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**RULES OF THE
TASMANIAN WORKING SHEEPDOG
ASSOCIATION INC
28 FEBRUARY 2021**

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RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Interpretations: Unless otherwise stated:

"Association" means the Tasmanian Working Sheep Dog Association Incorporated operating under Articles of Association and By-Laws as adopted February 26th, 1949, and since amended from time to time.

"Executive" means the Executive Committee of the Association as elected under Section 6 of the Articles.

"Committee" means a committee appointed by a Society, Club Association or person to conduct sheepdog trials on its behalf.

"Controlling Body" means the Working Sheep Dog Association or other recognised body having control of sheepdog trials in any state, or Federal Territory of Australia, in New Zealand or any other Overseas Country.

"Trial" means any competition arranged between working sheepdogs in working sheep in a required manner over any course either within an arena or in open field.

"Arena" means an area either enclosed or with boundaries defined on which a trial is conducted.

"Course" means the course over which sheep must be worked by a dog competing in a trial.

"Owner" means the person in whose name a dog is registered or a person using a dog under recognised lease and in whose name the dog is entered in a trial.

"Worker" means a person responsible for working a dog in a trial whether the owner or not.

TRIALS - TYPES - EVENTS - RULES - CONDITIONS.

RULE 1:- The various types of trials which may be conducted are:-

Types

- (a) Major registered trials which are conducted over more than one day.
- (b) Registered trials which are conducted over one day only.
- (c) Training Days.

RULE 2:- The various events which may be conducted at a registered trial are:-

Events

(a) Encourage event - For workers who have never won a recognised trial, or more than three encourage events in total.

Encourage Workers may use any dog open or otherwise to compete in any Encourage event but are restricted to one win only per dog.

(b) Novice event - For dogs that have never won an event other than two Encourage events. Once any Novice dog wins a Novice event they advance to Improver Class.

(c) Improvers event - For dogs that have never won an event other than two Encourage trials or a novice trial.

(d) Open event - For all registered dogs.

For the purpose of this rule a dog that has only divided a first prize competing as one of a pair shall not be deemed to have won a trial, and any restricted event in which an open dog is eligible to compete shall be deemed an open event.

RULE 3 Training Days may be held for the purpose of:-

Picnic Trials

- (a) Training new judges and/or the interpretation of rules.
- (b) Attracting and training new members.
- (c) Giving young dogs experience.
- (d) Further promoting the interests and objects of the Association.

RULE 4

Registered Trials

- (a) Registered trials as defined in Rules 1 (a) and
- (b) may be conducted by a society, club or association which has been accepted by the Association as an affiliated body.
- (c) Such trials must be conducted in a manner, and at a time and place which are acceptable to the Association and be adjudicated over by a judge appointed by the Association.
- (d) All dogs competing in a major registered trial as determined in Rule 1 (a) shall take their place in the trial as determined by a draw conducted as per Rule 7.

RULE 5

Training Days

It is recommended that Training Days be conducted under the supervision of a body that is affiliated with the Association or a financial member of an affiliated club. The prime object at all times should be the further development and promotion of the Association.

RULE 6

Trial condition

Affiliated clubs shall hold their trials in accordance with the trial rules of the Association. All affiliated clubs shall observe and be bound by the decisions, directions, rules and constitution of this Association. Any club or society wishing to conduct a trial other than through the standard area obstacles and course must apply to the Association for the permission to do so.

RULE 7

Trial Committees

- (a) Any body intending to conduct a registered trial shall appoint a trial committee which shall be responsible for setting up a course, obtaining sheep and arranging their release as required, appointing a timekeeper, holding all score sheets and keeping records of all performances and generally doing all things necessary for the conduction of the trial. The use of a dog in connection with the release of sheep is not permitted

(b) The committee appointed to conduct a major registered trial will operate under the supervision of the state executive.

(c) A draw will be conducted, and everyone included with the exception of nominated one dog workers, as indicated on the entry form, who will have the choice of being included in either the first or last round draw. Workers with more than four dogs to be evenly spread throughout the rounds. Dogs to be worked in order, as indicated on the entry form. Workers shall take their place in a major registered trial according to a draw conducted by the Trial Committee and any dog absent shall not compete except at the discretion of the committee; if so allowed the dog shall compete only at the end of the draw. Dogs competing in a subsequent or final run will retain the same order of working as in the first run unless otherwise directed by the Trial Committee.

RULE 8

Prizes

Committees and affiliated clubs conducting trials are encouraged to hold encourage, Novice and Improver Trials where possible and time permits. Whilst there is no requirement for finals to be conducted for these events it is suggested where time permits this be done. It is required that finals be held for all Open Trials.

Prizes and prize money for all events to be allocated as the committee running the trial desires.

RULE 9

Courses

The committee shall set up a course 10 metres wide over which the trial will be held. Once a trial has commenced the course must not be altered unless any dog which has worked be given a re-run over the altered course. At the discretion of the judge a course may be altered for the final run. The course may be set out as the committee decide and may be one of the two alternatives.

(a) The standard course which will use the following four obstacles:-

Obstacle 1 Gap (or gate) 92 cm (3 feet) wide between two hurdles 2.74m (9 feet) long placed in line.

Obstacle 2 Race 2.74m (9 feet) long and 61 cm (3 feet) wide, wings 2.74m (9 feet) long opening to 2.13m (7 feet).

Obstacle 3 Bridge 2.74m (9 feet long), 92 cm (3 feet) wide, at least 46 cm (18 inches) and not more than 61 cm (24 inches) high in the middle, wings 2.74m (9 feet) long opening to 1.83m (6 feet). Bottom of ramp to finish approximately midway to the end of the hurdles.

Obstacle 4 Pen 2.74m (9 feet) long 1.83m (6 feet) wide. Gate to be placed to form a 92 cm (3 feet) gap and a 92 cm (3 feet) wing. At each of the obstacles 1,2,3, the workers peg or ring to be placed 2.44m (8 feet) from the obstacle on the left hand side as approached, and at obstacle 4 the peg or ring to be placed 2.74m (9 feet) from the gap on the left hand side as approached.

Time allowed for the completion of the course to be 15 minutes or such lesser times as the committee may decide as publicised prior to the start of the trial.

(b) The national course, which is the course as used by the National Sheepdog Association of Canberra together with the scale of points and time limit as used with it. This course only to be used with the permission of the Association.

RULE 10

Points deductions.

1. General

Penalties

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| (a) Worker shall not unfairly assist dog | Judges Discretion |
| (b) Shepherding by worker | Judges Discretion |
| (c) "Turn Tail" | 1 or 2 points |
| (d) Dog crossing except when forcing in a proper manner at obstacles | Disqualification |
| (e) Dog biting in self-defence | Judges Discretion |
| (f) Dog nipping but not hanging on | 2-5 points |

(g) Dog biting and hanging on Disqualification

2. **Cast**

(a) Dogs to be released on entering the arena Disqualification

(b) Dogs to be cast from within 10m of worker Disqualification

(c) Cast before bell, failure to recall Disqualification

(d) Each redirection of cast 1 point

(Handler permitted to direct their dog on the out run of the cast without loss of points)

(e) Each stop prior to heading sheep 1 point

(f) Dog casts outside arena Judges Discretion

(g) End of cast, sheep to be lifted straight Judges Discretion

3. **Pull** (from lift, a lane 5m each side of an imaginary centre line)

(a) Drift for every 10m on pull. 1 point

(b) Sheep moving back onto dog and dog giving ground. 1 or more points

(c) Each time sheep controlled a new imaginary line is established Judges Discretion

(d) Worker leaving starting peg prior to bringing all sheep round starting peg on the left of the worker facing the sheep Disqualification

4. **Draw**

Worker must move from point to point in a direct path and should not be warned by the judge of any infringement of these rules.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) For each deviation from direct path | Judges Discretion |
| (b) Worker must not stop between obstacles | Disqualification |
| (c) Sheep in front of worker and turned back | 2 points |
| (d) Penalties for drift around the course | 1 point first 10m
and 2 points each
additional 10m off
course. |

5. **Obstacles** (Imaginary lane 10m wide on right hand side of worker between obstacles)

Worker must be in circle before sheep enter obstacle otherwise re-work.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| (a) Any part of sheep past wings | 1 point |
| (b) Any part of sheep past centre of obstacle | 2 points |
| (c) Complete circuit of obstacle, or any sheep past end | 3 points |
| (d) Dog forcing from outside of obstacle | 4 points |
| (e) Penalties for drifts or breaks | (as in 4 D) |
| (f) Sheep not through obstacle when worker leaves circle or peg. | Disqualification |

RULE 11

Financial Status

Owners and workers of dogs competing in all trials (except encourage Trials) must be financial members of the Tasmanian Working Sheepdog Association or of the Working Sheepdog Association in the state in which they reside and their dogs must be registered.

RULE 12

Appeals Etc

(a) The "trial" committee shall consider any appeal, protest, complaint or other matter relating to the trial which may be properly brought before it and will take such action as it may see fit.

(b) Any protest must be lodged in writing with the trial committee secretary within the time limit specified by that body and be accompanied by a fee of \$20 which shall be returned if the protest is upheld. Such protest shall be dealt with by the trial committee which shall within 14 days submit a report to this Association. Any appeal against the decision of a trial committee shall be dealt with by the Association executive whose decision shall be final.

RULE 13

Other Matters

In the event of any matter arising not provided for in these rules, the matter shall be dealt with by the trial committee as detailed in RULE 12(a).

RULE 14

Judges Decision

At the request of the judge the trial committee shall consider and advise action on any matter he may refer to them, but may not reverse any judging decision he makes in connection with the trial. The committee may draw the judge's attention to any obvious omission but may not influence the judge.

RULE 15

Reports & Levy

Within 2 weeks of the completion of a trial the Committee shall forward:

To the Secretary of the Association a report containing:

(a) Payment of the current association levy for each dog that took part in the trial.

(b) Full details in connection with any appeal, protest disqualification or any other matter of like nature which may have taken place in relation to the trial.

To the Scorekeeper:

(c) Particulars of awards made to all placegetters in the trial or trials and in the case of an open trial at least three of the placegetters.

RULE 16

Entry Eligibility

The committee may accept the entries of dogs for trials and may charge such entry fee as it deems appropriate providing:-

- (a) The dog is currently registered as a working sheepdog with the Association or a recognised appropriate controlling body. The committee may require the owner to produce evidence of the dogs registration and classification at the time of entry.
- (b) The dog is not under any type of disqualification.
- (c) The owner is not under any suspension or disqualification by any recognised controlling body.

RULE 17

Refusal of entry

The committee may refuse any entry without giving its reasons, and order the removal of any dog from the arena or general area in which a trial is to be held or being held. Any member refused entry may appeal to the Executive.

RULE 18

Disqualification

Any person or persons refusing to conform with these rules may be expelled from the ground and be reported to the executive who may enforce any additional penalty that they consider appropriate.

RULE 19

Dogs restrained

No person or persons shall allow a dog in their care to run loose on a trial ground either before or during a trial unless directed by the committee.

RULE 20

Bitch in Season

No persons shall bring a bitch onto or near a trial ground during or within seven days of her period of heat. The committee may order the inspection of any bitch at any time. In the event of a dispute the owner may arrange a veterinary

inspection at their expense and present the resulting certificate to the committee.

RULE 21

Disease

No person or persons shall bring a dog onto or near a trial ground should the dog have had or show signs of a contagious disease within a period of 4 weeks prior to the date of the trial.

RULE 22

Ill use

Ill using a dog is strictly forbidden. Any person or persons considered by the judge or trial committee to have ill used a dog, may at the discretion of the committee be subject to a fine of up to \$50. In addition, the person or persons considered guilty under this rule may forfeit any prize money won, and be debarred from competing at any trial conducted under these rules.

RULE 23

Handling

Unless granted permission by the judge any worker who handles his dog during a trial shall be disqualified.

RULE 24

Worker

An owner may appoint a person to work his dog or dogs in a trial, in which case the person so appointed shall conjointly assume responsibility with the owner during the trial. The person so appointed must work the dog (s) in both preliminary and final runs if the dog (s) qualify. Dogs should be worked in the order of the handler's draw. Dogs owned by a judge may not compete in any event when the owner is judging. The nominee must be a member of the Tas Working Sheepdog Association or the Working Sheepdog Association in the state in which they reside.

RULE 25

Judges Panel

Following a satisfactory performance as a judge of novice events, interested people may apply or be nominated for inclusion on the judge's panel at the AGM. Applications and nominations shall then be considered by the executive who will appoint suitable judges to the judge's panel. The Executive shall appoint an "A" grade panel for major registered trials and a "B" grade panel for registered trials prior to the AGM. Registered trials requiring judges to be appointed by the Association shall be drawn from the judges panel at the AGM each year. Judges for all registered trials and any alterations shall be approved by the Executive.

RULE 26

Judges

(a) While officiating judges shall be presentably attired and act in a manner which maintains the dignity and esteem of the Association. (b) While judging the judge shall stand alone unless accompanied by a trainee or a penciller

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(b) At all registered trials judges shall record the scores on the official Associations judges sheets in all sections scored except in wet weather or other exceptional circumstances as approved by the Executive where a judge may use a click counter to score competitors but must record the final score on the official Association judges sheet and sign it.

(c) At the conclusion of each run the judge shall hand the relative score sheet to the recording steward appointed to receive it.

RULE 27

Recording Steward

The recording steward shall after checking and confirming any errors with the judge, display each workers score in a prominent place. Under no circumstances can a competitor in a trial examine the score sheet of another competitor.

RULE 28

Control

From the time that a worker enters the trial arena until he has completed his run the judge shall be in control and his decision shall be final. Details of any action

the judge may take as a result of any misdemeanour on the part of any person shall be reported to the trial committee as soon as practical.

RULE 29

Finals

If there is a final to be run by dogs selected by the judge he will give his awards to those gaining the highest number of aggregate points. At least one or more dog than the number of prizes offered shall be selected to compete in the final. There shall be no other dog elevated to the final if one of those selected is withdrawn.

RULE 30

Ties

In any open trial with a tied first placing there shall be a run off on the day of the event to determine the winner. Where circumstances prevent a run off on the day it shall be held at the first available opportunity.

RULE 31

Interference

If a dog strays onto the arena whilst a run is in progress or any other interference occurs, the competitor may request a re-run, the judges immediate decision shall be final. All re-runs will take place after the last dog had competed in that class. If at the time of the interference the competitor had lost sufficient point to put them out of the final, a re-run shall not be held.

RULE 32

Sheep

Three sheep shall be allocated to each dog.

RULE 33

Objections

From the time that the worker and dog are at the starting peg and the sheep have been released, and these sheep remain in the area, they shall be the sheep worked by that dog. Workers may object to any sheep as being physically

defective before they leave the starting peg. The judges decision on the sheep is final, and they may order fresh sheep at any time during the run.

RULE 34

Finish of Run

At the conclusion of each run, the worker shall take the sheep to a point indicated by the committee.

RULE 35

Dog under Control

The dog shall be released and under the control of the worker before the worker reaches the starting peg. The distance of control at the starting peg shall be 10 metres but not in front of the workers peg.

RULE 36

Time

The judge shall give a signal after the sheep are released and a bell will be rung to indicate that the time will start at this point. Each dog shall be allowed 15 minutes to complete the course or any such shorter time as the committee may publicise prior to the start of the trial.

RULE 37

Casting

The worker may cast his dog anytime after the bell has been sounded. A dog leaving the peg before the bell must be recalled, failure to do so will result in disqualification.

RULE 38

Assistance

The worker shall not assist his dog in any way except by signal, whistle or word of mouth. Any stick the worker uses must not be more than 45 cm (18 inches) long, must be solid and any colour and without flaps. Any worker who by unfair action,

sound or manoeuvre stops or turns the sheep or otherwise assists the dog shall have points deducted or at the discretion of the judge may be disqualified.

RULE 39

Collar

A standard dog collar worn around the neck is the only attachment allowed on a dog whilst it is working in a trial.

RULE 40

Crossing

Any dog that passes between the worker and one or more sheep at any time during the shall be disqualified, unless in the opinion of the judge the dog is forcing in a proper manner at the obstacle.

RULE 41

Cast

A perfect cast in the open is a semi-circle on stationary sheep. A dog taking up a commanding position behind the sheep a little to the opposite side from which he was cast is preferable. A dog stopping, and commencing the approach, before completing the semi-circle (sheep not having moved since the cast was commenced) should have points deducted. If sheep shows signs of moving, or does moves towards the side on which the dog was cast, the dog should stop and take command before getting behind, and steady the sheep back to the line of the straight pull. When sheep are against a fence or in an awkward position and the worker has to stop his dog in the cast, no points should be deducted. When cast is on the blind and the dog is diverting from the true course and he stops or is stopped and is re-directed, sheep unsighted, and he then makes a good cast from that position, no points should be deducted. In any trial if a dog fails at his first attempt to sight the sheep, he may be recalled, redirected and penalised accordingly.

RULE 42

Approach

On completion of the cast, the dog should steady or stop, and approach the sheep very steadily, deliberate in his actions, and take command of the sheep.

RULE 43

Lift

After completing his approach, the dog should lift or move the sheep in a quiet, steady and commanding way.

RULE 44

Pull

The sheep should be brought to the worker at a steady pace. If the sheep are diverting from the straight course, the dog should be on the wing to steady the sheep back to the true course. If the sheep make a big break to one side and then the dog gets them under control then a new line of course is established. If the sheep gallop down the course and the dog lifted steadily, no points shall be deducted. Special attention should be paid to the temperament of the sheep.

RULE 45

Starting

The sheep shall be brought around the starting peg on the workers left hand to a point on the workers right hand which is indicated by a balance peg directly behind the worker. Sheep coming in on the right-hand side must be "unwound" once only.

RULE 46

Worker

If the worker fails to move at an even pace and in a direct line between pegs and obstacles without stopping he shall have points deducted.

RULE 47

Course Work

Sheep must pass each obstacle to the right of the workers ring or peg facing away from the obstacle, failure to do so means the sheep are off course and points will be deducted. If any of the sheep have entered or negotiated an obstacle before the worker is on his peg or ring, all sheep must be put through again. If the worker leaves his peg before all sheep have negotiated an obstacle he shall be disqualified.

RULE 48

Obstacles

Except under exceptional circumstances, obstacles should be negotiated without passing the wings. The judge at his discretion need not disqualify a dog getting between the sheep and the worker, provided the dog is forcing in a proper manner at an obstacle. In field trials when negotiating obstacles other than the bridge and pen if a dog is brought between the worker and the sheep, this does not constitute crossing. This also applies in an arena where Payne trial obstacles are being used.

RULE 49

Bell

The bell shall be rung to notify any disqualification and also the time expiry of each run. At the conclusion of the run each worker must take the sheep to a place as directed by the committee.

RULE 50

Sheep Escape

If any of the sheep escape whilst being worked on the course, the run may be terminated at the judges discretion.

RULE 51

Biting

If a dog should bite any of the sheep except in self-defence, or otherwise injure a sheep, then that dog shall at the discretion of the judge be disqualified, and the worker held responsible for any damage caused to the sheep. If a sheep charges the dog and the dog then snaps at or nips the sheep, no points need to be deducted and the dog should not be disqualified.

RULE 52

Inferior Work

The judge shall disqualify any dog if he considers the work of the dog is of an inferior standard.

RULE 53

Style

Dogs should at all times maintain an interest in their work and have full control of the sheep they are working. Deliberately looking away from the sheep is lacking in style, however a glance to the right or left is permissible. Turning tail to the sheep is generally considered a fault, but there are occasions when, in quick movements, ground may be gained instead of lost, and allowances should be made on such occasions.

RULE 54

Time

No decisions should be given on time, a stated time being allowed to complete the course. The maximum time allowed for competitors will be fixed by the committee prior to the start of the trial. Any worker withdrawing his dog before the expiry of the full time allowed, unless at the discretion of the judge shall not be awarded any points.

RULE 55

Points Deduction

When deducting points judges are not restricted to a maximum under any one heading. No points shall be deducted other than those lost during the run. To determine the total number of points lost during a run, the judge shall add the points lost during that part of the trial that the dog completed to the points allotted to the uncompleted sections of the round.

RULE 56

Judges place

Whilst judging the judge should ensure that he does not interfere with the working of the dog.

RULE 57

The Tasmanian Working Sheepdog Association Trial year commences 01 July and ends 30 June each year.

RULE 58

Consistency Awards scoring system are:-

- 1st 9 points,
- 2nd 6 points,
- 3rd 3 points.

RULE 59

Open judges individual dogs "Average" consistency score is to be calculated at the season conclusion of all registered Open trials and added to the actual consistency score of every dog each judge has competed with.

Average to be calculated by dividing the number of points earned by the dog, by the number of registered Open trials in the season. Should a judge, judge a second trial his or her average score is to be added to his or her actual dog score twice.'

For example:

Judge 1. Has a score of 24 points with a particular dog. There are 18 registered Open trials in the season and the judge has Judged one trial.

$24/18 = 1.33$ Total = 25.33 points

Judge 2. Has a score of 24 points with a particular dog. There are 18 registered trials in the season and the Judge has judged two trials. $24/18 = 1.33 \times 2$ Total = 26.66 points

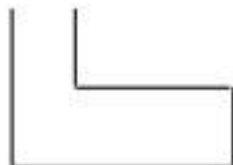
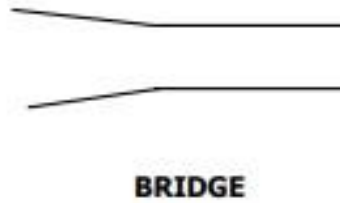
RULE 60: EXAMPLE OF TRIAL COURSE

GAP **3 Points**

RACE **7 Points**

BRIDGE **15 Points**

PEN **30 Points**



SHEEP RELEASE PEN