



AUSTRALIAN  
SHEPHERD  
CLUB OF  
AMERICA, INC.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

September 2021



This report details the day-to-day activities of the ASCA Board of Directors (the Board). It includes results of motions voted on via email, meeting minutes, and any other non-confidential issues brought before the Board. Please contact [asca.execsec@gmail.com](mailto:asca.execsec@gmail.com) with any feedback.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### New ASCA Judges:

Provisional Rally Judge Stefanie Hoffmann (Germany)  
Provisional Rally Judge Kelly Ladouceur (Canada)  
Provisional Stockdog Judge Sue Kelly (Michigan)  
Apprentice Stockdog Judge Nate Bake (Idaho)

#### New Affiliate Club: Arizona Working Aussies (Arizona)

ASCA Obedience Judge Sally Barker was approved for reinstatement, pending completion of continuing education.

The Board approved an increase in the mileage reimbursement rate for National Specialty/Finals Judges and Nationals Committee Members.

As of June 1, 2022, for the agility program, the weaves or teeter will no longer be limited to being the first obstacle in Novice Gamblers, so long as the maximum distance from the gamble line remains five feet or less.

The show/trial sanctioning deadline will increase to 60-days on November 1. **Any affiliates in areas still affected by COVID-19 related restrictions may contact the Board for special consideration.**

ATTN: Affiliate Clubs, only the offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. All other Officer and Director positions must be held by different members.

The Board selected Kathy Males as the Nationals Stockdog Entry Clerk for the 2022 National Specialty.

Finals entry fees will now be refunded if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate.

The Board approved receipt of a payment as part of a resolution of a dispute with a prior IT vendor, with no admission of wrongdoing by either side.

## ASCA Board Meeting Minutes

President Busquets called the meeting to order on Thursday, September 9, at 6:10 pm CDT via online meeting service GoToMeeting and it was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

**In attendance:** President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Gina Larson, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken (joined at 7:45 pm), Director Jean Roberts, Director-elect Ann McCabe, Maarten Walter (6:10 pm - 6:32 pm), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Discussions of Open Session topics were recorded and may be listened to on ASCA's [Website](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

### Credit Card Processes

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board met with Maarten Walter, who has been leading the Web ASCA Rebuild Project (WARP) with Inventive. He has also been working with the project manager, Maureen Loughney, to review and document all credit card processes in the Business Office and through the web portal.

## **Financial Report**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The financial reports for period ending August 31, 2021, were presented by Treasurer Wesen and she updated the Board regarding ASCA's current fiscal condition and projections for the future. Members can find the Treasurer's report and analysis in the member's only section of ASCA's website.

## **2022 Nationals Entry Clerks**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board selected Kathy Males as the Nationals Stockdog Entry Clerk for the 2022 National Specialty.

The Board discussed how best to handle interviews and hiring of the remaining entry clerks for the 2022 Nationals. The Nationals Advisory Committee will come up with interview questions for this year's candidates, as well as document a transparent hiring process for future National Specialties. A subcommittee of the Board will interview the candidates and the Board will vote on their recommendation during their October 14 meeting.

## **Application to Affiliate**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board approved Arizona Working Aussies as an Affiliate Club.

Location: Queen Creek, Arizona.

Affiliate President: Dan Sanderson

Affiliate Representative: Diane Sanderson

## **Excused Dog**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board determined to send a letter of education to the owner of a dog excused from ASCA Conformation events on three occasions.

## **2021 Nationals Entries**

This discussion was held in **Executive Session**. The Board denied a request to allow National Specialty entries that were postmarked past the deadline.

## **August 2021 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 email, each face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via email since the last face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

### **BD.21.89 August 2021 Email Business**

Motion *carries* (9-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Gerken to ratify all business conducted over email in August 2021. Second by Creelman.

## **System Upgrade Report**

Liaison Larson reported on the status of the database migration/system upgrade project ongoing with Inventive since 6/15/2021. The ASCA database was successfully migrated to the Azure cloud thanks to the hard work and planning from the Inventive and ASCA teams. The web portal and application are running in the AWS cloud as work continues on the database in the Azure cloud. We are still operating under budget for both time and cost.

Many thanks to Maarten Walter, Allison Bryant, Maureen Loughney, the Business Office, and ASCA's team of testers for all the time and energy they have dedicated to this project so far.

## **Mileage Reimbursement for Nationals**

The Board discussed a recommendation from the Nationals Advisory Committee to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for National Specialty judges and committee members.

The current contracts state that ASCA agrees to purchase a coach-fare, round-trip airline ticket for the judge's travel to and from the event or, if the judge chooses to drive, ASCA will reimburse them for the amount equal to coach airfare or mileage from the judge's home to the location of the event - at the allowable deductible mileage rate set by the federal government - whichever is less.

Because the price of gas has risen dramatically in the year and a half since the 2021 Nationals budget was established, the Nationals Advisory Committee is requesting an increase in the rate for mileage reimbursement. They recommend individuals be reimbursed at \$0.56 per mile (IRS business rate) based on gasoline receipts for the trip to Bryan, Texas, multiplied by two to cover the round trip or, the cost of round-trip airfare, whichever is cheaper.

Some Directors had questions about the mention of reimbursement being based on gasoline receipts. The wording of the motion was not completely clear on this, so Liaison Gann will request the Nationals Advisory Committee revise and send back for the Board to vote on.

## **Refunds to 2020 Consortium Affiliates**

Following the cancellation of the 2020 Nationals, the Affiliate Consortium has cleared their bank account and refunded everyone except for the clubs that made up the consortium. These clubs had paid \$500 each.

The Board discussed whether ASCA would like to refund this money to the clubs.

### **BD.21.90 Refunds to 2020 Nationals Consortium Affiliates**

Motion *carries* (9-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Busquets to refund the \$500 deposit to each of the four Affiliate Clubs (Dog Agility of West Georgia, Florida Australian Shepherd Association, Greater Atlanta Australian Shepherd Club, and First in Flight Australian Shepherd Club) that contributed to be part of the 2020 ASCA National Specialty Consortium. Second by Byrne.

## **Sanctioning Timeframe**

During their Spring Meeting, the Board voted to return the sanctioning deadline to 60-days on November 1st. Directors agreed this action is still appropriate and should not be delayed. Any affiliates in areas still affected by COVID-19 related restrictions may contact the Board for special consideration when sanctioning an event.

## **Finals Refunds**

Directors Roberts and Larson presented a motion for Board consideration and vote.

### **BD.21.91 Finals Refunds**

Motion *carries* (9-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Roberts to add the following language to the program rule books authorizing refunds of Finals Entry Fees: Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate. Second by Larson.

## **Current Wording:**

### **Agility Rules - Section 12.5 Fees**

The entry fee charged for the Agility Finals will be determined by the Board of Directors. Exhibitors will be notified of the entry fee on their invitation/entry form. No entry fees will be refunded. Dogs will not be allowed to enter a portion of the rounds. If they enter the Finals, they must enter all rounds available for their division. Entry fees will be used to cover any expenses that the host organization may incur while putting on the Agility Finals as well as for awards. The host club will submit their expenses to the ASCA Board of Directors.

The ASCA Business Office will keep an accounting of all monies received for the Finals fund and is responsible for informing the Host club(s) of the Finals, the Board of Directors, and the ASCA Agility Committee as to the amount received by August 1st of the competition year. The Host Club shall submit a proposed budget to the Board of Directors and the ASCA Agility Committee at least six months prior to the Finals.

**Proposed Wording:**

**Agility Rules - Section 12.5 Fees**

The entry fee charged for the Agility Finals will be determined by the Board of Directors. Exhibitors will be notified of the entry fee on their invitation/entry form. ~~No entry fees will be refunded.~~ Dogs will not be allowed to enter a portion of the rounds. If they enter the Finals, they must enter all rounds available for their division. ~~Entry fees will be used to cover any expenses that the host organization may incur while putting on the Agility Finals, as well as for awards. The host club~~ **Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate. Entry fees will be used to cover any expenses that the host organization may be incurred while putting on the Agility Finals, as well as for awards. The host club** Nationals Committee will submit their expenses to the ASCA Board of Directors.

The ASCA Business Office will keep an accounting of all monies received for the Finals fund and is responsible for informing the ~~Host club(s) of the Finals,~~ **Nationals Committee** the Board of Directors, and the ASCA Agility Committee as to the amount received by August 1st of the competition year. The ~~Host Club~~ **Nationals Committee** ~~Host Club~~ shall submit a proposed budget to the Board of Directors and the ASCA Agility Committee at least six months prior to the Finals.

**Current Wording:**

**Conformation Rules - Section 15.4 Budget and Fees**

A. The Nationals Host Club(s) shall submit a proposed budget to the ASCA Board of Directors and ASCA Conformation Committee six (6) months prior to the Conformation Finals.

B. The entry fee (see Schedule of Fees) is payable in U.S. currency. No entry fees will be refunded. Entry fees collected by the ASCA Business Office will be used only to cover any expenses the Nationals Host Club(s) may incur from the Conformation Finals. The ASCA Business Office will keep an accounting of all monies received for the Conformation Finals and is responsible for informing the Nationals Host Club(s), the ASCA Board of Directors, and the ASCA Conformation Committee as to the amount of monies received by August 1st of the competition year. The ASCA Business Office will send all entry monies to the Nationals Host Club(s) by the closing date for National entries. The Nationals Host Club(s) will try to make the Conformation Finals a self-supporting event through entries, donations, and sponsorships. The Nationals Host Club(s) will submit their expenses with receipts to the ASCA Board of Directors within six (6) months of the Conformation Finals event

**Proposed Wording:**

**Conformation Rules - Section 15.4 Budget and Fees**

A. The Nationals ~~Committee Host Club(s)~~ shall submit a proposed budget to the ASCA Board of Directors and ASCA Conformation Committee six (6) months prior to the Conformation Finals.

B. The entry fee (see Schedule of Fees) is payable in U.S. currency. ~~No entry fees will be refunded.~~ Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate. Entry fees collected by the ASCA Business Office will be used only to cover any expenses ~~the Nationals Host Club(s)~~ that are incurred from holding the Conformation Finals. The ASCA Business Office will keep an accounting of all monies received for the Conformation Finals and is responsible for informing the Nationals ~~Committee Host Club(s)~~, the ASCA Board of Directors, and the ASCA Conformation Committee as to the amount of monies received by August 1st of the competition year. The ASCA Business Office will send all entry monies to the Nationals ~~Committee Host Club(s)~~ by the closing date for National entries. The Nationals ~~Committee Host Club(s)~~ will try to make the Conformation Finals a self-supporting event through entries, donations, and sponsorships. The Nationals ~~Committee Host Club(s)~~ will submit their expenses with receipts to the ASCA Board of Directors within six (6) months of the Conformation Finals event.

**Current Wording:**

**Obedience Rules - Section 13.9 Verification of Eligibility**

...

D. If an exhibitor must cancel, he or she should contact the ASCA Business Office and the Obedience Finals Chair immediately. The ASCA Business Office receives the cancellation before the Nationals catalog goes to print, the ASCA Business Office will contact the next eligible alternate who sent in their official entry form and offer him or her the vacancy. Entry fees will not be refunded for cancellations.

E. The ASCA Business Office will send all confirmed entries and a list of those alternates who submitted entry forms for the Obedience Finals to the Host Club by the close of entries for that year's Nationals.

F. If all 10 Finalists for any class have not checked in by 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the first Finals judging of the day, the next eligible alternates who are present may compete. Last minute alternates must pay the entry fee and check in to both rings at least 10 minutes prior to the first Finals judging of the day.

G. If an eligible alternate fills the place of a Finalist after the running order has been drawn, that team will take the place in the running order of the team that canceled.

**Proposed Wording:**

**Obedience Rules - Section 13.9 Verification of Eligibility**

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D. If an exhibitor must cancel, ~~he or she should~~ they will contact the ASCA Business Office and the Obedience Finals Chair immediately. ~~The ASCA Business Office receives the cancellation before the Nationals catalog goes to print,~~ The ASCA Business Office will contact the next eligible alternate who sent in their official entry form and offer ~~him or her~~ them the vacancy. ~~Entry fees will not be refunded for cancellations.~~ Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate.

E. The ASCA Business Office will send all confirmed entries and a list of those alternates who submitted entry forms for the Obedience Finals to the ~~Nationals Committee Host Club~~ by the close of entries for that year's Nationals.

F. If all 10 Finalists for any class have not checked in by 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the first Finals judging of the day, the next eligible alternates who are present may compete. Last minute alternates must pay the entry fee and check in to both rings at least 10 minutes prior to the first Finals judging of the day.

G. If an eligible alternate fills the place of a Finalist after the running order has been drawn, that team will take the place in the running order of the team that canceled.

**Current Wording:**

**Rally Rules - 13.3.3 Notification of Alternates; Refunds**

If an eligible contestant fails to send in an entry form, the ASCA Business Office will notify the next alternate who has stated his/her intent to attend. If a cancellation occurs the day of the Finals, one of the 20 alternates on the grounds will become eligible in order of their rankings. If no alternates are available, the Finals will run short. No entry fee will be refunded.

**Proposed Wording:**

**Rally Rules - 13.3.3 Notification of Alternates; Refunds**

If an eligible contestant fails to send in an entry form or has to withdraw their entry, the ASCA Business Office will notify the next alternate who has stated their his/her intent to attend. If a cancellation occurs the day of the Finals, one of the 20 alternates on the grounds will become eligible in order of their rankings. If no alternates are available, the Finals will run short. ~~No entry fee will be refunded.~~ Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate.

**Current Wording:**

**Stockdog Rules - 24.3.2 Entry Deadline**

All eligible contestants must verify that they will be competing at the Stockdog Finals by filling out an official entry form and sending it and the entry fees to the Business Office. The verification must be clearly postmarked by July 15th of the Stockdog Finals year. The Business Office will forward these forms along with random draw order for the Elimination and Final go- rounds to the Host Club by the close of the pre-entries for the National Specialty.

**24.3.3 Number of Alternates Allowed**

A. When more than twenty-five dogs qualify in any class of stock, notification will be sent to all eligible alternates in that class of stock.

Notifications will be sent out at the same time qualifiers are notified. In the event that any class of stock fails to fill the twenty-five (25) entries, alternates will be invited by the Business Office in the order in which they are ranked at the end of the trial year.

B. Alternates will become eligible in the order they are ranked when a qualifier fails to verify his/her intent to attend the Finals by the due date or withdraws from the event at any time. Alternates must verify their intent to attend the National Finals by filling out an official entry form and sending it to the Business Office by the due date indicated on the notification. Alternates will submit payment only when they become eligible and are notified by the Business Office of their acceptance into Finals.

C. In the event there are two or more dogs with the same number of points in the twenty-fifth (25th) position of any class of stock, ties will be broken as follows:

1. Average the top three scores for that Stockdog Finals year
2. Average the top two scores for that Stockdog Finals year
3. Highest individual score
4. Draw

**Proposed Wording:**

**Stockdog Rules - 24.3.2 Entry Deadline**

All eligible contestants must verify that they will be competing at the Stockdog Finals by filling out an official entry form and sending it and the entry fees to the Business Office. The verification must be clearly postmarked by July 15th of the Stockdog Finals year. The Business Office will forward these forms along with random draw order for the Elimination and Final go- rounds to the Host Club by the close of the pre-entries for the National Specialty. Entry fees will be refunded, if a competitor withdraws prior to the event and the spot is filled by an alternate.

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B. Alternates will become eligible in the order they are ranked when a qualifier fails to verify his/her their intent to attend the Finals by the due date or withdraws from the event at any time. Alternates must verify their intent to attend the National Finals by filling out an official entry form and sending it to the Business Office by the due date indicated on the notification. Alternates will submit payment only when they become eligible and are notified by the Business Office of their acceptance into Finals.

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1. Average the top three scores for that Stockdog Finals year
2. Average the top two scores for that Stockdog Finals year
3. Highest individual score
4. Draw

**Rationale:** A consistent policy on refunds of Finals entry fees was needed. If ASCA fills the vacancy with another competitor, there is no reason to keep the entry fee from the person who had to withdraw.

**Affected:** Finals entrants.

**Effective Date:** Immediately upon Board approval.

***Motion by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm until October 14, 2021. Second by Roberts.***

## **Motions via Email**

### **Director Recommendations**

#### **BD.21.85 Affiliate Application - Board Positions**

Motion *carries* (9-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Boone to add section III to the Affiliate application. Second by Roberts.

Link to application: <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Application-to-Affiliate.pdf>

#### **Current Wording:**

#### **ELECTION TO AFFILIATE:**

Each club wishing to affiliate will apply on the formal application supplied by ASCA. Each club will supply ASCA with a club membership application, officer and membership list and the current year's affiliation fee. The application for affiliation shall be sent to the Executive Secretary, who will distribute it to the Board of Directors for approval/disapproval after verifying the membership status of individual club members. Approval of the affiliation request requires an affirmative vote by a majority of the voting Directors. The Executive Secretary will send a notice of the vote results to the applicant club within forty-five (45) days of the completion of voting with the Club Bylaws. For a disapproved application the Executive Secretary will return the application to the club within forty-five (45) days of the completion of voting with an explanation for the disapproval. A club receiving a disapproved application may resubmit its application with necessary revisions within thirty days of receipt of the notice of disapproval.

I. ASCA Affiliates shall pay annual affiliate dues to ASCA, as fixed by the Board of Directors, by the 31st of December of each year. All Affiliate Clubs will be notified on January 31st, of expiration of the deadline for renewal. Letters will be sent to the club President and Affiliate Representative, if they are not in the same household, giving them the final renewal deadline of February 15th. A renewal not received by February 15th, constitutes a lapse of affiliation. Lapsed affiliates will be terminated and must re-apply using the new Affiliate application process.

II. ASCA Affiliates shall maintain the office of Affiliate Representative. The Affiliate Representative is a club officer. The Affiliate Representative shall:

1. Be a full member in good standing of ASCA and the Affiliate Club.
2. Accept and submit all business flowing between ASCA and the Affiliate.
3. Maintain a current copy of ASCA rules and literature (available at [www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org)).

#### **Proposed Wording:**

#### **ELECTION TO AFFILIATE:**

Each club wishing to affiliate will apply on the formal application supplied by ASCA. Each club will supply ASCA with a club membership application, officer and membership list and the current year's affiliation fee. The application for affiliation shall be sent to the Executive Secretary, who will distribute it to the Board of Directors for approval/disapproval after verifying the membership status of individual club members. Approval



of the affiliation request requires an affirmative vote by a majority of the voting Directors. The Executive Secretary will send a notice of the vote results to the applicant club within forty-five (45) days of the completion of voting with the Club Bylaws. For a disapproved application the Executive Secretary will return the application to the club within forty-five (45) days of the completion of voting with an explanation for the disapproval. A club receiving a disapproved application may resubmit its application with necessary revisions within thirty days of receipt of the notice of disapproval.

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II. ASCA Affiliates shall maintain the office of Affiliate Representative. The Affiliate Representative is a club officer. The Affiliate Representative shall:

1. Be a full member in good standing of ASCA and the Affiliate Club.
2. Accept and submit all business flowing between ASCA and the Affiliate.
3. Maintain a current copy of ASCA rules and literature (available at [www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org)).

III. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. All other Officer and Director positions will be held by different members.

Comments/Rationale: The intent was for the Affiliate Board to be made up of 8 individual members, but this was not spelled out.

Affected: New Affiliates.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### **BD.21.86 Affiliate Bylaws - Board Positions**

Motion *carries* (9-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Boone to add the below verbiage, regarding officers and directors, to the Affiliate Bylaw template. Second by Roberts.

Current Wording:

#### **Article 5 The Board**

The affairs of the Club shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

##### **Section 5.1**

The Board shall consist of all Officers and Directors of the Club. All these Officers shall serve a (one, two, or three) year term of office and shall be expected to attend a majority of meetings of the Board to affect the duties of their office.

#### **Article 6 Officers**

The officers of the Club shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Affiliate Representative, and Membership Secretary. All officers/Directors must be full members in good standing of ASCA. Persons who are currently suspended or expelled from ASCA may not run for office in this Club until they are reinstated in ASCA.

Proposed Wording:

## **Article 5 The Board**

The affairs of the Club shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 5.1**

The Board shall consist of all Officers and Directors of the Club. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. All other Officer and Director positions will be held by different members.

All these Officers shall serve a (one, two, or three) year term of office and shall be expected to attend a majority of meetings of the Board to affect the duties of their office.

## **Article 6 Officers**

The officers of the Club shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Affiliate Representative, and Membership Secretary. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. All other Officer and Director positions will be held by different members. All officers/Directors must be full members in good standing of ASCA. Persons who are currently suspended or expelled from ASCA may not run for office in this Club until they are reinstated in ASCA.

Comments/Rationale: The intent was for the Affiliate Board to be made up of 8 individual members, but this was not spelled out.

Affected: New Affiliates.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### **EM.21.08 Request to Change Mileage Reimbursement for Nationals**

Motion *carries* (9-0) - Approve: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Liaison Gann to approve the following recommendation from the Nationals Advisory Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Amended motion sent September 13, 2021, to be sent out as an emergency motion. Subject: Request for Change in Mileage Reimbursement for the ASCA National Specialty

Motion by Denise Creelman to request that the ASCA Board of Directors approve mileage reimbursement for workers, Nationals Committee members and Nationals and Finals Judges in an amount equal to the IRS's standard mileage rate for business use for the trip to the Nationals site, multiplied by two to cover the round trip, OR the cost of the round trip airfare, OR an amount determined by gasoline receipts for the trip to the Nationals site, multiplied by two to cover the round trip, whichever is less. Receipts are required for all three reimbursement options. Second by Renee Watson.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 3. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

Comments/Rationale: The price of gas has risen dramatically in the year and a half since the 2021 Nationals budget was established. The current reimbursement rate for the 2021 Nationals was budgeted for 14 cents

per mile, which is the IRS charitable rate. The current IRS business rate is 56 cents per mile. This motion allows for a fairer reimbursement in 2021 and going forward. This provides three options; receipts are required for all three.

Affected: 2021 Nationals and Finals Judges, 2021 ASCA Nationals Committee members, and any 2021 worker whose contract specifies mileage reimbursement, 2022 Finals Judges whose contracts have already gone out, and any future contracted Nationals and Finals persons who are due travel reimbursement.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## **Committee Recommendations**

### **AGILITY COMMITTEE**

#### **AG.21.12 Remove Placement Criteria for Weaves & Teeter in Novice Gamblers**

Motion *carries* (7-2) - Approve: Boone, Byrne, Gann, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: Busquets, Creelman. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

- **Dissent from Busquets:** I'm still not quite certain why this change is even necessary. The rationale states that agility enthusiasts have been in favor of this change in the lists, yet every agility person I've talked to had reasons for not liking this change. Sometimes, it is not about whether we can make a change, but whether it is really necessary and whether, in this case, it would be to the benefit of the novice handler.
- **Dissent from Creelman:** This motion needs more research. They need to go back to training a novice dog and see how important it is to be close by for the teeter for safety. The direction of the following obstacles should be considered.

Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Agility Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Motion 17-2021 No longer limit weaves or teeter to first obstacle in Novice Gamblers. Motion by Sandra Katzen to remove the placement criteria for weaves and teeter in Novice Gamblers with the stipulation that the maximum distance from the gamble line remains 5 feet or less. Second by Andrea Hoffmann.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 12. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

#### **7.3.2 Course Obstacles Allowed in the Gamble Sequence**

The following list indicates the gamble obstacles which are acceptable for the different levels:

<Current table in Rulebook>

\*See distance and placement restrictions for use of Teeter-Totter and Weave Poles in Novice.

Proposed Wording:

#### **7.3.2 Course Obstacles Allowed in the Gamble Sequence**

The following list indicates the gamble obstacles which are acceptable for the different levels:

<Current table in Rulebook>

\*See distance and placement restrictions for use of Teeter-Totter and Weave Poles in Novice.

Current Wording:

### 7.4.2 The Gamble Course Design

A. Novice: The Novice gamble (obstacles 1 through 4) must include a distance test, and MAY include one other test; either a discrimination OR directional test.

1. Distance Test: At the Novice level, the distance test will be two or more of the four gamble obstacles where the dog is 10 feet or more from the handler. The maximum distance for the placement of the handler line shall be no more than 12 feet from the dog's logical path of performance of the distance challenge obstacles. If the teeter or weave poles are used in the Novice gamble, they must be used as the first obstacle in the gamble closing sequence with the gamble line placed less than 5 feet away and the handler line for subsequent obstacles shall be placed so they gradually increase in distance.

Proposed Wording:

### 7.4.2 The Gamble Course Design

A. Novice: The Novice gamble (obstacles 1 through 4) must include a distance test, and MAY include one other test; either a discrimination OR directional test.

1. Distance Test: At the Novice level, the distance test will be two or more of the four gamble obstacles where the dog is 10 feet or more from the handler. The maximum distance for the placement of the handler line shall must be no more than 12 feet from the dog's logical path of performance of the distance challenge obstacles. If the teeter or weave poles are used in the Novice gamble, they must be used as the first obstacle in the gamble closing sequence with the gamble line must be placed 5 feet or less than 5 feet away and the handler gamble line for subsequent obstacles before and/or after the weaves or teeter shall must be placed so they gradually increase in distance. Since the Distance test requires the line be 10'-12' away, the teeter and or weaves would not qualify as a part of the distance test.

Comments/Rationale: This motion does not require the use of the teeter or weaves, nor does it require them to be in a spot farther down the line. It simply provides a choice. The same distance requirement for the gamble line to be 5 feet or less will ensure that the handler can continue to be close to the dog for those obstacles. The dogs actually may have an easier time performing the teeter/weaves placed farther down the line in the gamble sequence as it will ensure a nice flow into them as opposed to handlers in "panic" mode because the horn just sounded, and they are rushing. A side benefit, but not the main one, is it will add more variety, as well as aid in course nesting and efficiency. I would also like to mention that the majority of people commenting on the ASCA Agility Enthusiasts list were in favor of this motion as long as the stipulation that the teeter and/or weaves were not placed more than 5' from the gamble line, and additionally that the effective date was after the 2021 ASCA Nationals.

Affected: Judges, Course Reviewers, and competitors in Novice Gamblers.

Effective Date: June 1, 2022.

### STOCKDOG COMMITTEE

#### **SD.21.10 Change to Stockdog Rules 24.2.4 Earning Finals Points**

Motion *fails* (1-8) - Approve: Gann. Disapprove: Boone, Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gerken, Larson, Roberts, Wesen. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

- **Comment from Busquets:** I have to disagree with the premise of this motion. From my perspective, all it does is continue to encourage the finals race, but it is not necessarily fair to the best dog, regardless

of whether it comes from the Open or Advanced classes. If judges are not accounting for the handler's line in their evaluation of the run, then this is an education problem and not a problem with our rules.

- **Comment from Creelman:** I think that this is a scoring thing and that the scoresheets should reflect the difficulty of the exercise. An advanced dog does have more of a challenge and should be scored accordingly. If the open dog does a better job, then it deserves that score. The advanced dog should not be guaranteed the extra point.
- **Comment from Wesen:** I believe this motion has been presented 2 prior times and membership is not in favor of this change. I hope the committee will find another solution.

Motion by Liaison Gann to approve the following recommendation from the Stockdog Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Title: Qualifying points towards eligibility in the Stock dog Finals. Motion by Jamie L. Burns to correct wording to allow advanced dogs to receive the additional point towards Finals. Even if the HIT comes from the open class. Second by Dan Sanderson.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 7. Disapprove: 1. Abstain: 1. Non-Voting: None.

- **Dissent from Committee Member Terry Jones:** I believe this is a judging issue and needs to be addressed within education. To award a point just because an advanced dog received the highest advanced score placates the finalists but does not fix the problem.

Current Wording:

#### **24.2.4 Earning Finals Points**

Qualifying points towards eligibility in the Stockdog Finals for each class of stock are earned in the following ways:

- A. One point for each score received of 100 or more on Course A or B
- B. One and a half (1 1/2) points for each score received of 100 or more on Course C, D, E, F, G, and H
- C. Two points for each score received of 100 or more points on Post Advanced A and B
- D. One point for each qualifying score that earns High in Trial Aussie in Class of Stock (Cattle, Sheep/Goats, Ducks/Geese) at a trial for Course A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H. E. HIT Cattle and the HIT Sheep/Goat Post Advanced Aussie each receive an extra point towards finals qualification.

Proposed Wording:

#### **24.2.4 Earning Finals Points**

Qualifying points towards eligibility in the Stockdog Finals for each class of stock are earned in the following ways:

- A. One point for each score received of 100 or more on Course A or B
- B. One and a half (1 1/2) points for each score received of 100 or more on Course C, D, E, F, G, and H
- C. Two points for each score received of 100 or more points on Post Advanced A and B
- D. One additional point is earned for each qualifying high scoring Advanced or Post Advanced Australian Shepherd in each class of stock, regardless of the course
- E. HIT for each class of stock may come from any division

Comments/Rationale: Advanced dogs earn points towards Finals, but a HIT point can be taken away by an open scoring higher. This allows the open dog to still win HIT but not take away the advanced dogs point when open has a clear handler help/line advantage.

Affected: Business Office/Contestants.

**From Ray Fryar, Business Office Manager:**

Dan,

Okay currently the computer system has no way of doing just a High Score Adv Aussie designation for Finals points. It is rolled into the HIT Aussie for each stock.

Since we are starting the rebuild of the system though, this might be able to be rolled into the rewrite. For this motion we would just need to put some wording like “ dependent on rewrite of computer system for effective date 6/1/22” or something.

I would check with the Board also.

Thanks,

Ray Fryar

Effective Date: June 1, 2022. This motion is contingent upon the computer system in the Business Office being sufficiently updated to identify and differentiate a high scoring Advanced Aussie from a high scoring Aussie from a different division. This motion will be held until the computer system is capable of determining the high scoring Advanced Aussie and will apply on June 1 of the next year following the necessary upgrades.

Respectfully submitted by

*Kalla E. Jaco*

Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.