must be registered.
27. Any protest must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the Trial Committee within 15 minutes and be accompanied by a fee of \$10 which will be returned if the protest is upheld. Such protest will be dealt with by the Trial Committee, which will within 14 days, submit a report to this Association. Any appeal shall be dealt with by the Council of the Association whose decision shall be final.
28. An owner may appoint at time of entry, a nominee to work the dog or dogs at a trial. Such nominee must be a member of the Working Sheep Dog Association in the State in which they reside and accept full responsibility during the currency of the trial. If a nominee is appointed, they must work in both preliminary and final, should a final be held.
29. Should sheep enter any obstacle before the worker reaches the set, the competitor may step into the set and complete the obstacle. However, if all the sheep have negotiated any obstacle under the same circumstances, such obstacle must be reworked, excepting the pen, in which case the worker must step into the set, then shut the gate. If the worker leaves the peg before having negotiated an obstacle they must be disqualified.
30. No dog shall be permitted to compete in a trial or be brought near a trial ground if it has had distemper or has been exposed to the risk of distemper during a period of seven weeks prior to the date the trial is to be held. Owners of dogs may be asked to sign a declaration to this effect before being allowed to compete in a trial.
31. Competitors at trials shall take their place according to the draw, and any dog absent shall not be allowed to compete, except at the discretion of the Association jury under special circumstances. If a competitor is granted permission to run in the trial after having missed their proper place in the draw, the run should take place at the end of the round in progress at the committee's discretion. Should the same dog reach the final, they must take their place accordingly in the final.
32. Only Judges' cards drawn up by the Association may be used. A competitor cannot examine his/her card until completion of the trial. Cards may only be examined in the presence of a Trial Steward and under no circumstances can a competitor examine the card of another competitor. The cards shall always remain the property of the Association and therefore they must not be given to a competitor. They should also be kept in a position where they are not readily available for competitors to peruse. If judges' cards are not used, written score must be handed to officials.
33. Entries are not to be accepted unless the full name and registered number of dog is supplied. It should be stated on the entry form that the full name and registration number of each dog must be given and that the entry will not be accepted unless this information is supplied.
34. Novice dogs not eligible to enter Supreme Championship except in Tasmania and Western Australia. Provision is to be made in the acceptance of Supreme entries to accommodate dogs that break their novice status after the advertised closing date of entries.
35. States may run a separate Novice trial if they are able to do so.
36. If an Improver Trial is to be held, it must be run in conjunction with the Open Trial. An Improver Dog **may** enter Improver trial only.
37. If a competitor enters a dog in Novice Trial and after entries close the dog becomes ineligible for that event, the dog shall be eligible on payment of any extra fees, to compete in the Open and Improver Trial and take their place at the end of the first draw {round}.
38. In the event of a tie in the Novice, Improver and Open Trial, a winner must be decided by a run-off.

39. Competitors' dogs should be drawn in the order of listing on their entry form except for State Representative dogs. No late entries can be accepted after the draw has been made.
- (a) Every competitor to have one run before anyone works a second dog.
 - (b) 2 dog workers – 1 dog in first round – 2nd dog strategically placed in second half of draw.
 - (c) More than 2 dog workers – 1 dog in first round – others spread evenly throughout the draw.
40. The State Representative's runs in the Supreme Trial to be run in a block **not** in the first round. The second and third runs to be in blocks and may be judged by different judges. Two of these runs to be over the Trans Tasman Course.
41. A re-run will not be given if a competitor has lost more points than will enable them to run in the finals. Re-run can be taken – straight away or a judge's discretion or at discretion of organising committee
42. Sheep must be inspected by delegate of the committee running the trial at least 21 days prior to trial. If necessary, they are to be wiggged {cost to be borne by organising committee} worked and/or handled.
43. These rules shall not be altered or added to unless notice of the proposed alteration or addition shall have been given to the Secretary and by the Secretary to each voting member of the Association in writing at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which the the motion is to be considered and the motion is carried by a majority of committee members present at the meeting.
44. Any person or persons refusing to confirm with these Rules may be disqualified from competing at all future trials conducted under these Rules.
45. In the event of any question or situation not provided for in these Rules, the matter in question shall be dealt with by a jury consisting of any 3 members from the State Representatives of the Australian Association and any action taken shall be reported to the Association within 14 days and the Executive Committee, if it deems fit, may make any alteration or addition to cover such contingency in the future.

Bitches in season may work at the Supreme. Competitors must use discretion regarding these bitches and they should not have a detrimental effect on other dogs competing.

RULES TO CONDUCT SUPREME AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Adopted – 8.10.99 Now part of Supreme Rules adopted 26.3.04.

46. **Championships** to be held over 5 / 6 days
47. **Approval to hold Championships** - Proposal and application to hold Supreme Championships must be presented to Australian Body for approval
48. **Committee to run Championships** - The State Body or Committee must work in liaison with Australian Association. Social activities should be discussed with Australian Association
49. **Sponsorship** arranged by the Australian Association and the State organising the Supreme. This sponsorship is to cover all costs relating to trial. Excess at end of trial to be handed over to Australian Body.
50. **Venue** to be suitable to draw large crowds. To be held, where possible, in conjunction with another major event, e.g. field day. Preferably with area for caravans and camping on the grounds or within a few kilometres.
51. **Judges** - two required and their scores should be shown individually, added together and then divided. Written score to be handed in to organiser. Organising committee to submit six names in their order of preference from "**List of Judges for Supreme Championships**" to meeting at Hall in March. Judges final selection is by Australian Association. Accommodation and/or remuneration to be provided for Judges.
52. **Prize Money /Trophies/Ribbons-**
Supreme
Twenty dogs into second round
Ten dogs into final - prize money and sash to each dog
Improver
Five dogs into final - all finalists to receive a ribbon and/or prize money and trophy
Novice – (If separate Novice run – See rule 35)
Five dogs into final – all finalists to receive a ribbon and/or prize money and trophy
53. **Sashes/Certificates** - to be provided by Australian Association. Cost to be absorbed by Organising Committee of Supreme Championships.
54. **Interstate Challenge** - Two representatives from each state, chosen by their State as being appropriate competitors and ambassadors for their home State and for the sport of sheep dog trialling, may be invited to compete for the Ted Gaby Shield at Supreme Championships. Challenge to be over three rounds.
First Round - Supreme Run
Second and Third Rounds to be held over the Trans Tasman Course and worked under the Trans Tasman Rules.
Every round to be run in **A block** each time.
Each round may be judged by different judge/judges.
Order of participants to change for each round and each round to be listed in official program.
Each State Representative to receive a copy of the Trans Tasman Test Course and Rules months prior to the Championships so they may practice..

Winning Team Aggregate over the 3 rounds of both representatives. Winning team to receive replicas of Shield.
55. **Test Team Selection** – The team to represent Australia will be chosen from the outcome of the Ted Gaby Shield competition. Only those people deemed to be appropriate competitors and ambassadors for their country and the sport of sheep dog trialling will be considered to represent Australia in the Trans Tasman Tests. The final selection will be made by the ASDWAI committee. That is the twelve State delegates who make up the voting strength of the six States. (The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will not have a vote as is the case for all matters that come before the ASDWAI). The four highest scoring dogs over the three rounds of the Interstate Challenge will represent Australia against New Zealand for the Tests. After team has been chosen, any vacancy will be filled by the next available top scoring dog.

Test Team selected at the Supreme Championships will represent in the following Test series irrespective of date of Tests.

Captain of the Australian team chosen by the Association.

Each test team member to receive Australian Blazer with appropriate pocket which has been inscribed and an Australian tie.

- 56 Trans Tasman Tests** - These are usually held each year, alternating between Australia and New Zealand. Should a New Zealand Test Team be invited to Australia, they must be accommodated to a standard approved by Australian Association.
- 57 Momentos** Each member of both Test teams to receive an inscribed memento of the occasion. Cost to be absorbed by organising committee.
- 58 Balance Sheet and profit-** for Supreme Championships to be forwarded within four months to Australian Association after completion of Championships,
- 59 Commentary** - to be provided during the Championships to keep the public informed and competitors aware of the draw.
- 60 Television** - There may be a television program made during the Championships and Organising Committee to be aware of this and allow time in their schedule.

GUIDE FOR JUDGES

The dog must run out freely to a point of balance to take control of the sheep on the **Cast**. The worker may command by word or whistle the dog on while casting, without losing points, provided the dog moves freely to the point of balance. Should the dog at any point of its cast break its free run to walk or stop, points may be deducted.

Should sheep move before the dog heads them, the completion of the cast shall be at the point from which the dog takes control, provided the dog does this to the satisfaction of the judge.

When a dog completes the cast, they should approach and move the sheep in a quiet, steady, commanding manner. The ideal position is that from which the dog can **lift** the sheep and move them in a direct line towards the worker.

The ideal **Bring** is in an imaginary corridor 9m wide from the point of lift to the worker as the temperament of the sheep will allow. Points should not be deducted, if in the opinion of the judge, the dog is doing everything possible to attain this. The Bring should be considered completed when the sheep have negotiated the winding peg by passing on the left hand of the worker and passed the marker denoting the delivery line. (See diagram).

The dog should maintain an active interest in their work and at all times have full control of the sheep. Turning tail to the sheep is generally a fault and points deducted.

No points shall be deducted other than those lost during the trial. The judge shall not further penalise a dog that does not complete the course. In such cases the points deducted during the trial shall be added to the points allotted to each obstacle not negotiated to arrive at the total number of points. No points shall be allotted if the dog is rung off for any reason other than the expiration of time.

The judge should at all times during the trial, exercise care that they do not impede the work of the dog.

SUPREME COURSE Adopted 26/3/04

Obstacles to be set at least 40m to 60m apart – Longest section to the gap

Course to be set in square to suit the arena and Trans Tasman course

Course to be 9metres wide. Markers to be set 9 metres apart.

Edge of circle or square to be 2 metres from edge of obstacle

Put-away area should be as near as possible to let-out area and not on side of arena.

