



Established 1957

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2019

Announcements

New ASCA Committee Members

Hall of Fame Committee - **Ann DeChant** (Region 4)

Scent Search Committee - **Sunday Miles** (Region 4)

Obedience Committee - **Hilary Hines** (Region 1)

Miscellaneous

An applicant to the Agility Committee was denied.

Motions from the ASCA Board of Directors

*This motion was not approved.

BD.19.110 Proposed Policy Book Change - Section 8.13.5 Rental Vehicles

Approve: Creelman, Dolan, Gray, Wesen

Disapprove: Boone, Busquets, Gann, Roberts, Vest

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **not** approved (4-5).

Comment from Busquets: I'm not sure that this is the best way to deal with this. Sometimes, directors need flexibility. I also don't want to keep adding work to the Executive Secretary. If a director abuses the use of rental vehicles, then perhaps the best way to deal with it is by making the President and VP aware so that a conversation with the offending director can be conducted.

Comment from Vest: The original Policy Book rule governing travel/rental cars was written well before it was commonplace and cost effective for Directors to book their own travel/rental cars. If ASCA wishes to manage Directors travel/rental cars to that level, a travel agency would be recommended. I believe that placing the Executive Secretary into the role of a travel agent may affect the efficiency of the position.

Motion by Dolan

Second by Wesen

I move to change section 8.13.5 of the Policy Book from:

8.13.5 Rental Vehicles

- a. The Board of Directors will appoint a representative to make vehicle rentals required for meetings.
- b. This representative will determine the number of rental vehicles required to support the meeting.
- c. Expenditures for rental vehicles will only be authorized during the days that Directors' presence is required for ASCA business.
- d. ASCA will only provide fuel for rental vehicles when used for ASCA business.
- e. The Board of Directors may authorize individually rented vehicle eligible for reimbursement if needed to support ASCA business.

to read:

8.13.5 Rental Vehicles

- a. The Executive Secretary will make vehicle rentals required for meetings.
- b. The Executive Secretary will determine the number of rental vehicles required to support the meeting.
- c. Expenditures for rental vehicles will only be authorized during the days that Directors' presence is required for ASCA business.
- d. ASCA will only provide fuel for rental vehicles when used for ASCA business.
- e. The Board of Directors may authorize individually rented vehicles eligible for reimbursement if needed to support ASCA business.

Comments/Rationale: This section was intended to save travel funds by coordinating and minimizing the use of rental vehicles. Assigning this function to the Executive Secretary provides continuity to the process and directly implements the original intent of the section.

Affected: Executive Secretary.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

BD.19.112 Proposed Moratorium on Program Changes

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Dolan, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **approved** unanimously.

Motion by Vest

Second by Boone

I move to place a moratorium on program changes that affect qualifying from March 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021. This moratorium will provide adequate time for the ASCA System Upgrade to become current with approved changes that are awaiting programming. This moratorium may be lifted and or removed by the BOD if a situation warrants.

Comments/Rationale: This moratorium will provide the ASCA System Upgrade effort with sufficient time to program current changes and ensure that they are fully functional as designed before undertaking additional changes. This motion was reviewed and approved by the Business Office Manager.

Affected: Program Committees, ASCA Business Office, and the ASCA System Upgrade effort.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Committee Recommendations

Agility Committee

AG.19.07 Motion to Further Clarify Toys in the Ring for Training

Approve: Boone, Creelman, Dolan, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: Busquets, Gann

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **approved** (7-2).

Dissent from Busquets: I agree with most of the changes. However, tossing the toy really concerns me. I appreciate that there is a penalty if the toy falls outside the ring, but this could be unsafe. In the case of a resulting fight, I appreciate that the aggression rules are noted, but the program rules should emphasize prevention of problems and safety for all dogs.

Motion by Liaison Dolan

I move to approve the following recommendation from the Agility Committee.

Committee Recommendation:

Motion 15-2019 To further clarify the toys in the ring for training

Subject: To further clarify the toys in the ring for training

Motion by: Jan Niblock

Second by: Christine Carlson

I move to approve the motion to clarify the toys in the ring for training rules. It has been in effect for over 6 months and there has been a good deal of feedback from judges, exhibitors and clubs about

what works well or what doesn't. It is time to make some adjustments to the original motion to allow the toys based on what those running in ASCA agility would like changed based on their experiences.

Current Wording:

1.3.6 Other Restrictions

In all classes the handler shall direct their dog through the course without a collar or lead. No food, toys, balls or other devices may be brought into the ring or used within ten (10) feet (3.1 meters) of the perimeter of the entire ring. The handlers may not carry/wear anything in the ring which might be construed to be an aid to the performance of the dogs (including fanny packs, leashes around their waists, cell phones, cameras). See also Section 9.1.

Proposed Wording:

1.3.6 Other Restrictions

In all classes the handler shall direct their dog through the course without a collar or lead. No food, toys, balls or other devices may be brought into the ring or used within ten (10) feet (3.1 meters) of the perimeter of the entire ring. The handlers may not carry/wear anything in the ring which might be construed to be an aid to the performance of the dogs (including fanny packs, leashes around their waists, cell phones, cameras). See also Section 9.1 for rules about toys, etc.

Current Wording:

2.1.5.1 Premium: Required Information

The Agility Trial Premium shall include the following information:

- Whether or not toys will be allowed in the ring for training purposes (one-ring trials only). [See section 9.1 for guidelines for using toys in the ring.]

Proposed Wording:

2.1.5.1 Premium: Required Information

The Agility Trial Premium shall include the following information:

- Whether or not toys will be allowed in the ring for training purposes (one-ring trials only). If training in the ring with toys is allowed, the premium must indicate where the handlers with toys will run in the class order. [See section 9.1 for guidelines for using toys in the ring.]

Current Wording:

9 Faults

9.1 Handling Faults

Dogs shall be eliminated for the following occurrences:

- Training in the ring, during their run. However, the dog and handler will not be excused for training in the ring, provided that no harsh words or measures are employed by the handler. Gentle training in the ring is encouraged, in the interest of safety and motivation, if done within the specified time for training in the ring. Exhibitor will be asked to leave the ring once the

specified time for training has been reached. At the discretion of the host club and limited to one-ring trials, toys may be brought into the arena for training purposes. These toys may not involve food or treats of any kind, may not make noise, or may not leave parts behind. All handlers declaring toys will mark the gate sheet with a "T" at the run check-in and will run at the end of the class in order by jump height. Upon entering the ring, handlers must declare to the judge that they have a toy. They will be immediately eliminated whether or not the toy is used and will have the specified time for training in the ring. If handlers bring a toy in the ring without declaring it, they will be asked to leave immediately.

- Food, treats or toys being used or brought within 10 feet (3.1 meters) of, or into the agility trial arena. Toys shall not be used outside the ring within 10 ft of the agility trial arena at any time. Handlers may, however, continue to train in the ring with declared toys for the specified time for training in the ring.

Proposed Wording:

9 Faults

9.1 Handling Faults

Dogs shall be eliminated for the following occurrences:

- Training in the ring, during their run. However, the dog and handler will not be excused for training in the ring, provided that no harsh words or measures are employed by the handler. Gentle training in the ring is encouraged, in the interest of safety and motivation, if done within the specified time for training in the ring. Exhibitor will be asked to leave the ring once the specified time for training has been reached. At the discretion of the host club and limited to one-ring trials, toys may be brought into the arena for training purposes. These toys may not involve food or treats of any kind, may not make noise, or may not leave parts behind. All handlers declaring toys will mark the gate sheet with a "T" at the run check-in and will run at the end of the class in order by jump height. They will be able to run in their regular place on the gate sheet or at the end of jump height, this decision will be up to the Club and must be published in the premium. Upon entering the ring, handlers must declare to the judge that they have a toy. They will be immediately eliminated whether or not the toy is used and will have the specified time for training in the ring. If handlers bring a toy in the ring without declaring it, they will be asked to leave immediately and will not be able to use a toy for the remainder of the trial. If they use a toy again after being told that they cannot use it again in the trial, they will be excused from that trial.
- Food, treats or toys being used or brought within 10 feet (3.1 meters) of, or into the agility trial arena. Toys shall not be used outside the ring within 10 ft of the agility trial arena at any time. Handlers may, however, continue to train in the ring with declared toys for the specified time for training in the ring. The following are additional instructions about using toys in the ring:
 - Handlers using toys for training in the ring must keep the toy concealed until the previous dog has left the ring and the handler and dog are in the ring. If the toy cannot

be concealed, the handler must stay back 10' from the ring until the previous dog has left the ring. The handler cannot use the toy until they are in the ring.

- Handlers may tug or toss the toy but not further than 15 feet (4.57 meters). If the dog does not return with the toy but runs around the ring past their training time, they cannot use the toy again for that day.
- If the toy leaves the ring, the handler cannot use a toy again for the rest of the trial. If the dog leaves the ring to get the toy that has left the arena and starts a fight, the dog who left the ring will be excused from the trial per the ASCA Dog Aggression Rule.

Comments/Rationale: As already stated, this motion needs to have some things tweaked from the original motion. Over all, it has been well received but there are some things that have made it difficult for clubs and exhibitors. Like in small trials, having to have all of the bars reset at the end of the class for those with toys makes trials run longer and is a burden for the volunteers. For that reason, some clubs will not offer it. Also, when you have one person with 2 or 3 dogs using toys and they are the only one, by not allowing them to run in their regular order really adds a lot of time to the trial. The reason is waiting for them to put one dog away and get the other one out. So allowing Clubs to decide where they should run is important, either in regular order or at the end of jump height. Also, in training most people toss a toy, especially after the weaves or contact.

Affected: This will affect the clubs and handlers but will not change anything when it comes to the merit list, the office or programming, because the run will be scored as an elimination.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 7

Disapprove: 1

Abstain: 1

Non-Voting: 2

Dissent from Committee Member: I have spoken to multiple agility judges in another venue that allows toys. All agree throwing a toy has the possibility of creating a dangerous situation. Not only if the toy and dog leave the ring, also if the toy is thrown at the waiting dog.

Nationals Advisory Committee

NA.19.01 Request for Committee Procedures Exemption

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: Dolan

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **approved** (8-1).

Dissent from Dolan: I believe this is an ASCA Executive Committee and should be handled as directed in the ASCA By-Laws.

Motion by Liaison Vest

I move to approve the following recommendation from the Nationals Advisory Committee.

Committee Recommendation:

Nationals Advisory Committee Request for Committee Procedures Exemption

Motion by Laura Gibson

Seconded by Rachel Vest

I move to approve the following Committee Procedures exemptions for the Nationals Advisory Committee, as outlined below.

Section 22.2 of ASCA's Policy Book allows a committee to request an exemption from the ASCA Committee Procedures. The Nationals Advisory Committee requests an exemption from the following sections of the Committee Procedures:

2.1 Committee Makeup

Committees shall normally be made up of no more than fifteen (15) ASCA members including the Chairperson. Ideally, the Committee shall have at least one Member and no more than two Members from each ASCA regions.

The ASCA regions are:

REGION 1: WA, OR, ID, MT, AK

REGION 2: CA, NV, AZ, UT

REGION 3: CO, WY, NE, KS, ND, SD, MB, SK, AB, BC, YT, NT, NU

REGION 4: MI, IA, IL, OH, WI, MN, IN, MO, KY

REGION 5: AR, LA, MS, AL, TN, NC, SC, GA, FL, TX, NM, OK

REGION 6: ME, NH, VT, NY, RI, MA, CT, PA, NJ, WV, VA, MD, DE, DC, ON, QC, NS, NB, PE, NF

REGION 7: Europe

The Stockdog Committee will consist of seven active ASCA trial contestants and five ASCA approved Stockdog Judges. One contestant shall be appointed from each of the seven geographic regions. Judges shall be appointed on an at large basis. Contestants may only fill the Contestant positions and Stockdog Judges may only fill the Judge positions.

Per November 2004 vote of the Board, the DNA Committee is exempt from regional representation and term limits.

2.3 Terms and Appointments - to be replaced with:

Additional Committee Appointments

The Board may appoint additional volunteers with full ASCA memberships who meet the committee criteria to the Nationals Advisory Committee. At the Board of Directors' Spring Board Meeting, the

Committee Liaison must bring all ASCA members' names forward who have volunteered to serve on a committee, by submitting their resume to the Executive Secretary, for discussion by the full Board. The Board of Directors will appoint by a simple majority an applicant who is a qualified, compatible addition to the committee. The Executive Secretary will notify those members that were appointed to the Committee and those individuals that were not appointed to the Committee.

Committee Chairman

The Nationals Advisory Committee shall hold an election of its Chair within 30 days following the Board of Directors Spring Meeting. Chairs shall serve a one-year term and may be reelected. The person elected Chair must have served a minimum of one year on that respective committee and a minimum of three continuous (without a lapse in Membership) years as a Full ASCA Member in good standing.

Comments/Rationale from Committee: The Nationals Advisory Committee is made up of individuals who have served as ASCA Nationals Chairman from 2014 to the present. Like the DNA Committee, it should be exempt from regional representation.

The Nationals Advisory Committee is made up of individuals who have served as ASCA Nationals Chairman from 2014 to the present. Like the DNA Committee, it should be exempt from term limits since there is a limited pool of volunteers for this committee. The above verbiage allows for the addition of qualified volunteers and defines the process for the selection of a Committee Chair.

Affected: Members of the National Advisory Committee, ASCA Board of Directors, future additional members of the Nationals Advisory Committee.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 4

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Obedience Committee

OB.19.04 Motion to Change CDX Obedience Exercises

Approve: Boone, Creelman, Dolan, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: Busquets

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **approved** (8-1).

Dissent from Busquets: There are a couple of places where contradictory language exists and of which the committee has already been informed. While I don't necessarily think that we must follow other registries when developing exercises, I do agree that the time to get rid of group stays has come. The language needs to be cleaned up, though.

Comment from Creelman: I do believe that dogs need to be trained and trustworthy for a long sit or stay out of sight. I also see the concern for safety. The many comments supporting the need to stay in the trend of other venues to maintain entry from them is a concern for the success of the affiliate clubs.

Motion by Liaison Roberts

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

Committee Recommendation:

Motion to Change CDX exercises; removing out of sight stay groups, replacing with command discrimination and stand stay – get your leash exercises.

Motion by Betsy Coleman

Second by Marilyn Cherry

I move to approve changing Open CDX exercises; removing the out of sight stay groups and replacing them with a command discrimination exercise and a stand, stay, get your leash exercise. The rulebook changes are highlighted.

Current Wording:

Reference Sheet

1.2 Group Exercises

- A dog may earn a qualifying score in Novice and Open even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. Dogs may begin Novice and Open Group Exercises by standing or sitting in heel position beside their handlers.

General Regulations

1.26 Ring Conditions

If the judging takes place indoors the ring should be rectangular and should be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long for all Obedience Classes. In no case shall the ring for a Utility class be less than thirty-five (35)' by fifty (50)', and in no case shall the ring for a Novice or Open class be less than thirty (30)' by forty (40)'. At an outdoor show or trial, the rings shall be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long.

Outside rings should have a clean level surface of grass no more than one (1) inch long, or dirt without any mud puddles in the ring area. The rings shall be as near as can be determined by visual inspection, free of rodent or insect colonies, and clean of any animal waste. Insecticides or poisons may not be used to remedy pre-existing conditions on day of show. On surfaces such as wood or concrete flooring, which require a non-skid surface, mats under high jump in Open should be a

minimum of sixteen (16) feet long, with the jump centrally positioned. Matting under the broad jump should be at least the width of the jump - five (5) feet. In Utility, mats must run the entire length of the ring in the pattern of the dog's send away and directed jumping. An area surrounding the obedience ring no smaller than ten (10) feet in any direction shall be cleaned and posted for "no crating or grooming" during the obedience portion of the event.

The Club and Show/Trial Secretary are responsible for providing, for the Open CDX classes, an appropriate place approved by the judge, for the handlers to go completely out of sight of their dogs. If inclement weather at an outdoor trial necessitates the judging of Obedience under shelter, the requirements as to ring size may be waived. If such actions are taken a full report must be sent to the ASCA Business Office at the close of the show or trial.

3.12 Group Exercises

The principle feature of the group exercises is that the dogs remain in the position required. Orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

Groups in the ring for Group Exercises must include no more than seven (7) dogs in Novice spaced a minimum of 6' apart and no more than ten (10) dogs in Open spaced a minimum of 4' apart and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates in both levels. If there are more than 7 dogs in Novice or 10 dogs in Open competing, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections. At the discretion of the judge, groups for Novice A and B and for Open A and B can be combined or separated. However, when Open B orders III and V are used, Open B groups cannot be combined with other classes. The dogs will be lined up in catalog order along one side of the ring. In Novice, dogs will be on a six (6) foot leash during the group stays. Each handler will leave the leash attached to the collar and lay the rest of the leash and their armband - weighted, if necessary - in between the dog and the handler. In Open, each handler will remove the leash and place the leash and their armband, weighted as necessary, behind their dog. The judge should stand so that he can see all the dogs and all the handlers without having to turn around.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises.

The person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must also handle that dog in the Long Sit and Long Down unless the person handled more than one dog in the class and the class will only have one group of stays. If this occurs, the owner must have additional handlers standing by to handle the additional dog(s) during the Group Exercises.

When the last Group Exercise has been completed and the judge has said, "Exercise Finished," Novice handlers must pick up the leash; Open handlers must leash their dogs. Dogs must be kept under control while exiting the ring.

Dogs moving from the place where they were left in the first group exercise shall be excused from the remaining group exercise.

4.2 Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.

1. **Open A Division Class Eligibility and Exercises:** The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's household or immediate family. The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the individual exercises that will participate in the group exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog when judged in the same group. The additional handler for the group exercises need not be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both the Open A and Open B classes at any one trial. A dog may continue to be shown in Open A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that it has completed the requirements for the Open title. After the 180-day grace period is over, the team must move to any division B Open, or another class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. which were earned after the grace period. Once an Open A dog enters Utility, it can no longer enter Open A. No dog may be entered in Open A and Utility at the same trial. Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 4. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.
2. **Open B Division Class Eligibility and Exercises:** The Open B class shall be for dogs that have earned the CD, CDX, or ODX title from ASCA and may show in this class after earning their Open or Utility title from ASCA. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. Owners may enter more than one (1) dog in this class. Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 5. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.
3. **CDX Title:** The title of CDX shall be awarded after the dog has acquired three qualifying scores, two of which must be under two different judges.
4. **Special Awards, Finals and Merits:** This class is eligible for Finals Points, High in Trial, and High Combined. This class is eligible for any applicable optional awards. Please refer to Chapter 1, Section 16 for Merit accreditation for dogs competing for a CDX title in either the A or B division.

4.4 Order of Individual Exercises for Open A Divisions

The Long Sit and the Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2. Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points
3.	Retrieve on Flat	20 points
4.	Retrieve Over High Jump	30 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points
6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

4.5 Order of Individual Exercises for Open B Divisions

The judge shall select one of the orders of exercises from the sheets provided by the host club and post it at ringside at least thirty (30) minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. If there is only a start time for the trial, it shall be posted thirty (30) minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Each judge will use Orders I through V equally in their assignments.

Long Sit and Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2. Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

OPEN B I			OPEN B II		
1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points	1.	Drop on Recall	30 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points	2.	Broad Jump	20 points
3.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	3.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
4.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	4.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points	5.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points
OPEN B III			OPEN B IV		
1.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	1.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
2.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points	2.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
3.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	3.	Broad Jump	20 points
4.	Broad Jump	20 points	4.	Drop on Recall	30 points
5.	Drop on Recall	30 points	5.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
6.	Long Down or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Sit or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points
OPEN B V					
1.	Broad Jump	20 points			
2.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points			
3.	Drop on Recall	30 points			
4.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points			
5.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points			
6.	Long Down or DOE 1	30 points			
7.	Long Sit or DOE 2	30 points			
	Maximum Total Score	200 points			

4.6 Five Mandatory Individual Exercises for CDX and ODX

4.7 Group Exercises (Long Sit and Long Down) – FOR ONLY CDX

The Group Exercises, Long Sit (30 Points), and Long Down (30 Points) shall be done only by those entered in the Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) class.

4.7.1 Group Exercises

For the long sit and down, Open dogs will be brought into the ring in catalogue order with a maximum of 10 dogs in a group. Open A and Open B stay groups may be combined unless Order III or Order V

are being used for Open B. Those two orders require that the down be performed before the sit. The dogs shall be lined up approximately 4 feet out from the long side of the ring, with a minimum distance of four feet (4') between each dog and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates. Handlers are instructed to remove their armbands and leashes and place them on the ground behind their dog. Open dogs are required to sit for three minutes and to down for five minutes. When the judge commands, "Leave your dogs," the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring, then leave in a single file, and go completely out of the dogs' sight. After the judge has commanded or signaled to the steward for the handlers to return, the handlers will follow the steward back into the ring in reverse order, and line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, before the judge commands, "Back to your dogs." The judge shall stand in such a position that he can see all the handlers leaving and returning to the ring, as well as all of the dogs, without having to turn around.

4.7.2 Group Exercises, Scoring

During these exercises the judge shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he can see all the handlers in the ring without having to turn around.

Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit or lie down. These shall be penalized substantially; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises.

A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent competing dog shall be required to reposition his dog and shall also be substantially penalized; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A score of non-qualifying (NQ) is required for the following: the dog's moving at any time during either exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog, or staying on the spot where it was left but not remaining in whichever position is required by the particular exercise until the handler has returned to the "Heel" position, or repeatedly barking or whining. Any dog that moves substantially during the first part of the exercise must be excused.

A substantial deduction shall be made for a dog that moves even a minor distance away from the place where it was left or that barks or whines only once or twice or that changes its position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a substantial or minor deduction shall be made for touching the dog or its collar in getting the dog into the "down" position.

When dogs have been released from their sit and down position after the judge says, "Exercise Finished," Substantial or minor deductions may be made for misbehavior on overly exuberant releases. Any dog that interferes with another dog shall be excused from the class.

13.5.5 Division Details

Novice:

- One Novice class per ring

- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring

Open CDX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used
- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring

Open ODX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used

Utility:

- One Utility class per ring
- Utility B mixed orders used

Super Dog:

- One Open class using Open B mixed orders
- NO group stay exercises and NO DOE exercises in Super Dog Open
- One Utility class using Utility B mixed orders
- One Super Dog mixed order class per ring using Super Dog Orders

13.7.5 Super Dog

For scores to count for Super Dog finals, dogs must qualify in Open B CDX and Utility or Open B ODX and Utility at the same trial. If qualifying via the CDX class, a dog must have already earned a CDX and a UD. If qualifying via the ODX class, a dog must have already earned an ODX and a UD. The dog's top three combined qualifying scores from CDX B and Utility and/or from ODX B and Utility during the present qualifying year will be added and averaged. There will be one Super Dog Finals regardless of whether dogs qualify via the CDX or the ODX class. There will be no Group Stay Exercises or Directed Open Exercises in Super Dog Finals. Dogs are eligible for Top Ten Super Dog finals standings indefinitely.

Obedience Judges Guidelines

ARRIVAL

Plan to arrive at least one hour prior to your judging assignment. Immediately upon arrival, check in with your show/trial secretary. Be sure you know where the restroom is and that the show/trial secretary has the paperwork in order for the trial. Normally the show/trial secretary will still be taking entries upon your arrival, so try not to steal too much of the show/trial secretary's time during registration.

If the club set out a hand sanitizer, double-check to be certain it is not scented.

The order of sits/downs and individual exercises must be done as listed in the flyer. Some clubs do sit/downs before individual exercises and some do sits/downs following individual exercises. Be sure you have double-checked the flyer to know what class order you will be following and how sits/downs are to be handled.

Choose the order of exercises for your Open and Utility classes and post this order no later than 30 minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Post it where it can be readily seen by the exhibitors.

Then perform the following checklist:

- Double-check the obedience equipment to be certain all meet regulations.
- Walk your obedience ring to be certain it is clean, hopefully level, and observe where the sun is rising or setting. You'll not want to jump dogs into the sun, or have handlers giving signals to dogs blinded by the sun.
- If there is wind, be sure that the club has taken measures to stake any baby gates.
- Walk your Novice, Open and Utility pattern to be sure the patterns are smooth, practical and functional. You should avoid running or jumping dogs towards the ring entrance or walking them into the baby gates or jumps.
- Decide where you'll have dogs line up for the sits/downs and be sure you know where the out-of-sights will be held.
- Mark your start for the heel work.
- Choose your start line for heel work. When marking lines or distances for the jumps or tossing of the dumbbell, you may utilize chalk, golf tees, or stanchions.
- Be sure the show club has marked off the applicable area around your ring where no set ups, grooming, walking or standing spectators may appear.

Obedience Steward Guidelines

CDX Open Class Ring Steward Duties

- Group exercises: See the General Ring Steward Duties Group Exercise paragraphs. CDX group exercises are done with the handlers out of sight for a 3-minute sit and a 5-minute down. For the CDX class, one steward will lead the handlers to a designated out-of-sight location. Make sure that all handlers are hidden from all dogs. Watch the judge to see if the judge wants a specific handler to return and for the signal for all handlers to return. Once the judge indicates that it is time to return, be prepared to immediately lead the handlers back to the ring or to stand aside as the exhibitors return, depending on the judge's directions. Handlers will line up in reverse order to return. Be ready to lead handlers out again for the second part of the group exercises.

Proposed Wording:

Reference Sheet

1.2 **Novice** Group Exercises

- A dog may earn a qualifying score in Novice ~~and Open~~ even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. Dogs may begin Novice ~~and Open~~ Group Exercises by standing or sitting in heel position beside their handlers.

General Regulations

1.26 Ring Conditions

If the judging takes place indoors the ring should be rectangular and should be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long for all Obedience Classes. In no case shall the ring for a Utility class be less than thirty-five (35)' by fifty (50)', and in no case shall the ring for a Novice or Open class be less than thirty (30)' by forty (40)'. At an outdoor show or trial, the rings shall be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long.

Outside rings should have a clean level surface of grass no more than one (1) inch long, or dirt without any mud puddles in the ring area. The rings shall be as near as can be determined by visual inspection, free of rodent or insect colonies, and clean of any animal waste. Insecticides or poisons may not be used to remedy pre-existing conditions on day of show. On surfaces such as wood or concrete flooring, which require a non-skid surface, mats under high jump in Open should be a minimum of sixteen (16) feet long, with the jump centrally positioned. Matting under the broad jump should be at least the width of the jump - five (5) feet. In Utility, mats must run the entire length of the ring in the pattern of the dog's send away and directed jumping. An area surrounding the obedience ring no smaller than ten (10) feet in any direction shall be cleaned and posted for "no crating or grooming" during the obedience portion of the event.

~~The Club and Show/Trial Secretary are responsible for providing, for the Open CDX classes, an appropriate place approved by the judge, for the handlers to go completely out of sight of their dogs.~~ If inclement weather at an outdoor trial necessitates the judging of Obedience under shelter, the requirements as to ring size may be waived. If such actions are taken a full report must be sent to the ASCA Business Office at the close of the show or trial.

3.12 Group Exercises

The principle feature of the group exercises is that the dogs remain in the position required. Orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

Groups in the ring for Group Exercises must include no more than seven (7) dogs in Novice spaced a minimum of 6' apart ~~and no more than ten (10) dogs in Open spaced a minimum of 4' apart and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates in both levels.~~ If there are more than 7 dogs in Novice ~~or 10 dogs in Open~~ competing, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections. At the discretion of the judge, groups for Novice A and B ~~and for Open A and B~~ can be combined or separated. ~~However, when Open B orders III and V are used, Open B groups cannot be combined with other classes.~~ The dogs will be lined up in catalog order along one side of the ring. In Novice, dogs will be on a six (6) foot leash during the group stays. Each handler will leave the leash attached to the collar and lay the rest of the leash and their armband - weighted, if necessary - in between the dog and the handler. ~~In Open, each handler will remove the leash and place the leash and their armband, weighted as necessary, behind their dog.~~ The judge should stand so that he can see all the dogs and all the handlers without having to turn around.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises.

The person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must also handle that dog in the Long Sit and Long Down unless the person handled more than one dog in the class and the class will only

have one group of stays. If this occurs, the owner must have additional handlers standing by to handle the additional dog(s) during the Group Exercises.

When the last Group Exercise has been completed and the judge has said, "Exercise Finished," Novice handlers must pick up the leash; ~~Open handlers must leash their dogs.~~ Dogs must be kept under control while exiting the ring.

Dogs moving from the place where they were left in the first group exercise shall be excused from the remaining group exercise.

4.2 Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.

1. Open A Division Class Eligibility and Exercises: The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's household or immediate family. ~~The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the individual exercises that will participate in the group exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog when judged in the same group. The additional handler for the group exercises need not be a member of the owner's household or immediate family.~~ No dog may be entered in both the Open A and Open B classes at any one trial. A dog may continue to be shown in Open A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that it has completed the requirements for the Open title. After the 180-day grace period is over, the team must move to any division B Open, or another class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. which were earned after the grace period. Once an Open A dog enters Utility, it can no longer enter Open A. No dog may be entered in Open A and Utility at the same trial. ~~Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and Section 7 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 4. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.~~
2. Open B Division Class Eligibility and Exercises: The Open B class shall be for dogs that have earned the CD, CDX, or ODX title from ASCA and may show in this class after earning their Open or Utility title from ASCA. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. Owners may enter more than one (1) dog in this class. ~~Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and Section 7 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 5. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.~~
3. CDX Title: The title of CDX shall be awarded after the dog has acquired three qualifying scores, two of which must be under two different judges.
4. Special Awards, Finals and Merits: This class is eligible for Finals Points, High in Trial, and High Combined. This class is eligible for any applicable optional awards. Please refer to Chapter 1, Section 16 for Merit accreditation for dogs competing for a CDX title in either the A or B division.

4.4 Order of Individual Exercises for Open A Divisions

The Long Sit and the Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2. Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points
3.	Retrieve on Flat	20 points
4.	Retrieve Over High Jump	30 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points
6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Stand-Down-Sit) or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

4.5 Order of Individual Exercises for Open B Divisions

The judge shall select one of the orders of exercises from the sheets provided by the host club and post it at ringside at least thirty (30) minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. If there is only a start time for the trial, it shall be posted thirty (30) minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Each judge will use Orders I through V equally in their assignments.

~~Long Sit and Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2.~~ Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

OPEN B I			OPEN B II		
1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points	1.	Drop on Recall	30 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points	2.	Broad Jump	20 points
3.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	3.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
4.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	4.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points	5.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Stand-Down-Sit) or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points
OPEN B III			OPEN B IV		
1.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	1.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
2.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points	2.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
3.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	3.	Broad Jump	20 points
4.	Broad Jump	20 points	4.	Drop on Recall	30 points
5.	Drop on Recall	30 points	5.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
6.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points
OPEN B V					

1.	Broad Jump	20 points
2.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
3.	Drop on Recall	30 points
4.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points
5.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
6.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

4.6 Five Mandatory Shared Individual Exercises for CDX and ODX

4.7 Group Exercises (Long Sit and Long Down) Command Discrimination and Stand Stay - Get Your Leash – FOR ONLY CDX

The Group Exercises, Long Sit (30 Points), and Long Down (30 Points) shall be done only by those entered in the Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) class.

4.7.1 Group Exercises Command Discrimination - FOR ONLY CDX

For the long sit and down, Open dogs will be brought into the ring in catalogue order with a maximum of 10 dogs in a group. Open A and Open B stay groups may be combined unless Order III or Order V are being used for Open B. Those two orders require that the down be performed before the sit. The dogs shall be lined up approximately 4 feet out from the long side of the ring, with a minimum distance of four feet (4') between each dog and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates. Handlers are instructed to remove their armbands and leashes and place them on the ground behind their dog. Open dogs are required to sit for three minutes and to down for five minutes. When the judge commands, "Leave your dogs," the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring, then leave in a single file, and go completely out of the dogs' sight. After the judge has commanded or signaled to the steward for the handlers to return, the handlers will follow the steward back into the ring in reverse order, and line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, before the judge commands, "Back to your dogs." The judge shall stand in such a position that he can see all the handlers leaving and returning to the ring, as well as all of the dogs, without having to turn around.

The principal features of this exercise are the dog's correct response to the handler's commands and/or signals and that the dog stays until the handler returns to heel position and the judge says "exercise finished."

Orders for this exercise are "Leave your dog" and "Return to your dog." The judge must use signals for instructing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change position except for the first position, which will be either "Stand your dog" or "Down your dog."

The judge will ask the handler "Are you ready?" before giving the first order to either "Stand your dog" or "Down your dog." The handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position.

The judge will next order "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and will immediately walk forward approximately 15 feet, turn and face the dog. The judge will signal the next command and the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the next position. The judge will again order "Leave your dog," where the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and walk forward an additional 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. The judge will give another signal and the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position again. The judge will next order "Return to your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and then must return directly, walking around the back of the dog into heel position. From the time the handler first faces the dog until the judge says, "Exercise finished," the handler's hands and arms must hang naturally at the handler's sides during this exercise, with the exception of giving hand signals.

The 15-foot distances for each of the commands must be clearly marked in an area of the ring that is at least 40 feet in length. The judge should be positioned so both the dog and handler can always be seen.

4.7.2 Group Exercises ~~Command Discrimination~~, Scoring

~~During these exercises the judge shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he can see all the handlers in the ring without having to turn around.~~

~~Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit or lie down. These shall be penalized substantially; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.~~

~~A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent competing dog shall be required to reposition his dog and shall also be substantially penalized; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.~~

~~A score of non-qualifying (NQ) is required for the following: the dog's moving at any time during either exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog, or staying on the spot where it was left but not remaining in whichever position is required by the particular exercise until the handler has returned to the "Heel" position, or repeatedly barking or whining. Any dog that moves substantially during the first part of the exercise must be excused. A substantial deduction shall be made for a dog that moves even a minor distance away from the place where it was left or that barks or whines only once or twice or that changes its position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a substantial or minor deduction shall be made for touching the dog or its collar in getting the dog into the "down" position.~~

~~When dogs have been released from their sit and down position after the judge says, "Exercise Finished," Substantial or minor deductions may be made for misbehavior on overly exuberant releases. Any dog that interferes with another dog shall be excused from the class.~~

A dog that does not obey the handler's first command and/or signal for each position change, or does not stay until the handler returns to heel position must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said "Exercise Finished."

Minor or substantial deductions or a non-qualifying score (NQ) should be made for a handler's hands and arms not hanging naturally at their sides or a dog that moves forward during any of the position changes.

4.7.3 Stand Stay - Get Your Leash – FOR ONLY CDX

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand and stay in the position it is left until the handler has returned to heel position and the judge has said "Exercise Finished."

The orders for this exercise are "Stand your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Return to your dog."

The judge will ask the handler to stand their dog approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the order to "Stand your dog." The handler may command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or its collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position.

Next the judge will order "Leave your dog to get your leash," where the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and will walk directly outside the ring gate to retrieve their leash. The handler will re-enter the ring, stop and wait at the entrance for the judge to order "Return to your dog." The handler then will return directly, walking around the back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will then instruct the handler to attach their leash to the collar and maintain control of their dog while exiting. The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control, not pulling or tugging on the leash or jumping.

The judge will decide where the leash will be located outside of the ring prior to starting the class. The leash will be placed in such location by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. The dog and handler will be positioned so the dog can have a direct line of vision with the handler as they leave and return to the ring, and so that the handler, when reentering the ring, is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. Once the exercise has been completed, the judge must watch the handler and dog until they exit the ring gate.

4.7.4 Stand Stay - Get Your Leash, Scoring

A non-qualifying score is required for a dog that fails to stand on the first command and/or signal, moves a substantial distance away from where it was left, changes position (sit or down) before the handler has returned to heel position, or repeatedly whines or barks. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place or moves a short distance. A substantial deduction must be made under Miscellaneous Penalties for a dog that does not remain under control while exiting the ring.

13.5.5 Division Details

Novice:

- One Novice class per ring
- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring

Open CDX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used
- ~~Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring~~

Open ODX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used

Utility:

- One Utility class per ring
- Utility B mixed orders used

Super Dog:

- One Open class using Open B mixed orders
- NO ~~group stay exercises~~ Command Discrimination or Stand Stay - Get Your Leash and NO DOE exercises in Super Dog Open
- One Utility class using Utility B mixed orders
- One Super Dog mixed order class per ring using Super Dog Orders

13.7.5 Super Dog

For scores to count for Super Dog finals, dogs must qualify in Open B CDX and Utility or Open B ODX and Utility at the same trial. If qualifying via the CDX class, a dog must have already earned a CDX and a UD. If qualifying via the ODX class, a dog must have already earned an ODX and a UD. The dog's top three combined qualifying scores from CDX B and Utility and/or from ODX B and Utility during the present qualifying year will be added and averaged. There will be one Super Dog Finals regardless of whether dogs qualify via the CDX or the ODX class. There will be no ~~Group Stay~~ Command Discrimination or Stand Stay - Get Your Leash Exercises or Directed Open Exercises in Super Dog Finals. Dogs are eligible for Top Ten Super Dog finals standings indefinitely.

Obedience Judges Guidelines

ARRIVAL

Plan to arrive at least one hour prior to your judging assignment. Immediately upon arrival, check in with your show/trial secretary. Be sure you know where the restroom is and that the show/trial secretary has the paperwork in order for the trial. Normally the show/trial secretary will still be taking entries upon your arrival, so try not to steal too much of the show/trial secretary's time during registration.

If the club set out a hand sanitizer, double-check to be certain it is not scented.

The order of sits/downs and individual exercises must be done as listed in the flyer. Some clubs do sit/downs before individual exercises and some do sits/downs following individual exercises. Be sure you have double-checked the flyer to know what class order you will be following and how sits/downs are to be handled.

Choose the order of exercises for your Open and Utility classes and post this order no later than 30 minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Post it where it can be readily seen by the exhibitors.

Then perform the following checklist:

- Double-check the obedience equipment to be certain all meet regulations.
- Walk your obedience ring to be certain it is clean, hopefully level, and observe where the sun is rising or setting. You'll not want to jump dogs into the sun, or have handlers giving signals to dogs blinded by the sun.
- If there is wind, be sure that the club has taken measures to stake any baby gates.
- Walk your Novice, Open and Utility pattern to be sure the patterns are smooth, practical and functional. You should avoid running or jumping dogs towards the ring entrance or walking them into the baby gates or jumps.
- Decide where you'll have dogs line up for the sits/downs ~~and be sure you know where the out-of-sights will be held.~~
- Mark your start for the heel work.
- Choose your start line for heel work. When marking lines or distances for the jumps or tossing of the dumbbell, you may utilize chalk, golf tees, or stanchions.
- Be sure the show club has marked off the applicable area around your ring where no set ups, grooming, walking or standing spectators may appear.

Obedience Steward Guidelines

CDX Open Class Ring Steward Duties

- ~~• Group exercises: See the General Ring Steward Duties Group Exercise paragraphs. CDX group exercises are done with the handlers out of sight for a 3-minute sit and a 5-minute down. For the CDX class, one steward will lead the handlers to a designated out-of-sight location. Make sure that all handlers are hidden from all dogs. Watch the judge to see if the judge wants a specific handler to return and for the signal for all handlers to return. Once the judge indicates that it is time to return, be prepared to immediately lead the handlers back to the ring or to stand aside as the exhibitors return, depending on the judge's directions. Handlers will line up in reverse order to return. Be ready to lead handlers out again for the second part of the group exercises.~~

Comments/Rationale: This is for safety and to decrease the possibility of dogs interfering with one another as well as to keep competitors attending ASCA trials. No other venues are using the out of sight stays anymore therefore they are not being practiced as they should be.

Affected: All Open CDX participants and judges.

How it affects the Business Office: Judges books will need to be changed to replace the stay group exercises with the command discrimination and stand/Stay get your leash exercise.

Effective Date: June 1, 2020.

Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 9

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

OB.19.05 Procedure for Selecting Obedience Judges for Nationals and Finals

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Dolan, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **approved** unanimously.

Motion by Roberts

I move to approve the following procedures from the Obedience committee.

Nationals judge selection procedure

Finals judge selection procedure

Committee Recommendation:

ASCA Nationals and Finals Obedience Judges Selection Procedure

1. Finals and Nationals Judges Eligibility - The ASCA Business Office will email a questionnaire to all of the ASCA Obedience judges who are qualified to judge through Utility and are current on their continuing education requirement as candidates for judging either Nationals or Finals at least 20 months prior to the Nationals/Finals, requesting a reply/response to the Obedience Chairperson(s) within 15 days.
2. After receiving responses from judges, the Obedience Chairperson(s) will review the questionnaires.
 - a. Judges who are not in good standing with ASCA will not be considered.
 - b. Judges who have judged any of the previous three ASCA Obedience Finals should not be considered to judge finals again (but could judge Nationals).
 - c. Judges who have judged any of the previous three ASCA Obedience Nationals should not be considered to judge Nationals again (but could judge Finals).
 - d. Judges who have not judged an ASCA trial in the past 2 years should not be considered.

3. Once the list of interested judges who meet the criteria in #2 is created, the Nationals and Finals Chairperson(s) will provide the Obedience Committee with the results of a random draw of qualified judges (2 Finals judges, 2 Nationals judges, and 2 Alternates). The Obedience Committee will then either approve these choices or request substitutions based on valid reasons.
4. The Obedience Chairperson(s) will then submit the four (4) judges to the ASCA Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed judge's slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate will be returned to the Nationals Obedience Chairperson(s) no later than thirty (30) days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Obedience judges slate, the judge's names will be posted within 7 days to the ASCA Website on the "National Specialty Information" page and the judge information must be submitted to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May-June issue.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Rally Committee

RA.19.04 Course Review Checklist Requirement

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Dolan, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **approved** unanimously.

Motion by Liaison Gann

I move to approve the below Rally motion.

Committee Recommendation:

RC Motion 19.24 - Revision to 16.1.7 Designing Courses That Meet ASCA Requirements

Maker of motion: Corinne Shanks

Secunder of motion: Karen Black

I move to add the requirement that new/provisional judges submit a Course Review Checklist with each set of courses.

Current Wording:

16.1.7 Designing Courses That Meet ASCA Requirements

- a. It is the Judge's responsibility to provide courses that meet the ASCA Rally Rules and Regulations at all ASCA sanctioned Trials. If it is found that a Judge's course(s) did not meet these requirements, a Judge's status may be moved back to Provisional.

- b. If during a post-trial course review, it is determined the set of courses used did not follow ASCA's Rules and Regulations, the judge will be notified and provided details of the determination. If a second set of courses during the same calendar year is determined to also not comply with ASCA's Rules and Regulations, the judge and the Business Office will be notified by the ASCA Rally Committee Chair that the judge must submit course sets at least 30 days prior to future judging assignments. Judges will be notified in the sanctioning letter for future assignments of the need to submit courses for pre-trial course review.
- c. To determine if a course meets ASCA Rules and Regulations, a Course Design Checklist will be utilized. The same checklist is available on the website for judges to use.
- d. To avoid using courses that do not meet ASCA standards, all judges are encouraged and invited to submit their courses at least 30 days prior to using them at trials they have been hired to judge and to use the Course Design Checklist available on the website. Feedback will be provided for the voluntary submissions no later than 15 days prior to the first day of the trial they are judging.

Proposed Wording:

16.1.7 Designing Courses That Meet ASCA Requirements

- a. It is the Judge's responsibility to provide courses that meet the ASCA Rally Rules and Regulations at all ASCA sanctioned Trials. If it is found that a Judge's course(s) did not meet these requirements, a Judge's status may be moved back to Provisional.
- b. If during a post-trial course review, it is determined the set of courses used did not follow ASCA's Rules and Regulations, the judge will be notified and provided details of the determination. If a second set of courses during the same calendar year is determined to also not comply with ASCA's Rules and Regulations, the judge and the Business Office will be notified by the ASCA Rally Committee Chair that the judge must submit course sets at least 30 days prior to future judging assignments. Judges will be notified in the sanctioning letter for future assignments of the need to submit courses for pre-trial course review.
- c. To determine if a course meets ASCA Rules and Regulations, a Course Design Checklist will be utilized. The same checklist is available on the website for judges to use.
- d. To avoid using courses that do not meet ASCA standards, all judges are encouraged and invited to submit their courses at least 30 days prior to using them at trials they have been hired to judge and to use the Course Design Checklist available on the website. Feedback will be provided for the voluntary submissions no later than 15 days prior to the first day of the trial they are judging.
- e. All judges in provisional status effective 11/1/19 will be required to submit a completed course review checklist with each set of courses.

Comments/Rationale from Committee: New judges remain in Provisional status until they have submitted 3 sets of courses with no required changes, and few suggested changes. Currently, provisional judges continue to submit courses that do not meet minimum standards, often after

repeated emails from the committee reviewer. If the judge would have correctly completed the course review checklist, the errors would have been found, or the committee will be better able to clarify points the judge does not seem to understand. This rule change will require the checklist be completed and submitted with the courses while the judge remains in provisional status.

Affected: Provisional judges will be impacted as it is another step added to the course building requirements. At the same time, it will serve as a learning tool for the building of courses that meet minimum standards, that should shorten the time they are in provisional status. The Rally Committee member working with the provisional judge will be able to better demonstrate the identified issues to the provisional judge.

Business Office notified: 11/18/19

Web Master notified: N/A

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 13

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: None

Stockdog Committee

SD.19.18 Selection Process & Criteria for National Specialty Stockdog Judges

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Gann, Vest

Disapprove: Dolan, Roberts, Wesen

Abstain: Gray

Non-Voting: None

Motion is **approved** (5-3-1).

Dissent from Dolan: The motion is unclear as section 25.3.3 is in the effective rulebook. I commented on this when the motion came out and there has been no correction.

Dissent from Roberts: Reasons;

1) The current Nationals' Rule reads:

“The Program Committee's will develop procedures to hire Judges for the various Nationals and Finals events. If a Committee does not currently have a procedure for selecting Nationals and Finals judges, the Committee will create such a procedure and follow it, beginning with the 2021 Nationals and Finals.”

***The rule does not request that the program committees develop a rule for pre/post trials.

That is beyond the committee's scope. Any reference to pre/post trials should be deleted. If the committee wants to make rules for pre/post trials that would be a separate section and motion.

2) Not sure what is meant by this section, below. Why not just say that the judge must be an approved Regular Judge, period?

“To judge the National Specialty, the Judge must have been approved to move out of the Provisional Status and be a Regular Judge before accepting the assignment.”

Dissent from Wesen: Agree with the motion but the section 25.3.3 already exists and is needed. I would be in favor with the proper location.

Motion by Liaison Gann

I move to approve the below motion.

Committee Recommendation:

Title: Judge Selection for the National Specialty and Pre-Trials

We have a motion by Jim McKay, with second by James Bergert, to define the process for selecting Judges for the National Specialty.

I make a motion to include in our current Stockdog Rule Book a new section to be labeled 25.3.3 which will explain who is responsible for hiring Judges for the National Specialty and any pre-trials held during the National Specialty.

25.3.3 Judging the National Specialty

The Course Director for the National Specialty Stockdog Trial will be responsible for selecting and hiring the Judges. The Course Director for each pre-trial held during the National Specialty will be responsible for selecting and hiring Judges for their trial.

When Judging the National Specialty and any pre-trial held during the National Specialty, the following rules vary from a regular trial event.

- a. To judge the National Specialty, the Judge must have been approved to move out of the Provisional Status and be a Regular Judge before accepting the assignment.
 1. A Provisional Judge may judge a pre-trial held during the National Specialty.
- b. An Apprentice Judge may not apprentice at either the National Specialty or any pre-trial held during the National Specialty.
- c. A Judge may judge up to 60 runs per day.
- d. The period of time may not exceed twelve consecutive hours, not counting meal breaks.
- e. The Judges do not need to be the same Judges who judged the Stockdog Finals.

Comments/Rationale: This will clearly establish who is responsible for the hiring of Judges during the National Specialty. There is currently a set of requirements that describe the hiring of Stockdog Finals Judges, but there is no defined method of hiring Judges for the National Specialty. This section will help to ensure that the Judges hired to judge a National Specialty or a pre-trial held during the National Specialty, our most visible and watched event, will have the experience necessary to make difficult decisions in a very public setting. This also brings the Stockdog Committee in compliance with the wishes of the ASCA Board of Directors to establish a process for the selection of Judges. This

rule should be copied into the National Specialty Rule Book for quick and easy reference for those in charge of future events.

Affected: This will affect all contestants and members of ASCA by clearly defining the parties responsible for making the decision of who will judge the event.

Effective Date: June 1, 2020.

Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 11

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Non-Voting: 1

Minutes of the ASCA Monthly Teleconference Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) was held on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019, via online meeting service GoToMeeting.

Directors Present: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Rachel Vest, Treasurer Pete Dolan, Secretary Jan Wesen, Judy Boone, Denise Creelman, Linda Gray, and Jean Roberts.

Also Present: Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Directors Absent: None.

CALL TO ORDER

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 6:03 pm - 8:23 pm to discuss the below topics.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for period ending November 29, 2019, was approved by the Board as presented by Treasurer Dolan. Ending balance is \$133,645.29.

Proposed 2020 ASCA Budget

The Board approved the 2020 Budget as presented by Treasurer Dolan.

ASCA Counsel

The Board discussed ASCA's current situation with legal representation and plans for 2020.

2020 National Specialty Premium

The premium for the 2020 National Specialty in Conyers, Georgia, was presented by Liaison Busquets. The Board will approve once all the missing information is provided.

2020 Nationals Entry Clerk

The Board approved an exception to the National Specialty Hosting Rules for the 2020 Nationals, which allows the 2020 Entry Clerk to contract with the Host Consortium, instead of directly with ASCA.

BD.19.111 Temporary Exception to National Specialty Rules 1.8

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Dolan, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Motion is **approved** unanimously.

Motion by Vest

Second by Creelman

I move to place a temporary exception to the National Specialty Rules, Sect 1.8, (see rule below, pertinent section highlighted) Financial Arrangement for Nationals Not Hosted by ASCA (2020 – Conyers, Georgia) for hiring of the Nationals Entry Clerk for the year 2020. The 2020 Nationals Consortium will be responsible for the hiring, bonding, and compensation for the 2020 Nationals Entry Clerk position. This temporary exception to National Specialty Rules, Sect 1.8 will expire on December 01, 2020.

1.8 Financial Arrangement for Nationals Not Hosted by ASCA (2020 – Conyers, Georgia)

Upon approval of the premium list, an advance of \$5000 will be sent to the Consortium. The Nationals Chairman shall have control of the Nationals bank account. After paying for the facility and the Nationals Entry Clerk and after subtracting out the \$5000 advance, the Board will forward all money collected from Nationals entries to the Consortium. The consortium will have the right to collect sponsorship money and to sell Nationals merchandise. The entry fees for all ASCA Program Finals will be forwarded to the Consortium Club after entries close and all entrants are confirmed. Entries for the ASCA National Specialty will be processed by the Nationals Entry Clerk. **The ASCA Board will hire, bond and pay the Nationals Entry Clerk to take the entries for the Nationals Specialty.**

Comments/Rationale: This temporary exception will provide the 2020 Nationals Consortium with the responsibility of hiring the 2020 Nationals Entry Clerk thereby negating requirements that may have caused a financial hardship between ASCA and the 2020 Nationals Consortium.

Affected: 2020 Nationals Consortium and the Nationals Entry Clerk.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Down Payment for 2020 National Specialty Site

The Board unanimously approved providing the second down payment of \$5,000 to the Georgia International Horse Park, site of the 2020 National Specialty.

Request for Conflict Resolution

The Board voted unanimously to dismiss a request for conflict resolution with no action.

Request for Conflict Resolution Appeal

The Board voted unanimously to disallow an appeal of a request for conflict resolution with no action.

Registry Issue

The Board considered a request regarding a dog's registration status.

Registered Name Request

The Board considered a request from to change a dog's registered name.

OPEN SESSION

The Board was in Open Session from 8:23 pm - 8:45 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>

Last Month's 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.19.124 Last Month's Email Business

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Dolan, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Motion is **approved** unanimously.

Motion by Vest

Second by Dolan

I move to approve all email business conducted in November 2019.

System Liaison's Report

Former System Liaison Vest reported on the ongoing progress of the computer system upgrade. She is currently working on getting all information sent over to new System Liaison Dolan.

Nationals Site Survey

President Busquets presented a proposed survey to be sent to the membership regarding ASCA's current National Specialty site rotation system. The survey will be sent out by email.

BD.19.125 Nationals Site Survey

Approve: Boone, Busquets, Creelman, Dolan, Gann, Gray, Roberts, Vest, Wesen

Disapprove: None

Abstain: None

Motion is **approved** unanimously.

Motion by Gann

Second by Vest

I move, to be effective Monday, January 6, 2020, Heidi will send survey to all members via the ASCA Website and email. Available for 30 days.

Nationals Entry Form

Director Creelman updated the Board on her initiative to create an entry form to use for all Nationals competition programs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary