

South African Sheepdog Association



Competition Rules and Regulations

SOUTH AFRICAN SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION

SHEEPDOG COMPETITIONS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. GENERAL:

1. The management of sheepdog competitions (trials) in South Africa is governed by the South African Sheepdog Association (SASDA).
2. Any member of the Association may participate with his/her dog/s at any competition organised or recognised by the Association, provided that he/she abides by the rules and regulations of the Association.
3. All competitors must be paid up members of the Association, except shepherds, in which case they or the person employing them must be members.
4. The hosting club shall appoint a TRIALS COMMITTEE, hereafter referred to as the "committee" for each and every competition, and it shall be the duty of such committee to organise and control the competitions according to the rules of the Association, with the exception of the National Championships, when it will be the duty of the SASDA Executive Committee.
5. All SASDA members shall read and know the prevailing rules of the Association, as well as the rules of each individual trial. Failure to know the rules will not be accepted as an excuse.
6. Any person desiring to appeal against disciplinary action must do so in writing, to the Secretary of SASDA, who will refer the matter to the Executive Committee.
7. Attempting to bribe, influence or intimidate the judge, trial secretary, time keeper, steward, or any other trial official will result in disqualification, suspension, or a fine.
8. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed in, or brought into, the judge's stand whilst a trial is taking place. No unauthorised person will be allowed in the vicinity of the judge whilst he/she is judging.
9. Any member tampering with competition livestock will be disqualified for the remainder of that particular trial and will be subject to disciplinary action.
10. At a sponsored trial or competition no person shall make a derogatory remark, nor take or threaten to take, adverse action against a SASDA trial sponsor, its agents, servants or employees relating in any manner to the sponsors' involvement with SASDA. Any person who violates this rule will be subject to disciplinary action and will also be responsible to SASDA for any loss or damage caused by his/her actions.
11. The South African Sheepdog Association, the hosting club, as well as the owner and employees of any property where a trial is taking place, will accept no responsibility for any loss, damage or injury to any person or property whilst on the premises.

B. ADMINISTRATION:

1. The Club secretary, or failing him/her, any member appointed by the committee, shall be responsible for all administration work relating to Regional and Dog of the Year trials. The National Secretary shall be responsible for the administration of the SA National Championship.
2. A secretary may not divulge information about a judge's decision or about his/her individual preferences in handling or scoring, to any contestant during that competition.
3. Each score shall be checked by the secretary before the score is made public.
4. All judges have to pay annual subscription fees, except Honorary Members.

5. All trophies won at the Association's competitions except those won outright, shall remain the property of the Association and shall be returned by the holder when required to do so.

Correction of Errors:

All awards and prizes awarded at any of the Association's competitions are subject to the correction of any error discovered within 14 days of the competition, but not thereafter. Any error that may be discovered will be corrected and the awards as announced adjusted accordingly. All trophies and prizes shall, if recalled, be returned to the secretary at once.

Trials:

1. The dates for official (regional) trials shall be applied for from, and authorised by, the National Secretary before any arrangements regarding such trials are made by the respective clubs.
2. No Dog of the Year trial dates may be changed after one month of the Executive Committee deciding on the dates.
3. The course laid out for a specific trial must be notified to all possible participants one month prior to such trial.
4. The judge/s may not be changed after the commencement of a class except in cases of sickness or injury.
5. It is the duty of the time keeper to accurately start the stopwatch at the beginning of each competitor's run, and to promptly call time when the allotted time for the course has expired.
6. Any competitor who has attained a score of 85% or more in the Beginner Class shall no longer compete in that class, but will thereafter enter in the Junior Class.
7. A Beginner handler may run a senior dog in the Beginner Class, but once he/she has attained a score of 85% or more, he /she must enter in the Senior Class.
8. Any dog that has won a Junior Class with a score of 85% or more, or a Senior Class with a score of 90% or more, must then compete in the next higher class.
9. Any Junior Dog entering in the Senior Class, except for the National Championship, may not return to the Junior Class.
10. The winners of the Beginner, Junior or Senior Classes may not enter for the next higher class at the same championship.
11. The competitor may decide the order in which his/her dogs must be drawn on the entry form, but may not rearrange the order after the draw is done. If notice of order is not given, the secretary will decide the order.
12. The competitor will have the right to substitute a dog in the same class, should the one entered for that class be unable to compete.
13. An imported dog that has competed in an Open Trial in its country of origin shall be deemed a Senior dog for local competition.
14. An International handler must compete in the equivalent class to that in which he/she competes in his/her own country.
15. Should a dog be placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at the National Championship, or be SA Junior Champion, it shall compete in the next higher class in future competitions.
16. Entries for Dog of the Year and Regional Competitions must be in the hands of the club secretary at least 14 days prior to the competition, and the appropriate fees paid at the club's discretion. Late entries may be accepted at the club's discretion.

17. Entries for the National Championship must be received by the National Secretary one month prior to the Championship, accompanied by the appropriate entry fee as stipulated by the Executive Committee. **NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED.**
18. At all Dog of the Year and Regional trials, the appropriate levy for each run as set by the Executive Committee from time to time, must be sent to the National Secretary by the hosting club, together with the official results of the trial, within 14 days of the trial.
19. The order of running at competitions shall be decided by a draw of the entries received.
20. The National Championship will be open to any dog and handler that have attained a Certificate of Merit (COM) by achieving a score of 70% or more in the Junior Class.
21. All dogs competing in the Junior Class in a particular season that have attained a COM, are eligible to compete for the SA Junior Champion title at the National Championship for that year. All dogs shall compete for SA Champion and/or SA Junior Champion.
22. Should International handlers win at the National Championships, they will get the relevant titles but any trophies shall stay in South Africa.
23. Points for Dog of the Year will be allocated as follows at Dog of the Year trials for that year: 1st – 50; 2nd – 40; 3rd – 30; 4th – 20 and 5th – 10. The Qualifying Rounds and Final of the National Championships do not count towards the points for Dog of the Year. The number of championships to count for Dog of the Year shall be 70% of DOY trials for the season. In the event of a tie, points will be taken from championships both dogs participated in during that season. Should there still be a tie they will share the award.
24. The “Most Consistent Dog over 2 years” will be decided on the same basis as “Dog of the Year” but the points for the previous year will be added to that of the current year.
25. The Inter-Provincial Trophy: The winning Province (Club) is decided by the average score of all dogs representing a Province (Club) in the Final of the National Championship.
26. For World Trial Team Selection the championships to count shall be 70% of DOY trials for the season, **plus** the qualifying round/s (combined) of the SA Championship for that year. Points will be allocated as follows: 1st – 10; 2nd – 9; 3rd – 8; 4th – 7; 5th – 6; 6th – 5; 7th – 4; 8th – 3; 9th – 2; and 10th - 1.

C. TRIALS COMMITTEE:

1. The committee shall select the most suitable terrain fair to all competitors.
2. The committee shall appoint a steward and time keeper for every competition and will arrange for the steward to be in attendance and at the judge’s disposal at all times during the competition.
3. The committee shall decide on the course for all official trials except for National and International Championships, when it shall be the duty of the Executive Committee.
4. The committee and judge must see that the sheep are released in such a way as to give ever competitor an equal chance, by taking the terrain and the type of sheep into consideration, and so as not to distract competitors. In case of the double lift the second flock of sheep must be kept out of sight until the first flock has been lifted.
5. Sheep bolting back to the holding pen, or being removed from the course, shall not be mixed with the sheep still to be worked.
6. Maximum time allowed: Beginners – 8 minutes; Juniors – 12 minutes; Seniors – 15 minutes; Top Dogs – as decided by the committee; Brace – 25 minutes; Double Lift – 30 minutes. Should entries warrant shorter time, the committee or judge may shorten the time and alter the course accordingly, on condition that competitors are notified well in advance.

7. Time is taken from when the dog leaves the casting post, but the judge may instruct the timekeeper to take the time before the dog is cast, or the handler leaves the post, if he/she is of the opinion that the handler is wasting time.

D. STEWARDS:

1. The committee shall appoint a steward for every competition who shall be in attendance and at the disposal of the judge at all times during the competition.
2. It shall be the duty of the steward to acquaint him/herself with the course rules.
3. Competitors must take their place at the direction of the steward and any competitor absent when called upon shall forgo his/her run at the discretion of the committee or judge.
4. The course shall be explained, by the steward, to any handler requesting information before the start of his/her run.
5. It shall be the duty of the steward to see that each lot of sheep, when released, is so placed as to give each competitor a fair and equal chance. Should the sheep not be placed to his/her satisfaction, the steward shall confer with the judge immediately. The judge's decision on the sheep shall be final. When the handler and dog are at the casting post and the sheep released, they shall be the sheep worked by that dog.
6. In case of a Double Lift, it shall be the duty of the steward to ensure that the first flock of sheep does not escape from the course.

E. JUDGES:

1. Judges for all official competitions are appointed by the Trials Committee, except for National and International Championships, when the judges will be appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. A judge shall conduct him/herself in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honour of officiating at any Association approved trial. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any Association trial, the use of abusive language, showing favouritism to, or discrimination against, either an individual or a dog performing in a trial, intimidating or attempting to intimidate a contestant or official, or any other action unbecoming to one in his/her position, either on the ground or elsewhere, during the entire trial, will make the judge subject to disciplinary action.
3. In judging official SASDA trials SASDA judges are required to apply the Association's rules.
4. Judges shall act independently and may not confer, except in cases of disqualification or where the competition requires it. Each judge's points for each dog shall be recorded on official score cards supplied to them, which will be handed to the secretary for publication.
5. The judge shall have the power to call off any dog committing a misdemeanour of any kind, or causing unnecessary stress on the stock, and may stop a dog at any point on its run on the grounds of insufficient merit, or if the dog has lost too many points to qualify for a place. The judge may allow the points already gained to stand or disqualify the dog at his/her discretion.
6. Should the judge decide on disqualification, the competitor shall be called off immediately. Should the judge wish to consult the judging panel (all judges present at the trial) on the interpretation of a rule or rules, prior to disqualification, he/she shall judge the run in its entirety and consult immediately thereafter. The handler shall in any case be

informed of his/her disqualification immediately the judge has taken such decision. No points shall be scored if a dog is disqualified.

7. The competitor shall have the right to object, to the steward, to the position of the sheep or a sheep before his/her dog leaves the casting post, or at any time during his/her run, should he/she feel a sheep be unfit to continue. The judge shall consider such objection immediately and instruct the competitor to either withdraw or continue. The judge's decision shall be final.

8. Should a competitor retire of his/her own accord no points shall be scored.

9. If a handler is called off on the expiry of the allotted time, all points for the section of the competition where his/her time expired will be deducted; but all points scored prior to that will stand.

10. The judge may order a re-run on fresh sheep at any time during the competition if he/she is of the opinion that it is warranted. Such re-run will take place approximately 2 runs after the original run (as close to the original type of conditions and sheep as possible). It will be judged from the point where the original run was stopped and the points scored and time taken up to that point, will stand. When a re-run in its entirety is ordered, it will be judged from the beginning and the dog shall cast to the same side as for the original run.

11. If two or more dogs are equal on total points the judge may settle their priority either by:

a) Their points for the gather (cast, lift and bring).

b) Order re-trials of any kind, in which case the award will go to the dog gaining the highest points in the re-trial.

c) Should time for re-trials not be available and the dogs stand equal on points for the gather as in (a), then the points for the drive will be added, and should they still be equal, the shortest time will determine the winner.

12. If, in the opinion of the judge or committee, any person ill-uses his/her dog, such person will be subject to a fine as set by the Executive Committee and may be debarred from participating in any future competition/s conducted by the Association under these rules.

13. The judge may deduct all the points for a particular section of a dog's run; but minus points may not be carried over to the next section. If a specific section of the run is not completed all points for that section will be deducted.

14. The time is taken from when the dog leaves the casting post, but the judge may instruct the timekeeper to take the time before the dog is cast, or the handler leaves the post, if he/she is of the opinion that the handler is wasting time.

F. COMPETITORS:

1. Any member may appoint a nominee to work his/her dog in competitions and such nominee shall conjointly assume responsibility with the owner.

2. Competitors are forbidden to take their dogs on the course, or work the trial sheep, except in cases where dogs are needed to ensure the smooth running of the trial.

3. Any competitor who intentionally harasses the stock after his/her run will be disqualified and be subject to further disciplinary action by the Association.

4. Competitors wishing to have the course explained, or have a point clarified, must question the steward BEFORE they start their run. Once having commenced their run, competitors are presumed to know the course and are to follow it in all its details.

5. If a dog is withdrawn from its class at the start of the championship, it may not be re-entered in that championship on the same day.

6. Competitors shall have their dogs under proper control when not competing, under pain of disqualification.
7. Competitors shall not assist or infringe upon another handler in any way, nor receive any assistance whatsoever from any other person whilst working his/her dog, under pain of disqualification.
8. Bitches in season shall run where they are drawn, but the owner of such bitch shall inform the steward immediately upon arrival at the venue. The owner shall keep his/her bitch away from other dogs at all times.
9. Competitors shall take their place according to the draw and any competitor absent when called upon shall not be allowed to compete, except at the discretion of the committee of judge.
10. The competitor may decide the order in which his/her dogs must be drawn when entering a competition, but may not rearrange the order once the draw has been done. If notice of order is not given, the secretary will decide the order.
11. The competitor will have the right to substitute a dog in the same class, should the one entered for that class be unable to compete.
12. Competitors may carry a cane, stick or crook not exceeding 1.5m in length.
13. Competitors may not take their dogs onto the course on a leash, except in the Beginner and Junior classes, and may not carry the dog onto the course, or pick the dog up at the casting post.
14. Competitors may assist their dogs in any way except by physically touching the sheep, at the discretion of the judge.

G. TRIALS FIELD:

Course Rules:

1. The competitor may assist his/her dog in any way except by physically touching the sheep, at the discretion of the judge.
2. The competitor must complete the course with all the sheep and may not continue on the course with less than the allotted number of sheep. All points scored will be lost unless the judge is of the opinion that the dog did not cause the loss of the sheep, in which case he/she will order a re-run.
3. The competitor must negotiate all obstacles in the prescribed sequence of the course layout. Once the sheep have passed the line of an obstacle the handler shall proceed on the course. Should he/she proceed on the course prior to the sheep having crossed the line of an obstacle, he/she shall be penalised.
4. When the allotted time has expired, the handler shall be notified by the steward and the score up to that point shall stand.
5. When the handler has to move from one given point to another, he/she shall do so in as direct a line as possible. The handler may work his/her dog whilst walking but may not stop to do so (except in the Beginner/Junior classes where the handler is allowed to "carry").

The Course:

1. The layout of the course shall be as such as to cater for the following phases of sheepdog work:
 - a) The Gather – Cast, Lift and Bring
 - b) The Drive

- c) The Race / Shed / Single
 - d) The Pen
 - e) As decided by the committee for other tests
2. The course for National and International Championships will be as decided upon by the Executive Committee.
 3. The committee shall see to the speedy removal of the sheep after each run, either by the competitor or by any other means available.

Casting Post:

1. At the commencement of a run the handler and dog shall take their position at the casting post and await the release of the sheep.
2. The handler shall indicate to the steward when he/she is ready to start. Should he/she fail to do so, the judge shall instruct the steward to signal the release of the sheep.
3. In the Senior classes the handler must remain at the casting post until the bring and drive are completed.
4. In the Beginner and Junior classes the handler must remain at the casting post until the bring is completed, but is allowed to walk with the dog ("carry") for the drive.
5. In the Beginner class the handler may walk nearer the sheep when casting the dog, but will lose points according to the distance he/she moves away from the casting post. The handler must immediately return to the casting post after the lift and remain there until the bring is completed. The sheep must pass around the handler and the post.

The Cast:

1. From the casting post the dog should run out, either right or left, in a cast, arriving at the sheep at sufficient distance from them not to unduly disturb them. Should the sheep have moved, or be moving, from the point of release, the correct end to the cast should be when the dog is at the head of the sheep and in a position to bring them onto the course.
2. Should a dog be called back to the handler and then redirected, or cross its cast, it will be penalised at the judge's discretion.

The Lift:

1. The lift begins at the end of the cast, from a point of balance that ensures that the dog gains control of the sheep to commence the bring. Whether the dog has slowed down or stopped, the approach should be smooth and steady and the dog should take control of the sheep in a quiet and firm manner.

The Bring:

1. Once the sheep are on the move ("lifted") they should be brought from that point at a steady pace in as straight a line as possible, via any obstacle, to the handler.
2. The end of the bring will be when the sheep have passed the line of the casting post (obstacle). Turning sheep the wrong way around the post will be penalised.

The Drive:

1. At the completion of the bring, and in order to start the drive, the sheep must be turned neatly and as tightly as possible around the handler and the post.

2. In the Beginner and Junior classes the drive ends when the pen starts. In all other classes the drive ends where determined by the judge.

The Race:

1. At the completion of the drive, the handler shall move to the race in a direct line and take up the rope, which he/she shall hold onto until all the sheep are out of the race.
2. The handler must negotiate the race with all the sheep, as one flock, and may not move to the pen until all the sheep have passed through and are out of the race.
3. Should a sheep jump over the sides or rear end of the race, such sheep shall be regarded as having passed through, but if it jumps over the wings at the entrance it must be worked through again. The dog shall not be penalised if it did not cause the sheep to jump the race.

The Shed / Single:

1. Shed – The required sheep must be shed within a ring approximately 40m in diameter. The dog must be in full control of the shed sheep (in or outside the ring) otherwise the shed will not be deemed satisfactory. On completion of the shed the handler shall re-unite the sheep before proceeding to the pen. The shed ends when the dog has taken control of the shed sheep.
2. Single – The handler will proceed to the shedding ring, leaving the dog to bring the sheep from the pen to the ring. One of the marked sheep shall be shed off within the ring and thereafter worn (in or outside the ring) to the judge's satisfaction. Handlers are forbidden to assist the dog in driving off, or attempting to drive off the single sheep.
3. The judge will inform the handler whether or not he/she will call when satisfied with the shed or single.
4. All sheep must be inside the ring when the shed/single is made otherwise it will be unacceptable and scored as a missed attempt.

The Pen:

1. Once the previous obstacle has been negotiated the handler shall proceed to the pen in a direct line and open the gate.
2. Senior and Top Dog handlers must pick up the rope and maintain hold of it until all the sheep are inside the pen.
3. The pen ends when the gate has been closed.

THE BRACE:

The Cast:

Dogs need not be sent simultaneously but should ideally reach the point of balance together. Dogs may cross over at the finish of the cast but not thereafter.

The Lift:

Dogs must lift simultaneously and equally, they will be penalised for not doing so.

The Bring & Drive:

1. Work must be carried out simultaneously and equally. Dogs will be penalised for crossing sides.

2. At the end of the bring or during the drive one dog is permitted to guard the turn on the inside, whilst the other executes the flank to control the turn around the obstacle.
3. Dogs will be penalised for not doing equal shares of the work, depending on the severity of the fault.

The Shed and Pen:

1. Either dog should take control and execute the shed, whilst the other remains in the background.
2. One dog must then pen the first flock of sheep and take guard of that flock in the open pen, whilst the other dog completes its pen with the second flock.
3. Should the first flock break out of the pen before the second pen is completed, the handler must cease attempting to pen the second flock and re-pen the first flock with the first dog. The first dog will incur a penalty for allowing the sheep to escape, and any points lost on the re-pen will be added to those lost on the first attempt.
4. Should the two flocks of sheep re-join, necessitating a re-shed, points lost on the second attempt will be added to those lost on the first attempt.
5. The handler may not recommence the second pen until the first flock has been re-penned.

THE DOUBLE LIFT:

1. For this exercise to be completed successfully two flocks of sheep must be used.
2. The judge will stipulate to which side the first cast is to be made.
3. It is the duty of the steward to ensure that the first flock of sheep does not escape from the course whilst the second gather is taking place.
4. The second flock of sheep must be kept out of sight until the first flock has been lifted.

First Cast and Lift:

Must be negotiated and will be judged as any other single run would.

First Bring:

Sheep must be brought to a post or point previously designated, approximately 20m through the bring obstacle, and be left as close to that point as possible.

Look Back:

The dog must turn back and gather the second flock of sheep on the opposite side. At this point one command each for stop, look back and flank are allowed without incurring any penalty – all other commands will be penalised.

Second Lift:

Must be negotiated and will be judged as any other would.

Second Bring:

To the same point as the first, where ideally the sheep form one flock and complete the rest of the bring around the post. Each bring will be marked individually. If the first flock of sheep drifts down the course, the second flock must be brought to the nearest point on the course and then left whilst the first flock is collected.

The Drive:

To be negotiated and marked as any other drive would, with all the sheep. Handlers should remain at the post until the sheep are in the shedding ring, unless the course layout prevents this, in which case handlers will have been previously notified by the judge or steward.

The Shed / Draft:

1. Should a sheep have lost a collar, the judge must decide as soon as possible which is the other sheep to be shed and the steward must notify the handler immediately.
2. Shed – equal split to be done according to the rules for normal shed.
3. Draft – must take the form or sorting, not cutting as in the normal 3/2 cut. Marked sheep should be taken from the flock of sheep. Sheep should funnel between the dog and the handler; the dog (NOT THE HANDLER) must stop the marked sheep from escaping, simulating eg sorting out rams from a flock of ewes. The handler may move the unmarked sheep away. Should a marked sheep escape and join any unmarked sheep already shed off, the unmarked sheep with which the marked sheep have joined should be brought back into the ring and the draft must be done again. Once the draft is complete the handler may use the dog to drive the unmarked sheep away before penning.

The Pen:

The pen will be judged as any other would. Draft – marked sheep should be penned. Split – one group of sheep should be penned.

H. DISQUALIFICATIONS:

1. No dog which is suffering from an infectious disease shall be brought to the ground by any person. Any person infringing this rule will be dealt with by the committee as they see fit and such person shall obey all orders issued.
2. If, in the opinion of the judge or committee, any competitor ill-uses his/her dog, such competitor will be subject to a fine and may be debarred from any competition conducted by the Association under these rules. The committee may also investigate and act upon reports made to them by a third party.
3. If a dog should severely bite without purpose, or in any way injure a sheep, such dog shall be disqualified and the competitor held responsible for any damage done to the sheep.
4. All dogs shall be kept under proper and adequate control when not competing, under pain of disqualification. Competitors will be held responsible for all actions of their dogs.
5. Any dog or competitor interfering in any way with another dog or competitor whilst he/she is working may be disqualified. Should a competitor's own dog interfere with another of his/her own dog whilst working, then the interfering dog may be disqualified.
6. Should a competitor be disqualified for breaking any rules, he/she shall be notified by the steward on instruction of the judge and shall immediately leave the course and take the sheep to the exhaust area.
7. Any competitor who intentionally harasses the stock after his/her run will be disqualified and be subject to further disciplinary action by the Association.

I. DISPUTES COMMITTEE:

1. The Disputes Committee shall consist of all members of the Executive Committee present at the competition, under the chairmanship of the President, or failing him/her, the Vice-President, or failing him/her, a chairman elected by the members present.
2. The Disputes Committee shall hear evidence on all disputes, objections and protests and shall have the power to summon persons to attend and give evidence.
3. All protests and objections must be in writing and accompanied by the fee as set by the Executive Committee, and must be in the hands of the secretary or Trials Committee within 30 minutes after the incident. The Disputes Committee will have the right to refund or forfeit the fee according to the merit of the protest or objection.
4. In the event of sufficient evidence being supplied to the Disputes Committee regarding any irregularity in connection with a competition, including the contravention of any rules, and/or behaviour by any member which is contrary to the best interest of the Association, the Disputes Committee shall, in addition to any penalties imposed by the judge, refer the case to the Executive Committee for further disciplinary action. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and binding.

J. AMENDMENTS TO RULES:

These rules may be amended or adapted, or new rules introduced at any time should the Executive Committee so decide, and must be notified to all members.

Motions from members regarding the rules must be made in writing and must reach the National Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of any meeting where such motions can be decided upon and passed by a two-third majority.

K. INTERPRETATION OF RULES:

For the interpretation of these rules the meaning given to the English version shall be deemed to be the official interpretation of the Association.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. GENERAL:

1. The Trials Committee shall endeavour to have an adequate number of suitable sheep available so that each competitor shall work fresh sheep for that competition. The number of sheep per run is to be decided by the committee.
2. The points scored by each dog in a competition shall be displayed on a score board, to which all competitors shall have access, as soon as possible after that dog's run.
3. The course may be changed for the second championship in any of the following ways:
 - a) By shifting the release point approximately 75–100m from the first championship's position to allow for an offset bring.
 - b) By shifting the bring obstacle to allow for an offset bring.
 - c) By having the drive in the opposite direction to the first championship.

B. COURSE LAYOUT:

The Cast:

Seniors / Top Dogs – from 300–500m, depending on terrain.

Junior dogs – approximately 200m

Beginners dogs – approximately 150m

The Bring:

1. After the cast and lift, the sheep shall be brought through two obstacles placed not further than 9m apart, commonly referred to as the bring obstacle.
2. The obstacles shall be placed at a minimum of 75m and a maximum of 100m from the casting post.

The Drive:

1. The drive will include an away drive of approximately 100m and a cross-drive of approximately 150m through two sets of obstacles placed no further than 9m apart,
2. The total length of the drive from the casting post shall be from 200–250m.

The Race:

1. It shall be placed between the second drive obstacle and the pen.
2. It shall be 1.2m wide and shall be from 2.75–3.70m long on the long side and from 1.55 – 2.50m on the short side, leaving an exhaust gap of 1.20m.
3. At the end of the race, and attached to the long side, shall be a blind (closed) bend at right angles, to prevent the sheep from seeing through the end.
4. The entrance to the race shall have two wings, 1.8m long, placed at 45° with a 1.8m rope attached to the one wing.
5. The race shall be placed in such a way that the judge's vision is not restricted.

The Shed / Single:

The shedding ring shall be approximately 40m in diameter and visible to both judge and handler.

The Pen:

1. It shall be from 2.75–3.70m long and 1.8m–2.4m wide, with a gate to which a 1.8m rope is attached. The gate shall be closed at the start and the end of the run and shall swing freely.
2. The pen for the Beginner and Junior classes shall have a wing, 2.75–3.70 m long, placed at 45° to the pen. NO ROPE.

Top Dog Course:

At every competition the course for Top Dogs may be whatever the committee would like, within reason, subject to the minimum standard laid down for the Senior class, providing all possible participants are notified well in advance.

C. COMPETITORS AND JUDGES:

The Cast:

1. Faults to penalise include: a false start, wrong direction, hesitation, crossing the cast, stopping, redirection, excessive commands, running too straight, running too wide, lack of concentration, and any other defect, which in the judge's opinion, detracts from the neatness and purposefulness of the cast.
2. A dog that is stopped by command on the cast will be penalised more than a dog that has stopped of its own accord.
3. Points allowed: 20

The Lift:

1. Penalties will be incurred at the judge's discretion for any of the following: rash or rough work, hesitation, dawdling, clapping and needing too many commands, as well as driving the sheep off in any other direction but the straight line towards the bring obstacle.
2. The dog may not be penalised if he/she does not have the opportunity to exercise the lift, eg the sheep running away from the point of release in any direction, provided that the dog was not at fault at any stage. The judge shall have consideration for the behaviour of the sheep and shall exercise discretion accordingly.
3. Points allowed: 10

The Bring:

1. Penalties will be at judge's discretion for: chasing the sheep, losing direction, excessive weaving and over flanking, ringing, sheep stopping, clapping, excessive commands, missing the obstacles, retry at the obstacles, turning the wrong way around the post and any other fault that detracts from efficiency, having regard for the disposition of the sheep.
2. A minimum of 1 point per sheep may be deducted for missing the obstacle.
3. Points allowed: 20

The Drive:

1. Penalties will be incurred for: deviation from lines, missing obstacles, rashness, lack of concentration, sheep stopping, crossing at or between obstacles, turning sheep back, slack or wide turns at obstacles and any other fault which detracts from efficiency, having regard to the disposition of the sheep.
2. A minimum of 1 point per sheep may be deducted for missing an obstacle.

3. If sheep are driven through an obstacle and then turned back again, 1 point per sheep may be deducted.
4. If the sheep are turned the wrong way around an obstacle, points will be deducted.
5. The sheep should pass the line of the obstacle before the handler may proceed on the course, to avoid a penalty.
6. Once the sheep have passed the line of the obstacle the handler must proceed on the course. Unwinding (retry) will be penalised.
7. The turn at the second obstacle on the drive should be in the same direction as the first one.
8. In the Senior, Top Dog, Brace and Double Lift classes the handler must remain at the casting post until the end of the drive.
9. In the Beginner and Junior classes the handler may walk with the dog whilst driving ("carry"), but may not walk ahead of it. Penalty left to judge's discretion.
10. In the Beginner class the drive should be through the obstacle nearest to the pen. **No cross-drive.**
11. Points allowed: Beginners – 15; Juniors, Seniors and Top Dogs – 30; Brace and Double Lift – 40

The Race:

1. All handlers in the Seniors and Top Dog classes must negotiate the race.
2. Faults to penalise include: unsteadiness, rashness, turning tail, lack of concentration, crossing and any other fault shown by the dog, always having regard for the disposition of the sheep. Regarding nipping, compared to biting, it must be accepted that the dog has the full right to defend itself against a belligerent sheep.
3. Points allowed: 10

Shed / Single:

1. Points will be deducted for: ragged work, missed opportunities, missed attempts, crossing or ringing, sheep leaving the ring, over assistance by handler, turning on the wrong sheep, dog hesitating and shedding the wrong sheep.
2. Points allowed: 10

The Pen:

1. Faults to be penalised are the same as for the race.
2. The handler shall open the gate when starting to pen and close it again after all the sheep are in. Not closing the gate after completion of the run will result in penalties at the judge's discretion.
3. In the Beginner and Junior classes the handler need not hold onto the rope and may stand anywhere around the pen, but must not be between the mouth of the pen and the sheep. Senior and Top Dog handlers must pick up the rope and hold onto it until the last sheep is in the pen.
4. The handler may assist the dog at penning, but may not touch the sheep with his/her body or stick. Over-assistance will be penalised.
5. After penning the handler shall take his/her sheep to the exhaust area as quickly as possible.
6. Points allowed: 10

Double Lift:

1. Penalties as for single runs. For further information see the rules on Double Lift.
2. Points allowed: Casts – 20 + 20; Lifts – 10 + 10; Bring – 20 + 20; Drive – 40; Shed – 10; Pen – 10. Total = 160. If draft is used: Draft – 20. Total = 170.

Brace:

1. Penalties as for single runs. Points will also be deducted for: dogs not doing an equal share of the work; dogs crossing (dogs are permitted to cross once at the finish of the cast, but not thereafter); allowing sheep to escape from the first pen and allowing sheep to re-join after the shed. For further information refer to the rules on the Brace.
2. Points allowed: Casts – 20 + 20; Lifts -10 + 10; Bring – 30; Drive – 40; Shed – 10; Pens – 10 + 10. Total = 160.

D. SCORING:

STANDARD COURSE:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Beginners</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Top Dogs</u>
Cast	20	20	20	20
Lift	10	10	10	10
Bring	20	20	20	20
Drive	15	30	30	30
Race/Shed			10	10
Pen	10	10	10	10
TOTAL	75	90	100	100
Single			10 = Total 110	10 = Total 110

	<u>BRACE</u>	<u>DOUBLE LIFT</u>
Cast	20 + 20	20 + 20
Lift	10 + 10	10 + 10
Bring	30	20 + 20
Drive	40	40
Shed	10	10
Pen	10 + 10	10
TOTAL	160	160
Draft instead of shed		20 = Total 170

PROCEDURE FOR PROVIDING WORKING ABILITY

The testing of dogs for working ability shall be undertaken by a PANEL OF INSPECTORS who will be appointed by the Executive from time to time. Any one member of the Panel may attend to the testing of dogs.

1. Any person will be allowed to have his dog tested at any trial organised by the Association on condition that such a person is a member or enrolls as a member prior to his/her dog being tested. The person will inform the Secretary beforehand that he wants his/her dog to be tested.
 2. The testing of dogs for working ability will also be undertaken at venues other than an organised trial or a trial specially organised for that purpose on condition that application be made by those interested, to the Secretary for the appointment of an inspector to attend to the testing. **All costs will have to be paid by those requiring testing of their dogs.**
 3. Arrangements can be made for testing of dogs at courses for training of handlers, providing the Secretary or the conductors of the course are contacted beforehand and providing at least one member of the panel is present to attend to the testing.
 4. In all other instances, it is suggested that members contact the Secretary or an Inspector in order to ascertain whether other special arrangements for testing of dogs can be made, subject to the approval of the Executive.
 5. As soon as possible after a dog/s had been tested (forms available from inspectors as well as the Office), the Inspector will inform the Secretary and the owner of his/her decision.
 6. Should the dog be successful, the owner will apply to the Secretary for the CERTIFICATE OF WORKING ABILITY by sending the form issued by the Inspector to the Office, and upon payment of the specified amount as reflected in the current tariff guide, a certificate will be issued.
 7. Any pure-bred sheepdog to which the CERTIFICATE OF WORKING ABILITY had been awarded, will be recognised by the Association as a dog suitable for the breeding of working sheepdogs.
 8. The CERTIFICATE OF WORKING ABILITY may be awarded to any dog registered on the DEVELOPMENT REGISTER, but will be endorsed as follows in case of APPENDIX X registered males: "This dog and progeny not eligible for registration on breeding."
 9. The Certificate for a Working Dog may be awarded to any other dog of which working ability had been proven, but such dogs will not be recognised as suitable for the breeding of working sheepdogs.
 10. All members of the Association are expected to breed only from dogs to which the Certificate of Proven Working Ability had been awarded.
 11. Only members who are in possession of at least one bitch, to which the Certificate of Proven Working Ability had been issued, will be recognised as Approved Breeders by the Association and the names of such members will be included in the official Breeders List.
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