



THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

January 2019

Announcements

New Judges

- Non-Regular Breeder Judge **Mirjam Senger** (Oregon)
- Approved Breeder Judge **Leah Swatko** (Ontario)
- Senior Breeder Judge **Sue Fullington** (Texas)
- Approved Agility Judge **Diana Thompson** (Maryland)
- Provisional Rally Judge **Ray Fryar** (Texas)
- Provisional Stockdog Judge **Kirsten Cole-MacMurray** (California)

New Affiliate Clubs

- **Tidewater ASC**
Location: Gates, North Carolina
President: Joan Cunningham Affiliate Rep: Heather Tyler

Miscellaneous

- The Board voted to suspend the ASCA judging privileges of CKC Judge Sally Barker, due to suspension of her judging privileges in CKC.
- A complaint was dismissed with no action.
- The Board voted to approve the judges selected by the 2020 Nationals Consortium for the Nationals & Finals. (Agility & Conformation judges still pending.)

From the ASCA Foundation

- **Western Australian Shepherd Rescue** was awarded a \$3000 grant for their rescue work with Aussies.

Board of Directors Email Motions

BD.19.01 Emergency Motion - Website Maintenance Vendor for ASCA

Approve: Boone, Creelman, Gann, Roberts, Silveira, Vest; Oppose: 0; Abstain: Gray, King;
Non-voting: Busquets; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Vest

Second by Gann

I motion to approve Inventive as the website maintenance vendor for ASCA. Emergency status of this motion is due to ASCA's essential need for this service and support.

Comments/Rationale: The ASCA website RFP was created to secure a vendor that could provide support and maintain the existing ASCA Web site for 12 months. Consultant will provide a Senior Software Engineer for up to 15 hours per month to maintain and improve the ASCA website as directed by ASCA. The engineer will work with ASCA to determine what tasks, if any, beyond website requirements that may need attention. ASCA's RFP and Vendor Quotes are attached.

The ASCA System Upgrade Committee reviewed and commented on each vendor quote (see attached documentation for details).

Affected: ASCA Website, the Business Office, and the Membership.

Effective Date: Immediately upon approval by the Board of Directors.

BD.19.03 Defined Terms for Affiliate Officers (Restated 2)

Approve: Unanimous; Motion carries.

Motion by Vest

Second by Silveira

I move to set a range of one to three years for Officer terms to allow Clubs applying for ASCA affiliation to choose from on the Affiliate renewal/application form.

Current Wording:

Affiliate Club Bylaws

ARTICLE V

Section 5 THE BOARD

Section 5.1 The Board shall consist of all Officers and Directors of the Club, and five. Members of the Board shall serve a ___-year term of office, and shall be expected to attend a majority of meetings of the Board to affect the duties of their office.

Proposed Wording:

Section 5.1 The Board shall consist of all Officers and Directors of the Club. All these Officers shall serve a (*) year term in office and shall be expected to attend a majority of meetings of the Board to affect the duties of their office.

*(Select a term of one, two or three years.)

Comments/Rationale:

To better align Affiliate Officer length of term with the purpose of ASCA, which is to serve the ASCA membership, support ASCA's mission and conduct ASCA's titling Programs. ASCA Affiliates do maintain a certain amount of autonomy to best serve ASCA Members regionally. Allowing for excessive or permanent lengths of Officer terms does not support the ASCA Affiliate purpose. This motion defines a reasonable length of term for Officers to serve between elections.

Affected: Affiliate applications received after implementation of this motion. If this motion is passed, will not be retroactive to include Affiliates Officer Terms within existing Affiliates.

Effective Date: Upon BOD approval.

BD.19.05 Redefine Affiliate Application

Approve: Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Gray, King, Silveira, Vest; Oppose: Boone; Abstain: 0; Non-Voting: Roberts; Motion **carries**.

Letter of Dissent from Boone: This motion makes it sound as if all clubs must be structured as ASCA, leaving out other possible 501C affiliations. It also says affiliates must promote the best interests of the Australian Shepherd, but there is no clear definition of that.

Motion by Silveira

Second by Vest

I make the following motion to redefine the Affiliate application.

Current Wording:

Application to Affiliate

Paragraph 1

We hereby apply to become an Affiliate Club of the Australian Shepherd Club of America. If approved by the ASCA Board of Directors, this Club agrees to abide by the obligations of an Affiliate Club. the ASCA Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Dispute Rules, and all rules and guidelines pertaining to the Registry, and all program rules, including but not limited to: Agility, Conformation, Juniors, Obedience, Rally, Stockdog, and Tracking programs.

Paragraph 2

This Club agrees to conscientiously promote the best interests of the Australian Shepherd and the Australian Shepherd Club of America on a local level.

Proposed Wording:

Application to Affiliate

Paragraph 1

We hereby apply to become an Affiliate Club of the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA). ASCA operates as a non-profit Club and Affiliates must be structured accordingly. If approved by the ASCA Board of Directors, this Club agrees to abide by the obligations of an Affiliate Club. the ASCA Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Dispute Rules, and all rules and guidelines pertaining to the Registry, and all program rules, including but not limited to: Agility, Conformation, Juniors, Obedience, Rally, Stockdog, and Tracking programs.

Paragraph 2

This Club agrees to represent and promote the best interests of the Australian Shepherd and the Australian Shepherd Club of America on a local level. ASCA values its Affiliate Members as partners who bring ASCA's vision and mission benefiting the Australian Shepherd to local and regional geographic areas. Without Affiliate's tireless dedication to these principles, the core of our mission, ASCA's titling programs, would not be as successful as they are. The Breed is greatly served by ASCA Affiliates.

Comments/Rationale: To update and better define the Application to Affiliate to ensure that it is clear and concise regarding the structure of Affiliates and their purpose for ASCA.

Affected: New Affiliates.

Effective Date: Upon BOD approval.

BD.19.06 Clarification of 1.4.9 Consent for Use of Kennel Name

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Gray, King, Silveira, Vest; Oppose: 0; Abstain: Roberts; Non-Voting: 0; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Silveira

Second by Vest

I move to replace section 1.4.9 of the Kennel Registry Rules with the following language.

Current Wording:

Kennel Registry Rules

1.4.9 Consent for Use of Kennel Name

No dog shall be registered with a name including an ASCA registered kennel name, or similar sounding name, as a prefix or suffix without the consent of the registered kennel name owner.

Proposed Wording:

1.4.9 Consent for Use of Kennel Name

No dog shall be registered with a name which includes as a prefix or suffix an ASCA registered kennel name, a name which includes a variation of an ASCA registered kennel name, or a name which includes a name deceptively similar to an ASCA registered kennel name as determined by ASCA's Board of Directors, without the consent and signature of the owner of the registered kennel name on the Individual Dog Registration application.

Comments/Rationale: Per our Attorney's suggestion to improve the newly changed Kennel Registry Rules based on our recent experience.

["I also believe the Board should amend the first sentence of 1.4.9, assuming Ken's motion passed in the form set out in his motion on December 4. That sentence is a run-on. I propose the following language:

No dog shall be registered with a name which includes an ASCA registered kennel name, a name which includes a variation of an ASCA registered kennel name, or a name which includes a name deceptively similar to an ASCA registered kennel name as determined by ASCA's Board of Directors, without the consent and signature of the owner of the registered kennel name on the Individual Dog Registration Application.

I added the "deceptively similar" language, but made the Board, rather than the Business Office, the arbiter of what is deceptively similar."]

Effective Date: Immediately upon approval.

BD.19.18 Emergency Motion - Discussion Group re: Additional DNA Lab

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Gray, King, Silveira, Vest; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Non-Voting: Roberts; Motion carries.

Motion by Gann

Second by Busquets

I move to create a new discussion group on Groups.io for the sole purpose of discussing adding another lab, in this case Paw Print Genetics, to the already existing one. This discussion group is necessary to work out details on a possible contract with Paw Print Genetics before the Board makes a final decision on adding the new lab.

Participants in the discussions will be DNA committee members, committee liaison Director Rick Gann, a representative from Paw Print Genetics and a representative from Certagen

(European lab). ASCA Directors may join this group but will be set to “read only”. The duration of this discussion group shall not extend 6 months from the date of approval by the Board.

Comments/Rationale: This motion is presented as an emergency motion since it is time sensitive given the recent experiences with Therion.

Effective Date: Immediately upon approval by the Board

Committee Recommendations

RA.19.01 Revision of ASCA Rally Course Design Checklist

Approve: Unanimous; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Roberts

I move to approve the below motion from the Rally Committee.

Committee Recommendation:

RC Motion 18.36 Revision of ASCA Rally Course Design Checklist

Motion by Corinne Shanks

Second by Jan Wesen

I move to approve the Revision of the ASCA Rally Course Design Checklist. The Checklist now reflects those items that are required to meet minimum standards of course design.

These items are ***bold & italics*** for easy reference by all judges and course reviewers.

The July 2018 checklist, and the revised 2019 checklist are attached.

Comments/Rationale: The current checklist does not specifically/clearly point out the areas necessary for a course to meet minimum standards. Judges have asked for a list, which was previously approved by the BOD. The new checklist has incorporated the required elements so that judges who use the checklist can see in advance that their course does not meet minimum requirements.

The revised checklist is currently being used by the course reviewers, who have found it saves time when completing the reviews. With all reviewers using the checklist, more consistent information can be sent to judges who have a course found to not meet minimum requirements.

Affected: Judges who use the checklist will more easily identify courses that do not meet minimum requirements. Judge applicants will more easily be able to identify where changes need to be made to their courses.

Webmaster will need to post new Checklist when approved by BOD.

Effective Date: On approval of the BOD, for publication in the 2019 Rules & Regulations.

Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 10; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Non-Voting: 3

Comment from Leah Swatko: It is an excellent tool to help judges find some detail they might of missed. It is also an excellent feedback tool for pre or post trial reviews presented in a consistent and uniform way.

Please find the following **attachments** at the back of this report: Rally Course Design Checklist - Current.pdf, Rally Course Design Checklist - Proposed.pdf

TR.19.01 Tracking Interest Profile

Approve: Creelman, Gann, King, Roberts, Silveira, Vest; Oppose: Boone, Busquets; Abstain: Gray; Non-Voting: 0; Motion **carries**.

Letter of Dissent from Boone: This TIP stipulates where monies will go. No committee has been allowed to state where there monies will go. Once that stipulation is removed, I would vote yes.

Letter of Dissent from Busquets: Section 8.2.b needs to be deleted or changed. The committee really shouldn't be making decisions about the disbursement of any money made from the profiles. Also, I like the form because the information included is more objective than subjective. However, there are a couple of things that could be improved. For example, "visual scent" needs to be changed to maybe "relies on visual detection." I would also suggest changing "ignores the article" to something else.

Motion by Gann

I move to approve the attached tracking motion.

Committee Recommendation:

Tracking Interest Profile

Motion by Beth MacLehose

Second by Joyce Charron

I move to approve the creation of the Tracking Interest Profile.

Current Wording:

No current wording.

Proposed Wording:

(This would move the current section 8 to 9 and so forth...)

8 The Tracking Interest Profile

The fundamental feature of a Tracking Interest Profile is to evaluate a new dog and handler's tracking style. The purpose of this profile is to help new dog and handler teams to better understand the factors involved in tracking and what style they are currently exhibiting. This information will encourage people to become involved and stay involved in ASCA tracking, especially in regions with little to no tracking currently being held. Examiner's may run as many tracks as they feel comfortable doing during the time allotted by the club. The time is not to exceed 8 hours. This profile was designed to be held in conjunction with a tracking clinic. However, it was also designed to be flexible enough that it could be held after a few lessons with a trainer. It may also be held in conjunction with other ASCA events (e.g. conformation show on a local fairgrounds) or as a standalone event.

8.1 Eligibility for the Tracking Interest Profile

The Tracking Interest Profile is for any dog or handler team of any age or experience. Since dog's tracking style may change over time, their profiles may change over time and handlers may certainly get multiple profiles.

8.2 The Tracking Interest Profile

ASCA will issue Official Tracking Interest Profile sheets to any qualified examiner.

- a. The examiner will need to send their qualifications to the business office along with a request for the number of profiles they want.
- b. The price of the profiles will be set by the business office. The profit from these profiles will be split evenly between the stock dog finals (to support the purpose of the breed) and the National Tracking Test.

8.3 Requirements for the Tracking Interest Profile Track

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a Tracking Interest Profile track:

- a. The track shall be at least 60 yards and not more than 100 yards in length.
- b. The scent on the track shall be not less than 5 minutes or more than 30 minutes old.
- c. The track layer is to be the handler or other person designated by the handler.

- d. The track layer may place food in the start and end article and at about the half way point of the track.
- e. The placing of food shall be at the handler's discretion.
- f. No part of the track shall follow any fence or boundary within 15 yards of such fence or boundary.
- g. No part of the track may be within 15 yards of any other part of the same track.
- h. No part of any track shall be laid within 15 yards of another track. However, with two (2) tracks going in opposite directions from the same area, the starting flags may be as close as 15 yards from each other.
- i. A track shall not cross a body of water or a paved road.
- j. No Tracking Interest Profile track should have changes of cover that would be suitable for a TDX obstacle.
- k. No conflicting (cross) tracks shall be used.
- l. A track shall have a start article at the first flag, and a 2nd article at the end of the track.

If, because of the terrain, the examiner is unable to plot a track that meets all requirements for a Tracking Interest Profile, an explanation of the circumstances must be reported on the form.

8.4 Articles for the Tracking Interest Profile Track

Articles may be any articles that the handler wishes to use. This includes toys, gloves, socks, metal articles, etc. Food may be placed in or under the articles at the handlers' discretion.

8.5 Start of the Tracking interest Profile Track

The start shall have a flag at the beginning, and a second flag, indicating the direction of the first leg, 30 yards from the first flag. The Tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in Chapter 2, Section 10 with the exception that the track is not pre-plotted.

An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag.

The dog may be held by a person and watch the track being laid at the handler's discretion.

The person laying the tracking may turn around and engage the dog by calling its name or showing it the article if the handler so wishes.

At the direction of the examiner, the handler and dog will approach the first flag.

The handler may use any method, including restraining the dog by the leash as long as no force, directional guidance, or roughness, is used to start the dog at the first flag on the track.

The handler may pick up the article at the start flag and use it to give scent to the dog while on the track.

The examiner may give help and suggestions during the track.

The handler should remain 6-10 feet behind the dog after they pass the second flag.

8.6 Examiner for Tracking Interest Profile

A person who has put at least two (2) TDs/TDU's or one (1) TD and one (1) TDU or one (1) TDX/VST or equivalent title on a dog may be an examiner for the Tracking Interest Profile. The title may be a title from ASCA, AKC, or CKC. Other organizations may be approved by the ASCA tracking committee when requested (for example titling organizations in other countries). When submitting sanctioning paperwork, a photocopy or digital copy of the title(s) the examiner earned shall be included.

The following section must also be added: The Profile at the end of the motion should be added to Appendix E.

Comments/Rationale: Tracking is not currently a widely used program outside of WA, OR, and CA. We hope that this profile will make it easier for clubs and competitors in other parts of the country to give ASCA tracking a try. Competitors new to tracking can learn about their dogs tracking style and have a nice record of their dogs progress. This will also be a program that bring money in to the office to support tracking at the nationals. Hopefully this program will increase interest in all parts of the country and lead competitors and clubs down the wonderful and challenging road that is tracking. 😊

Affected: The business office would need to collect money and print off blank certificates when requested (see attached).

Effective Date: June 1, 2019

Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Non-Voting: 2

Please find the following **attachments** at the back of this report: ASCA Tracking Interest Profile.pdf

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) was held on Thursday, January 10, 2019, via online meeting service GoToMeeting.

Directors Present: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Cindy King, Treasurer Jean Roberts, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Linda Gray, Director Ken Silveira, and Director Rachel Vest.

Also Present: Counsel Charles Carnese (from 6:31 pm - 7:15 pm), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Directors Absent: Director Denise Creelman.

Call to Order

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm CST and Executive Secretary Jaco recorded the minutes. A quorum of Directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Executive Session

The Board was in Executive Session from 6:02 pm - 7:24 pm to discuss the below topics.

Retainer for Legal Counsel

The Board approved the 2019 retainer for legal counsel Charles Carnese - \$16,000.00 plus expenses incurred for attendance at the Spring Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report for period ending December 31, 2018, as presented by Treasurer Roberts. Ending balance is \$140,574.48.

Excusal of Dog

The Board voted to uphold an excusal of a dog.

Member Issue

The Board voted to allow a member to continue with the judge application process.

Registry Issue

The Board voted to resolve a registry issue.

Search for Legal Counsel

The Board continued discussion of hiring new legal counsel.

Open Session

The Board was in Open Session from 7:24 pm - 7:55 pm to discuss the below items. A recording of this part of the meeting may be listened to on ASCA's:

Website: <https://www.asca.org/home/news/bod-meetings-audio>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC490D1qEJtV7oiDp6KOHEvA>

December Email Business

Due to the requirements of Washington State Law, all legal business of ASCA must be conducted via face-to-face meetings or telephone conference call meetings. To meet this

requirement and continue to conduct business via e-mail, each face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via e-mail since the last face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

BD.19.16 December 2018 Email Business

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Gann, Gray, King, Roberts, Silveira, Vest; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: Creelman; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Silveira

Second by Gray

I move to ratify all business conducted over email in December 2018.

System Liaison's Report

Board System Liaison Vest reported on the ongoing status of the computer system upgrade. Over the break, the Board approved Inventive as the website maintenance vendor, and the Business Office is working to get the contract formalized.

One of the stipulations in Inventive's SOW was a mobilization fee (used to get things up and running) of \$5,625.00, which will be due when the project is started.

DNA Lab

The DNA Committee has been asking for answers to questions sent to Therion for several months and have received no response. The Board has also been unsuccessful in communicating with the lab. It is hoped that the involvement of ASCA's attorney will get ASCA the information needed.

BD.19.17 Letter from Counsel to Therion

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Gann, Gray, King, Roberts, Silveira, Vest; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: Creelman; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Gann

Second by Vest

Per the recommendation of the DNA Committee, I move to involve Counsel in writing a letter to Therion requesting answers to ASCA's questions that have been left unanswered for months.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary

Course Design Checklist - June 2018 Rulebook

Name: _____ Course Set: _____

All Course Maps

| 17.2.2 Map Basics | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
|--|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Judge's name | | | | |
| Date of the trial - ID'd as #1, #2 etc. if more than 1 trial/day | | | | |
| Affiliate Hosting Club | | | | |
| Course Level | | | | |
| Ring Size | | | | |
| ASCA sign icons | | | | |
| Station numbers | | | | |
| Star indicators, to bring total to 200 points | | | | |
| Cone icons, if used - No more than 7 | | | | |
| Separate entrance and exit gates | | | | |
| Leash location indicated - for courses with a Stay off leash | | | | N/A |
| Finish Sign (un-numbered) is used on map. | | | | |
| Finish Sign is noted in exercise list before Stay (if used) | | | | |
| 17.2.3 Jump & Distraction Icons | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Jump Icons - type of jump identified | | | N/A | N/A |
| Distraction icons - type of distraction identified - No more than 4 | | | N/A | N/A |
| 17.2.4 Handler Path Arrows | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Handler Path Arrows - Must be used in Novice | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| 17.3.1 Design Requirements/General | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Safety & Flow - for all signs/jumps | | | | |
| All signs spaced appropriately based on requirements of the station. | | | | |
| Sign icons & numbers match the exercise list | | | | |
| 16-19 stations plus star stations equal 200 points | | | | |
| Design gives enough room for any size dog and/or handler using mobility aid | | | | |
| Too many stationary exercises in a row? | | | | |
| Excellent course is significantly different than Masters. All Excellent signs are moved to a new location, or replaced with other signs (except for the jump). | | | N/A | N/A |
| Design is such that handlers who miss the walk-through have a reasonable chance to quality | | | | |
| Sign selection is challenging but fair | | | | |
| Sign selection uses a variety of behaviors to demonstrate teamwork and proficiency | | | | |
| 17.3.2 Sign Placement | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Sign icons are to the right of the team's path except change of direction signs. They are placed directly in front of the team | | | | |
| Signs with more than 2 elements must be placed where readable during performance of all elements | | | | |
| Start/H&C sign provides enough room for team entry & set-up | | | | |
| Finish sign, if facing a ring gate, must be at least 6 feet away | | | | |
| Fast and Halt Fast signs must be followed by Normal sign | | | | |
| Slow and Halt, Slow signs may be followed by either a Normal or a Finish sign | | | | |
| 17.4.3 Turns | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Not too many consecutive turns | | | | |
| Entrance & exit to Serpentine is straight on | | | | |
| Entrance to Spiral is straight on | | | | |
| 17.4.4 Cones | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Serpentine, Figure 8 & spiral - 6-8 feet between cones | | | | |
| Serpentine with Distractions - 8-10 ft. between cones/distractions | | | N/A | N/A |
| Offset Figure 8; 8-10 ft. between cones; 6-8 between distractions | | | | |

Course Review Checklist – January 1, 2019
Items that are Sub Standard(illegal) are in *Bold & Italic*

Name: _____ Club: _____ Date: _____ Course Set: _____

Reviewer Comments: (If no comments are on the Checklist, the Item is considered Acceptable)

All Course Maps

| 17.1a Map Requirements | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Only two (2) of each of the following signs may be on the course: 10, 11, 13, 14, 27, 28, 29 & 30.</i> | | | | |
| Sign Description | | | | |
| <i>Signs 10 & 13 may only be used once on Excellent & Masters.</i> | | | | |
| 17.2.2 Map Basics | | | | |
| Judge's name | | | | |
| Date of the trial - ID'd as #1, #2 etc. if more than 1 trial/day | | | | |
| Affiliate Hosting Club | | | | |
| Course Level | | | | |
| Ring Size | | | | |
| ASCA sign icons | | | | |
| Station numbers | | | | |
| Star indicators, to bring total to 200 points | | | | |
| Cone icons, if used - No more than 7 | | | | |
| Separate entrance and exit gates | | | | |
| Leash location indicated - for courses with a Stay off leash | | | | N/A |
| Finish Sign (un-numbered) is used on map. | | | | |
| Finish Sign is noted in exercise list before Stay (if used) | | | | |
| On the exercise list include star symbol, class (M,E,A,N) & indication of stationary (S) in the appropriate column. | | | | |
| 17.2.3 Jump & Distraction Icons | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Jump Icons - type of jump identified | | | N/A | N/A |
| Distraction icons - type of distraction identified - No more than 4 | | | N/A | N/A |
| 17.2.4 Handler Path Arrows | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Handler Path Arrows - Must be used in Novice | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| 17.3.1 Design Requirements/General | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Safety & Flow - for all signs/jumps | | | | |
| All signs spaced appropriately based on requirements of the station. | | | | |
| Sign icons & numbers match the exercise list | | | | |
| 16-19 stations plus star stations equal 200 points | | | | |
| Design gives enough room for any size dog and/or handler using mobility aid | | | | |
| Too many stationary exercises in a row? | | | | |
| Excellent course is significantly different than Masters. All Excellent signs are moved to a new location, or replaced with other signs (except for the jump). | | | N/A | N/A |
| <i>Design is such that handlers who miss the walk-through have a reasonable chance to qualify</i> | | | | |
| Sign selection is challenging but fair | | | | |
| Sign selection uses a variety of behaviors to demonstrate teamwork and proficiency | | | | |

| 17.3.2 Sign Placement | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
|--|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Sign icons are to the right of the team's path except change of direction signs. They are placed directly in front of the team | | | | |
| Signs with more than 2 elements must be placed where readable during performance of all elements | | | | |
| Start/H&C sign provides enough room for team entry & set-up | | | | |
| <i>Finish sign, if facing a ring gate, must be at least 6 feet away</i> | | | | |
| <i>Fast and Halt Fast signs must be followed by Normal sign</i> | | | | |
| <i>Slow and Halt, Slow signs may be followed by either a Normal or a Finish sign</i> | | | | |
| 17.4.3 Turns | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Not too many consecutive turns | | | | |
| Entrance & exit to Serpentine is straight on | | | | |
| Entrance to Spiral is straight on | | | | |
| 17.4.4 Cones | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| Serpentine, Figure 8 & spiral – 6-8 feet between cones | | | | |
| Serpentine with Distractions – 8-10 ft. between cones/distractions | | | N/A | N/A |
| Offset Figure 8; 8-10 ft. between cones; 6-8 between distractions | | | | |
| Offset Serpentine, M/E Spacing 4-6 ft., A/N Spacing 6-8 ft. Middle cone 3-4 feet/left or right. | | | | |
| 17.4.5 Spacing | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
| All Exercises have adequate spacing for performance | | | | |
| Large drifts are avoided | | | | |

Specifics for each level

| | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 17.3.1 # of signs - 16-19 | # _____ | # _____ | # _____ | # _____ |
| 17.3.3 Stationary exercises – NOTE minimum & maximum exercises. (Not including Sit or Down Stay) | 3-9 # _____ | 3-8 # _____ | 3-7 # _____ | 3-6 # _____ |
| | Sits # _____ | Sits # _____ | Sits # _____ | Sits # _____ |
| | Downs # _____ | Downs # _____ | Downs # _____ | Downs # _____ |
| | Stands # _____ | Stands # _____ | Stands # _____ | Stands # _____ |
| 17.3.4 Stay exercise (Not counted as a Stationary exercise) | 20 ft. - Required | 15 ft. – Opt | 10 ft. – Opt | 6 ft. - Required |
| Stay Exercise is numbered on the chart & map | | | | |
| 17.3.5 Cones used with distraction exercise not used with other cone exercise | | | N/A | N/A |
| <i>Other sections of the course may not pass through distractions</i> | | | N/A | N/A |
| Distractions may not accidentally or intentionally become part of another exercise | | | N/A | N/A |

| | Masters | Excellent | Advanced | Novice |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 17.3.6 Minimum Specific Exercises – NOTE minimum and sign numbers necessary. | 400-416 use 4+ # _____ 300-327 use 3+ # _____ | 300-327 use 4+ # _____ 200-231 use 3+ # _____ | 200-231 use 4+ # _____ | 100-107 use 3+ # _____ |
| 17.4.1, 5.5.2, 6.5.2 Excellent and Masters course must have at least one jump, which must be starred, and must be different in Masters and Excellent. | | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 17.4.1 If only one Jump is used in Masters it is different than the Excellent Jump | | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| If two jumps are used in Masters there must be at least two exercises between them. | | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Adequate Space for Jumps - 10 ft. bar or-high; 12 ft., broad | | | N/A | N/A |
| Jump exercise in Excellent must be starred. At least one Jump exercise in Masters must be starred | | | N/A | N/A |
| Sign 316 is not counted as 1 of the specific level exercises. | | | N/A | N/A |
| 17.4.3 Entries into and exit from all cone exercises must be as indicated by the arrows on the specific sign. | | | | |
| 17.4.3 Angle turns into a diagonal path across the course must be followed by another angle turn, or the Finish sign, they cannot lead the team into a station that must be approached in a straight line. | | | | |
| 17.4.5 Angle turns must be placed so the complete angle can be accomplished. | | | N/A | N/A |
| Leave dog exercises are spaced to allow the handler to leave the dog, but still able to read sign | | | N/A | N/A |
| Space allowed for Directed Jump, if used (10 & 12 ft) | | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Signs for Directed Jump placed appropriately on the map | | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Offset serpentine spaced with wider path to allow proper setup of cones, spaced per sign description. | | | | |
| | | | | |

