



THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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ASCA Executive Secretary's Report January 2023

Announcements	
The Board voted to stop printing the Aussie Times but then voted to rescind the motion.	The members of the 2024 Nationals Committee were approved.
The Board voted to charge affiliates the cost of shipping show/trial packets until pdf forms for all necessary paperwork are available for printing by affiliates.	Several changes to the 2023 Nationals Premium were approved.
The Board voted to limit Inventive to 20 combined hours per week for continued work on ASCA's user portal.	Kevin Miodonski, Jacqueline Tinker, and Eli Wilkerson were appointed to the ASCA Finance Advisory Panel.
Jessica Lemburg was suspended from ASCA for eight months for applying a person's signature to ASCA registration transfer paperwork without that person's permission.	4 recommendations from the Agility Committee were approved. 2 recommendations from the Conformation Committee were approved. 1 recommendation from the Obedience Committee was approved.

ASCA Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held via GoToMeeting on January 19, 2023.

In attendance: President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Gina Larson, Director Dawna Sims, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

Absent: None.

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

President Gann called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

December 2022 Treasurer's Report

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 6:33 pm to 6:40 pm. Treasurer Wesen presented the financial reports for the period ending December 31, 2022, to the Board. The report provided information on the current financial status of ASCA and its projected future financial outlook. The detailed Treasurer's report and analysis can be accessed by members in the members-only section of the ASCA website.

BD.23.03 December 2022 Treasurer's Report

Motion carried (8-0-1) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims. Disapproved: None. Abstained: Wesen. Absent: None.

**Motioned by McCabe to approve the December 2022 Treasurer's report as presented.
Seconded by Creelman.**

Finance Advisory Panel

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 6:40 pm to 6:50 pm. In December 2022, the Board put out a call for volunteers for the Finance Advisory Panel and only received one application from the membership by the January 15th deadline. The Board agreed to appoint Kevin Miodonski to the panel and extend the deadline for applications until March 1st in the hopes of attracting additional volunteers.

BD.23.04 Appoint Kevin Miodonski to Finance Advisory Panel

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Wesen to appoint Kevin Miodonski to the ASCA Finance Advisory Panel.
Seconded by McCabe.**

2024 Nationals Committee

This discussion was held in **Executive Session** from 6:50 pm to 7:00 pm. The Nationals Advisory Committee provided a list of proposed members of the 2024 Nationals Committee, with five unfilled positions: Nationals & Finals Stockdog Course Director, Nationals & Finals Agility Chair, Banquets/Receptions/Nightly Dinners Chair, Merchandise Chair, and the Local Liaison. Please contact the 2024 Nationals Chair Denise Creelman at Denisecreelman10@gmail.com if you are interested in applying for any of these positions.

This will be ASCA's 50th National Specialty.

BD.23.05 Members of 2024 Nationals Committee

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Liaison Busquets to approve the following recommendation from the Nationals Advisory Committee for the appointment of members of the 2024 Nationals Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Renee Watson to send the 2024 ASCA Nationals Committee as listed below to the Board. Second by Rachel Vest.

Nationals Chair – Denise Creelman

Assistant Nationals Chair – Leslie Sosa

Nationals & Finals Stockdog Course Director – TBA

Nationals & Finals Agility Chair – TBA

Nationals & Finals Conformation Chair – Charla Patterson

Nationals & Finals Rally Chair – Sue Graham
Nationals & Finals Obedience Chair – Betsy Coleman
Nationals & Finals Junior Handling Chair – Shelby Shank
Tracking Chair – Jan Wesen
Versatility MVA/MVJ Chair – Renee Watson
Dock Jumping Chair – Shaina Duncan
Sponsorships Chair – Andrea Bair
Vendors & Stalls Chair – Michael McGuire
Hotels & Travel Chair – Linda Braun
RV/Camping/Golf Carts Chair – Jay Blair
Facebook & Slideshows Chair – Kalla Jaco
Nationals Accounting Chair – Laura Gibson
Awards & Rosettes Chair – Sherrie Scott
Parades Chair – Charla Patterson
Banquets/Receptions/Nightly Dinners Chair – TBA
Merchandise Chair – TBA
Hospitality, Decorations & Signage Chair – Rachel Vest
Catalog Chair – Susan Harris
Education/Seminars/Health Clinics Chair – Leslie Sosa
Nationals Office Manager Chair – Mari Jo Sharer
Welcome Bags/Junior Bags/Judges' Gifts Chair – Erica Pruitt
Local Liaison – TBA

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5 (Creelman, Gibson, Morgan, Vest, Watson).
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Comments/Rationale: The Nationals Advisory Committee has worked with 2024 Nationals Chairperson Denise Creelman to submit the names below. The Committee represents 9 states and 16 Affiliates.

Affected: Persons approved by the Board to serve on this Committee will dedicate their time and talents to ensure a successful 2024 ASCA National Specialty. Persons attending the Nationals will benefit from their service.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Moved to Open Session at 7:00 pm. President Gann welcomed the members listening, introduced those present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

December 2022 Email Business

Started at 7:00 pm. In accordance with Washington State Law, all official business dealings of ASCA must take place through face-to-face meetings or telephone conference calls. To ensure compliance and maintain the ability to conduct business via email, every face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to approve all email transactions conducted since the previous face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

BD.23.06 December 2022 Email Business

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Creelman to ratify all business conducted over email in December 2022. Seconded by Wesen.

System Liaison's Report

Started at 7:01 pm. Director Larson, serving as the System Liaison, provided an update on the progress of the WARP-1 database migration and system upgrade project in collaboration with Inventive. The project has been underway since June 15, 2021.

The new ASCA portal was successfully launched on January 12th, although some functionalities and workflows have yet to be completed. Despite this, the launch was met with a few technical challenges that the ASCA and Inventive teams have been working to resolve. Issues such as email blocking from SendGrid to ATT and SBC Global and SMS verification to Europe have been addressed and are being monitored closely. Members who experience any difficulties with the portal are encouraged to reach out to support@asca.org for assistance.

The overhaul of the ASCA system, which has been a massive and complex undertaking, was critical to ensuring the organization's compliance and security. The ASCA team has dedicated countless volunteer hours to this project over the past 18 months to ensure its success. On behalf of the organization, we extend our gratitude to the members of the ASCA team for their hard work and dedication to this project.

The Board expressed their appreciation and gratitude towards the ASCA team for their hard work and dedication in overhauling the computer system. The team has put in hundreds of volunteer hours over the last year and a half and has made significant progress in modernizing the system and addressing security and compliance issues. However, the project is not yet complete, and the Board hopes for continued support from the membership to help bring the project across the finish line. The Board also requested for all comments to be shared with the team to recognize their efforts and to address any hurtful criticisms. The Board acknowledged the importance of the project and the potential impact it will have in making future operations easier and more efficient.

New ASCA Portal

Started at 7:11 pm. The Board held a discussion to review the progress of the newly launched portal and consider plans for moving forward. Most of the directors had positive feedback about the portal and its successful launch, despite it not being finished yet. There were a few difficulties encountered with logging in and accessing the portal on certain devices. Due to ASCA's current financial situation, a motion was proposed to limit Inventive's work on the portal

to 20 hours per week, reducing the weekly invoices from \$18,674.60 to \$2800.00. Some directors suggested temporarily suspending the motion until more information from Inventive could be obtained regarding their plan to comply with the proposed 20-hour limitation. The directors all agreed that it was imperative to bring an end to the excessive financial outflow and to catch up on past-due invoices.

A comprehensive summary of the discussion is provided below.

Gann convened this discussion in order to solicit the perspectives of each director regarding the progress of the project and to obtain any feedback they may have received from members in regard to the newly launched portal. He reminded the membership that any issues must be sent to support@asca.org for resolution.

Busquets encountered no difficulties with the portal. Although it has not been fully equipped with all desired features and the implementation timeline for some of these features remains uncertain, she was able to help several individuals who encountered issues with the portal, particularly those related to iPhones. She extended her gratitude to Heidi Mobley for addressing these support inquiries.

Byrne said that Maureen Loughney helped with the issues she encountered with the portal. To date, she has not received any inquiries or concerns from any members regarding the portal.

Creelman experienced some difficulties with logging in to the portal on her computer and was advised to wait for 24 hours before attempting to log in again.

Gerken successfully logged in on her computer and underwent verification without any issues. Although the portal is not yet equipped with all the desired features, it is expected that these will be added in due course. Gerken has received positive feedback from members indicating that the portal represents a positive step forward.

Larson reported that several bug fixes for the portal have been transferred to the staging environment for testing by the ASCA team before deployment to production.

McCabe expressed relief at the successful launch of the portal and the transition to live operations. Despite the presence of bugs that require resolution and the need for the portal to possess all previously available functionality, which will incur additional costs, she noted that the portal is more secure than its predecessor. McCabe also acknowledged that future enhancements will be considered at a later time once ASCA has regained financial stability.

Sims encountered difficulties with accessing the portal through her iPhone but received assistance from Larson in resolving the issues. She praised the efforts of the team in effectively addressing various challenges that have arisen and thought that, although it will require some effort to resolve existing bugs, the end result will be highly satisfactory.

Wesen indicated that the portal functioned properly when she had a stable internet connection. Although some of the previous portal's functionality is currently unavailable, she expressed contentment that the product is now accessible. She acknowledged that there will be a learning curve associated with any new product and is confident that it will become easier to navigate as usage continues. In light of ongoing financial concerns, Wesen proposed a motion to limit Inventive's work on the portal to 20 hours per week, with the Product Owner contributing 10 hours and the Programmer contributing 10 hours. This would reduce ASCA's weekly invoices from \$18,674.60 to \$2800.00, potentially allowing ASCA to catch up on past-due invoices. It was noted that this motion would result in a slowing of current Inventive work but was seen as a necessary measure given the current financial situation.

Busquets inquired if the proposed motion has been discussed with Inventive. She wondered if they were aware of the significant reduction in their workload.

Gann stated that Inventive had not yet been informed of the proposed reduction in their weekly work hours. However, he speculated that, given the substantial number of past-due invoices, they might anticipate such a development.

Busquets agreed with the proposal to limit Inventive's work hours as a necessary measure to address ASCA's current financial situation. She expressed gratitude for the contributions made by members towards paying Inventive, but acknowledged that this may not be a sustainable solution in the long term. She proposed alternative measures, such as limiting Inventive to working on one item at a time, which would inherently reduce the overall workload.

Byrne concurred with the need to limit Inventive's work hours, however, she expressed concern regarding the specific allocation of hours per person, as opposed to a total limit of 20 hours. She concurred with Mr. Gann's assessment that Inventive is likely anticipating some form of restriction.

Creelman thought it was necessary to limit the excessive weekly expenditures. She acknowledged her lack of knowledge on the matter but emphasized the importance of implementing restrictions. She suggested that Inventive may be the best source of information on how to accomplish this goal within the proposed limit of \$2,800 per week. She noted the necessity of limiting spending until ASCA can catch up on outstanding invoices.

Gerken agreed that it is imperative to bring an end to the excessive financial outflow. She shared her disappointment that we are being charged for bug fixes, considering it an inadequate demonstration of customer service. Gerken thought that Inventive may have anticipated this limitation in light of the current financial situation. She acknowledged the positive response to the GoFundMe campaign, but emphasized the need for further financial support, as the current financial situation has not been fully resolved. Gerken stated that it is unsustainable to continue incurring massive weekly invoices.

Larson suggested that the motion should be temporarily suspended until negotiations with Inventive could be conducted. She explained that their work methodology, utilizing Agile practices, necessitates the proper planning of sprints and individual tickets cannot be selectively addressed. Larson emphasized the importance of communication with Inventive prior to any further planning. Additionally, she mentioned that charges for error correction and bug fixes are a standard industry practice and do not fall under customer service. She concurred with Byrne's stance of limiting the total number of work hours to 20, without specifying an allocation per individual.

McCabe concurred with Byrne and Larson. She thought that it would be best to have Inventive determine the optimal allocation of hours among their personnel. Additionally, she recognized that a reduction in workload will be necessary during the transition period of the ASCA team at the end of January. In light of these considerations, she agreed that the motion should be postponed until Inventive has been informed of the impending changes.

Sims acknowledged that this reduction in spending was necessary and that there were no other options available. She understood that the limitation would result in a slower pace of work but ultimately it would have a significant impact on the financial stability of ASCA, as it would allow us to catch up on past-due invoices and recover.

Gann agreed that limiting the work of Inventive to 20 hours in total per week, rather than allocating a specific number of hours to each employee, would be a more appropriate course of action. He indicated his intention to communicate the proposal to Inventive and expressed confidence that they would be amenable to working with ASCA to find a mutually beneficial solution. Gann suggested that the motion be tabled until after he has had a chance to discuss the matter with Inventive and proposed that it be presented as an emergency motion due to the

imminent transition of the ASCA team and the need to reduce expenditures. He sought Wesen's approval to proceed in this manner.

Wesen said that the previous proposal to allocate the hours per employee had been suggested by an ASCA team member. She stated that she would amend the proposal to be a total of 20 hours per week instead. Wesen emphasized the need to regain control over financial expenditures. She said that it was important to be able to obtain quotes for new programming and keep moving forward. She agreed with Gann's proposal to communicate with Inventive, however, she suggested that the Board should have a formal motion in place prior to doing so.

Gerken posed the inquiry as to how Inventive would provide support moving forward with a reduced budget. In response, Wesen clarified that the limitation pertained solely to the work related to the portal and would not impact general support.

Busquets supported limiting the work to a total of 20 hours per week but thought it was important to communicate with Inventive prior to implementing such restrictions. She emphasized the significance of obtaining clarification on how they plan to manage the changes, in order to make an informed decision. Busquets stated that she had several questions that needed to be addressed before voting on the motion and suggested that the matter be tabled until further information could be obtained.

Larson said she was unable to support a motion without having all the necessary information and details. This sentiment was echoed by McCabe.

Gann acknowledged the pressing nature of the situation, citing the high expenses incurred in the previous week, estimated to be around \$18,000, and expected to be similar in the upcoming week. He stressed that the Board has a fiduciary duty to ASCA, and as such, must prioritize its financial stability. He said that Inventive's approval was not needed to make the necessary changes to reduce expenses. He requested that Wesen table the motion and bring it forward as an emergency motion during the first of the next week.

Wesen expressed concern about giving control to Inventive. Larson interjected to explain that we are merely seeking information and clarification from Inventive before proceeding with the motion. Busquets stated that obtaining Inventive's approval was not of primary concern, but rather, understanding their approach and plan within the established time constraints was imperative for the benefit of the membership. McCabe concurred and added that while limiting the work to 20 hours per week was not a problem, it was necessary to have a clear understanding of the methodology for accomplishing this goal.

Sims stated that regardless of the approach Inventive may adopt, the implementation of the limitation of 20 hours per week is imperative. She suggested that Gann could work out the necessary details in consultation with Inventive.

Creelman thought that Inventive could provide insight into the most efficient method to work on the portal within the 20-hour constraints, but it was crucial for them to understand that the extent of the work needs to be limited. While it was acceptable to seek clarification from Inventive, the ultimate decision on the amount of work to be performed lies with the Board.

Gerken proposed a motion to establish a spending limit of \$2,800 per week, without specifying the manner in which Inventive is to utilize the allotted funds.

Byrne expressed concern about how the Board could vote on the motion without a clear understanding of Inventive's plan to comply with the proposed 20-hour limitation. She proposed a motion to table Wesen's original motion but withdrew it after Wesen indicated that she had agreed to withdraw the motion until the next meeting.

Gann will engage in a dialogue with Inventive to determine their approach for executing work on the portal within the constraints of a 20-hour weekly limit. Upon the receipt of their plan, Gann will report to the Board, and a subsequent emergency motion may be proposed incorporating all relevant information.

2023 Nationals Premium Changes

Started at 7:59 pm. The Board approved the final premium for the 2023 Nationals in December, but several changes have occurred since then. Liaison Sims presented an updated version of the premium for the Board's approval. The changes are provided below:

- Laura Diebold will replace Joni Monney-McKeown as the judge for Nationals Conformation Intact Best of Breed. Susan Landry-Whiticar will replace Laura Diebold as the judge for Nationals Conformation Altered classes.
- Additional photographer information was updated to show that Mari Bryan will be providing conformation ringside action photography. Nina's Photography will no longer be photographing agility, obedience, rally, and conformation breed ring candids. Lori Herbel will no longer be photographing cattle runs. The statement "Additional photographers will be announced on the ASCA website and on our Facebook group" was also added to the additional photographer section.
- The information regarding local RV parks was removed.

McCabe pointed out the lack of a photographer for both rally and obedience as a result of the changes. She expressed her hope that a photographer could be found. Sims added that there was also no photographer for cattle, however, the 2023 Nationals Committee was actively seeking additional photographers and would update the website with any developments.

BD.23.07 Changes to 2023 Nationals Premium

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Liaison Sims to approve the changes to the 2023 Nationals Premium as presented by the chair, Laura Gibson.

PayPal

Started at 8:02 pm. Gann requested this discussion due to the recurring feedback from ASCA's European members on the necessity of an alternative payment method, other than credit cards and checks, for remitting funds to the organization. To address this concern, we must provide a suitable payment service, such as PayPal, to facilitate their transactions. Gann indicated that Wesen has been investigating this matter, and inquired if there were any updates to report.

According to Wesen, while she has not experienced any problems personally, there have been concerns raised regarding the level of security offered by PayPal. A new PayPal account must be established, given that ASCA's existing account is reserved solely for the Nationals. Wesen suggests that the Business Office dispatch invoices to facilitate payments via PayPal, as this approach is deemed the most straightforward. However, it is important that a comprehensive framework is developed to manage and document these payment transactions effectively.

Busquets was confused about why there would be any issues with using PayPal. All we need to do is create a designated account with an email address that Ms. Jackson at the Business

Office can access. Then the Business Office can send an invoice to whoever needs a service, and they can pay with PayPal. We just need to come up with a plan to roll out this service for our European members and anyone else who prefers using PayPal.

Byrne inquired whether PayPal transactions would be documented in a manner consistent with that of Authorize.net, which provides clear identification of each transaction and its corresponding origin. While the addition of PayPal may necessitate some extra administrative efforts, Byrne believes the benefits of incorporating the service outweigh the costs.

Wesen thought that PayPal might incorporate the information contained within the invoice, though she emphasized the need to confirm this.

Larson indicated that the back-end work of integrating PayPal into the ASCA user portal has been completed already. Given that Authorize.net and PayPal are competitors, the team had to interact directly with the PayPal API. Nevertheless, the front-end work remains outstanding. In light of this, Larson posed the question of how the process would unfold going forward.

Byrne explained that, for example, an individual sends their registration documents to the Business Office, and subsequently receives an invoice for the amount owed. The recipient then proceeds to remit payment to the designated email address via PayPal. Upon receipt of payment, the Business Office would process the registration accordingly. Byrne further affirmed the existence of an indicator to flag unpaid transactions.

To conclude the discussion, Gann said that efforts to resolve this issue would persist. He invited any members with insights or expertise in this matter to reach out to the Board to help. In addition, Gann emphasized the benefits of involving the new accountant in this process to ensure an optimal outcome.

Printing the Aussie Times

Started at 8:14 pm. Wesen introduced a motion to discontinue the printing of the Aussie Times, commencing from the May/June 2023 issue. Wesen provided a rationale for the motion, highlighting the cost-saving implications. Given the current financial climate, this measure would result in significant savings. The motion was subsequently discussed among Board members.

Busquets drew attention to the costs associated with printing the Aussie Times, emphasizing that it amounted to nearly \$67k in the previous year, with an additional \$11k for mail preparation and \$25k for postage. The revenue generated from advertisements is not substantial. Busquets wanted the members to understand the rationale for the Board's decision to consider discontinuing the print version of the Aussie Times. She further suggested that the Board can review this decision at a later stage, if necessary.

Byrne provided additional information, stating that the printing and mailing expenses associated with the Aussie Times amounted to a total of \$103k. She also noted that the cost of retaining the editor would remain unchanged, given that the magazine would still need to be prepared for online publication. Byrne suggested that redirecting the funds currently spent on printing the Aussie Times towards the computer system would be a more beneficial allocation of resources.

Creelman thought that many individuals already access information online and expressed hope that discontinuing the print version of the Aussie Times would not adversely impact the membership. She acknowledged the substantial cost savings that ASCA would incur as a result of this decision. Creelman suggested that the Board review the decision on an annual basis during the spring meeting.

Gerken voiced her opinion that given the significant expense associated with printing the Aussie Times and the current financial situation of ASCA, it would be prudent to discontinue the printing of the magazine. She noted that the content will still be accessible online for all members. Gerken agreed with reviewing this decision on an annual basis and emphasized the importance of members understanding the reasoning behind the decision.

Larson expressed that she had no further input on the matter, as she believed it was no longer necessary to continue printing the magazine.

McCabe began by acknowledging that the decision to stop printing the Aussie Times was brought up by many members in response to the club's financial difficulties. While she personally enjoys the paper edition, she fully supports the transition to an online-only format. Furthermore, McCabe suggested that going forward, the Board should consider printing a single annual issue, such as the Nationals issue. She also recommended adjusting ad rates to reflect the shift away from print.

Sims wholeheartedly supported this decision, recognizing that printing the magazine is currently one of the most significant expenses for the club, and given our current financial situation, this could significantly reduce costs. She did not anticipate any issues since many members already consume content online.

Wesen thanked Busquets and Byrne for sharing the relevant figures. She suggested that once ASCA's accounts are restored, the decision to stop printing the Aussie Times could be reconsidered. However, she did not support the idea of reducing ad rates, as they are already competitive compared to other organizations and provide an opportunity for members to showcase their dogs.

Gann echoed the sentiments of the other directors and recognized that the cost of printing the Aussie Times is a significant expense that we can no longer afford. He acknowledged that the membership has requested a comprehensive business plan, and the decision to discontinue the print edition is a part of it.

BD.23.08 Stop Printing Aussie Times

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Wesen to stop printing the Aussie Times beginning with May/June 2023 edition. Seconded by Sims.

Comments/Rationale: This will be reviewed at each Spring Meeting. The Aussie Times will be available online.

Affected: This will affect the membership, but it will help ASCA's resources.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval for the May/June 2023 edition.

Sanctioning Paperwork for Affiliates

Started at 8:30 pm. Busquets initiated this discussion because it is necessary for ASCA to explore ways to reduce our substantial postage expenses. As a solution, she suggested that affiliates should be charged the shipping cost to receive paper copies of the sanctioning paperwork, which is currently shipped to them free of charge.

Byrne concurred that ASCA needs to find ways to reduce its postage costs, which are currently quite significant, and noted that this proposal is a sensible cost-saving measure. She thought this approach might discourage affiliates from requesting excessive amounts of paperwork, thereby reducing the time and effort spent by ASCA's employees in fulfilling these requests.

Creelman agreed with the proposal, stating that it is a necessary step to help lower postage expenses. She further suggested that the Business Office should look at the paperwork to identify any redundant forms that don't need to be printed and mailed for each trial. She proposed that a complete packet could be sent for the first event in a year, and for subsequent events, only the necessary paperwork should be mailed.

Gerken supported the proposal, acknowledging that while the ultimate goal is to transition to a paperless system, this measure could help save costs and streamline processes in the interim.

Larson did not have any additional comments to contribute on this matter.

McCabe expressed her support for the proposal. She suggested that the Business Office could provide clear guidelines to affiliates about what paperwork will be shipped to minimize unnecessary requests. McCabe also wondered whether tracking payments for shipping would be an additional administrative burden on the office and how that would be accomplished. Finally, she proposed that some of the forms could be made available online, eliminating the need for shipping altogether.

Sims voiced her support for the proposal to cut this significant expense, which she recognized as an important cost-saving measure for the organization at this time. She acknowledged that the goal is to eventually become paperless, but in the meantime, charging affiliates for shipping costs could help reduce the financial burden.

Wesen agreed with charging for shipping in light of the need for ASCA to find ways to reduce costs. She was also concerned about how the payment for shipping would be tracked and confirmed. However, she remained optimistic that the Board could work out the logistics of the payment process.

Gann expressed his full support for Busquets' proposal, recognizing the significant savings we could achieve by reducing our postage costs. He suggested that we ensure payment is received from affiliates before sanctioning is granted, to ensure compliance with the new policy. Gann also recommended that Busquets work with Ms. Jackson at the Business Office to work out the logistical details of implementing this new policy.

BD.23.09 Charge for Shipping Sanctioning Paperwork to Affiliates

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

Motioned by Busquets to charge affiliates the cost of shipping show/trial packets until pdf forms for all necessary paperwork are available for printing by affiliates. The Business Office will inform affiliates of the shipping cost once the packet is prepared. Seconded by Gann.

Comments/Rationale: Shipping is a major expense for ASCA. Charging for shipping is a regular practice by small businesses in order to minimize losses.

Affected: Affiliate clubs, Business Office.

Effective Date: February 15, 2023.

President Gann thanked all the Directors for their work this month and the members listening.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. (Moteded by Creelman).

ASCA Board Motions

Director Recommendations

BD.23.01 Forego Section 8.13 of Policy Book for 2023 Spring Meeting

Motion carried (8-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Sims.

Motion by Byrne to forgo Section 8.13 of the ASCA Policy Book in regard to travel reimbursement/per diem/lodging reimbursement for all directors attending in person the Spring 2023 Board of Directors meeting to be held March 30-April 1, 2023, in Bryan/College Station, Texas. Second by Sims.

Comments/Rationale: The approval of this motion will provide a significant cost-saving measure to ASCA during this time of financial strife.

Affected: All ASCA Board of Directors members and the Office Manager.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

EM.23.01 Allow Kirsten Cole to Judge 1/7-8/2023 Stockdog Trial (Emergency)

Motion carried (8-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Sims.

Motion by Sims to allow Kirsten Cole to judge Jan 7-8, 2023, even though she hasn't turned in her judge's test. This is to not cause hardship for the affiliate club she is judging for. Second by Wesen.

Comments/Rationale: This is an emergency due to the trial being held in three days.

Affected: Kirsten Cole and the affiliate club.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

EM.23.02 Rescind Motion to Stop Printing Aussie Times

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Wesen to rescind motion BD.23.08 Stop Printing Aussie Times. Second by McCabe.

Comments/Rationale: Based on membership input the Board plans to go in a different direction.

Affected: ASCA members, the Aussie Times editor, and the Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

EM.23.03 Limit Hours Inventive Can Work on ASCA Portal

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Gann that ASCA limits Inventive to 20 combined hours a week for continued work on ASCA's New Portal to the following: Inventive Product Owner, Inventive Programmer, and any other Inventive employees. Second by Busquets.

Comments/Rationale: By approving this motion, this will cut ASCA's current weekly Invoices from \$18,674.60 down to \$2800.00 a week. This motion will slow down current Inventive work but will allow ASCA to try and catch up on past-due invoices.

Affected: ASCA Business Office and ASCA members.

Effective Date: January 28, 2023.

EM.23.04 Finance Advisory Panel Appointments – Jacqueline Tinker and Eli Wilkerson
Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Gann to add Jacqueline Tinker and Eli Wilkerson to the ASCA Finance Advisory Panel. Second by Wesen.

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording: None.

Comments/Rationale: I believe this motion to be essential and time sensitive due to ASCA current financial situation. I talked with both these individuals at length over the past 2 days, both are successful business owner with various levels of IT experience with their company. Both Jacque and Eli are concerned ASCA members with no harm felt towards our organization. After talking with both of them I felt strong and confident abilities with both.

Affected: ASCA Board of Directors and the ASCA Organization.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Committee Recommendations

AGILITY COMMITTEE

AG.23.01 Calling Points for the First Gamble Obstacle

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

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

Committee Recommendation: Calling Points for the First Gamble Obstacle

Motion by Sherry Butler to approve calling the point value (“zero” or “two”) for the first gamble obstacle if the dog is on or in that obstacle when the whistle or horn sounds. Seconded by Jan Niblock.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 10. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

7.2.2 Scoring

...

At the end of the point accumulation period, a whistle or horn will sound, indicating that the gamble time has begun. The handler must maneuver their dog into the gamble area to perform the gamble. The gamble begins when the dog performs the first gamble obstacle in the correct direction as defined by Section 9.2.1. EXAMPLE: if the first obstacle is the A-frame or teeter and the dog gets on the obstacle with all four paws on the ascent side and then comes off without touching the contact zone on the descent side with at least one paw, zero points will be awarded, and the gamble is over. The dog must perform the gamble obstacles in the exact order described in the judge's course design. If the signal (horn, buzzer, or whistle) indicating the gamble time has ended SOUNDS before the dog completes the last gamble obstacle, the gamble is not completed. The Judge shall award points to the last COMPLETED obstacle. EXAMPLE: if a horn sounds as dog is over the #8 jump, the Judge shall award 2-4-6. Signal must not SOUND for dog to be awarded the obstacle.

...

Proposed Wording:

7.2.2 Scoring

...

At the end of the point accumulation period, a whistle or horn will sound, indicating that the gamble time has begun. The handler must maneuver their dog into the gamble area to perform the gamble. The gamble begins when the dog performs the first gamble obstacle in the correct direction as defined by Section 9.2.1. EXAMPLE: if the first obstacle is the A-frame or teeter and the dog gets on the obstacle with all four paws on the ascent side and then comes off without touching the contact zone on the descent side with at least one paw, zero points will be awarded, and the gamble is over. If the dog is on or in the first gamble obstacle when the whistle or horn sounds, the judge will call "zero" if the dog did not complete the obstacle to earn opening points or will call "two" if the dog successfully completed the obstacle in the gamble sequence during the gamble time. The dog must perform the gamble obstacles in the exact order described in the judge's course design. If the signal (horn, buzzer, or whistle) indicating the gamble time has ended SOUNDS before the dog completes the last gamble obstacle, the gamble is not completed. The Judge shall award points to the last COMPLETED obstacle. EXAMPLE: if a horn sounds as dog is over the #8 jump, the Judge shall award 2-4-6. Signal must not SOUND for dog to be awarded the obstacle.

...

Comments/Rationale: If the gamble whistle or horn sounds when the dog is working or close to working the first obstacle in the gamble, it is sometimes hard for the handler to know if the obstacle will count toward the gamble or if they need to direct the dog to take the obstacle again for it to count for the gamble. If the judge calls a "zero", the handler will know they need to do the obstacle again for the gamble. If the judge calls a "two", the handler will know the first gamble obstacle is complete and they need to go on to the second gamble obstacle.

Affected: Judges and Competitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

AG.23.02 Standardize Gamble Obstacle Labels and Numbering

Motion carried (8-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Sims.

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

Committee Recommendation: Standardize Gamble Obstacle Labels and Numbering

Motion by Sherry Butler to approve the standardization of how the gamble obstacles are labeled on course maps and numbered on the course. Seconded by Sandra Katzen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 8. Disapproved: 2. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

7.4.2 The Gamble Course Design

The gamble itself will be spaced as if it were part of a regular course, meeting Regular course design spacing guidelines (18'- 21' between obstacles), and with flow.

In the closing gamble sequence, the dog will perform a numbered set of obstacles to be done in a set time assigned by the judge. The 'gamble closing sequence' consists of four obstacles to be performed in numbered order. All the required tests must be somewhere between these four obstacles, not including any bonus obstacles.

7.4.3 Bonus Obstacles

A gamble closing sequence may consist of more than four obstacles. The judge shall calculate the 'closing gamble sequence' time based on the performance of the first four obstacles (1-2, 2-3, 3-4) in the gamble closing sequence. There shall be no additional time added for the performance of any 'bonus' obstacle. If a 'bonus' obstacle is used, the finish line will be placed directly after the 'bonus' obstacle and the dog will only be required to successfully complete the first four obstacles in the gamble before the second whistle/horn is sounded to denote the end of the allowed gamble time. The handler shall guide the dog to perform the 'bonus' obstacle to stop the dog's course time. If the 'bonus' obstacle is not performed to stop the clock, then the dog's time will stop when the handler places the leash on the dog.

Proposed Wording:

7.4.2 The Gamble Course Design

The gamble itself will be spaced as if it were part of a regular course, meeting Regular course design spacing guidelines (18'- 21' between obstacles), and with flow.

In the closing gamble sequence, the dog will perform a numbered set of obstacles to be done in a set time assigned by the judge. The 'gamble closing sequence' consists of four obstacles to be performed in numbered order. **The obstacles will be numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 on the course map and on the course.** All the required tests must be somewhere between these four obstacles, not including any bonus obstacles.

7.4.3 Bonus Obstacles

A gamble closing sequence may consist of more than four obstacles. **Bonus obstacles will be numbered 5, 6, etc. on the course map and on the course.** The judge shall calculate the 'closing gamble sequence' time based on the performance of the first four obstacles (1-2, 2-3, 3-4) in the gamble closing sequence. There shall be no additional time added for the performance of any 'bonus' obstacle. If a 'bonus' obstacle is used, the finish line will be placed directly after the **last** 'bonus' obstacle and the dog will only be required to successfully complete the first four obstacles in the gamble before the second whistle/horn is sounded to denote the end of the allowed gamble time. The handler shall guide the dog to perform the 'bonus' obstacle to stop the dog's course time. If the 'bonus' obstacle is not performed to stop the clock, then the dog's time will stop when the handler places the leash on the dog.

Comments/Rationale: The majority of judges (almost 90%) use the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 for the gamble obstacles for labeling on the course maps and numbering the course. The others use 2, 4, 6, 8. Some competitors have voiced confusion with the different numbering schemes. This motion standardizes the labeling and numbering to what the majority of judges currently use.

Affected: Judges, Course Reviewers, Competitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

AG.23.03 Remove Outdated Number of Weaves

Motion carried (9-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

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

Committee Recommendation: Remove Outdated Number of Weaves

Motion by Jan Niblock to approve this motion because we no longer use 5 or 10 weaves. Seconded by Sandra Katzen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 10. Disapproved: 1. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Comment/Dissent from Committee Member:

Current Wording:

2.2 Agility Obstacles

All obstacles must meet the specifications listed in Appendix A. Clubs have the option of using slatted or slat-less contact equipment and will specify in the trial premium the type of contact equipment to be used at the trial. Slat-less contact equipment and displaceable tires are preferred.

The following obstacles are required at an ASCA Agility Trial:	The following obstacles are optional for an ASCA Agility Trial:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A-Frame2. Dog Walk3. Teeter-Totter4. Tunnel5. Weave Poles (5-6 for Novice, 10-12 for Open & Elite)6. Jumps (16 minimum, non-winged or winged)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Double Bar Jump2. Tire Jump

5.4.2 Novice Level Course Design

At the Novice level the goal is to test the dog's ability to perform the obstacles safely. The dog shall be asked to execute the obstacles at a moderate rate of speed. The course for the Novice level should also follow these guidelines:

A. The course shall consist of 14-16 obstacles.

B. The Start and Finish obstacles must be different obstacles with a minimum distance between them on the course of 40'-50' (12.2 m-15.2 m); preferably 50' (15.2 m) or more.

C. The line of weave poles used shall consist of 5-6 poles.

5.4.3 Open Level Course Design

At the Open Level, the goal is to test the handler's and dog's ability to perform the obstacles at a faster rate of speed, while performing the obstacles with more directional and distance control and exhibit obstacle discrimination. The course design should encourage handlers to work the dog from both sides comfortably. The course for the Open Level shall also follow these guidelines:

A. The course shall consist of 16-18 obstacles.

B. The Start and Finish obstacles must be different obstacles with a minimum distance between them on the course of 30-40' (9.1 m-12.2 m); preferably 50' (15.2 m) or more.

C. There shall be ten-twelve weave poles on the course, which could be comprised of one long set of ten-twelve poles or two short sets of five-six poles.

5.4.4 Elite Level Course Design

At the Elite Level, more complex handler strategies are tested, with the dog moving at a brisk pace. The dog should work on both sides of the handler, be able to discriminate between obstacles and freely move away from the handler while performing the obstacles with greater distance and directional control. The course for the Elite level shall also follow these guidelines:

A. The course shall consist of 18-20 obstacles.

B. The Start and Finish obstacles must be different obstacles with a minimum distance between them on the course of 30-40' (9.1 m-12.2 m); preferably 50' (15.2 m) or more.

C. There shall be a line of weave poles consisting of ten-twelve poles. An additional set of five-six poles is optional.

7.3.1 Course Obstacles during Initial Point Accumulation Time

The point value for the obstacles during the initial point accumulation time shall be as follows:

Jumps	1 point
Tire Jump, Tunnels	3 points
5-6 Weave Poles	3 points
A-Frame, Dog Walk, Teeter-Totter	5 points
10-12 Weave Poles	5 points

The following lists the minimum of each type of obstacle on any course:

A-Frame	1	Weave Pole Lines: short (5-6)	1-3
Teeter-Totter	1	Jumps	7
Dog Walk	1	Weave Pole Lines: long (10-12)	Optional
Tunnels	1	Tire Jump	Optional

NOTE: At least one set of weaves is required on each gamblers course. A long set may be used for Open and Elite, but a short set must be used for Novice.

7.3.2 Course Obstacles Allowed in the Gamble Sequence

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

Novice*	Jumps, Tunnels, A-Frame, Teeter-Totter, short set of Weave Poles (5-6)
Open	Jumps, Tunnels, A-Frame, Teeter-Totter, short set of Weave Poles (5-6)
Elite	Jumps, Tunnels, A-Frame, Teeter-Totter, short or long set of weave poles (5-12)

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

At all levels the last Gamble obstacle, including any bonus obstacles, if used, will be a jump or open tunnel.

Proposed Wording:

2.2 Agility Obstacles

All obstacles must meet the specifications listed in Appendix A. Clubs have the option of using slatted or slat-less contact equipment and will specify in the trial premium the type of contact equipment to be used at the trial. Slat-less contact equipment and displaceable tires are preferred.

The following obstacles are required at an ASCA Agility Trial:	The following obstacles are optional for an ASCA Agility Trial:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A-Frame 2. Dog Walk 3. Teeter-Totter 4. Tunnel 5. Weave Poles (5-6 for Novice, 10-12 for Open & Elite) 6. Jumps (16 minimum, non-winged or winged) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Double Bar Jump 2. Tire Jump

5.4.2 Novice Level Course Design

At the Novice level the goal is to test the dog's ability to perform the obstacles safely. The dog shall be asked to execute the obstacles at a moderate rate of speed. The course for the Novice level should also follow these guidelines:

- A. The course shall consist of 14-16 obstacles.
- B. The Start and Finish obstacles must be different obstacles with a minimum distance between them on the course of 40'-50' (12.2 m-15.2 m); preferably 50' (15.2 m) or more.
- C. The line of weave poles used shall consist of ~~5~~-6 poles.

5.4.3 Open Level Course Design

At the Open Level, the goal is to test the handler's and dog's ability to perform the obstacles at a faster rate of speed, while performing the obstacles with more directional and distance control and exhibit obstacle discrimination. The course design should encourage handlers to work the dog from both sides comfortably. The course for the Open Level shall also follow these guidelines:

- A. The course shall consist of 16-18 obstacles.

B. The Start and Finish obstacles must be different obstacles with a minimum distance between them on the course of 30-40' (9.1 m-12.2 m); preferably 50' (15.2 m) or more.

C. There shall be ~~ten~~-twelve weave poles on the course, which could be comprised of one long set of ~~ten~~-twelve poles or two short sets of ~~five~~-six poles.

5.4.4 Elite Level Course Design

At the Elite Level, more complex handler strategies are tested, with the dog moving at a brisk pace. The dog should work on both sides of the handler, be able to discriminate between obstacles and freely move away from the handler while performing the obstacles with greater distance and directional control. The course for the Elite level shall also follow these guidelines:

A. The course shall consist of 18-20 obstacles.

B. The Start and Finish obstacles must be different obstacles with a minimum distance between them on the course of 30-40' (9.1 m-12.2 m); preferably 50' (15.2 m) or more.

C. There shall be a line of weave poles consisting of ~~ten~~-twelve poles. An additional set of ~~five~~-six poles is optional.

7.3.1 Course Obstacles during Initial Point Accumulation Time

The point value for the obstacles during the initial point accumulation time shall be as follows:

Jumps	1 point
Tire Jump, Tunnels	3 points
5 -6 Weave Poles	3 points
A-Frame, Dog Walk, Teeter-Totter	5 points
10 -12 Weave Poles	5 points

The following lists the minimum of each type of obstacle on any course:

A-Frame	1	Weave Pole Lines: short (5 -6)	1-3
Teeter-Totter	1	Jumps	7
Dog Walk	1	Weave Pole Lines: long (10 -12)	Optional
Tunnels	1	Tire Jump	Optional

NOTE: At least one set of weaves is required on each gamblers course. A long set may be used for Open and Elite, but a short set must be used for Novice.

7.3.2 Course Obstacles Allowed in the Gamble Sequence

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

Novice*	Jumps, Tunnels, A-Frame, Teeter-Totter, short set of Weave Poles (5 -6)
Open	Jumps, Tunnels, A-Frame, Teeter-Totter, short set of Weave Poles (5 -6)
Elite	Jumps, Tunnels, A-Frame, Teeter-Totter, short or long set of weave poles (5 6 -12)

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

At all levels the last Gamble obstacle, including any bonus obstacles, if used, will be a jump or open tunnel.

Comments/Rationale: The use of 5 or 10 weaves is outdated and the weave pole bases are set up for 6 or 12 weaves. Therefore, it would be a safety hazard to only have 5 or 10 weaves on bases with spike to accommodate 6 or 12 poles. Since they are not used any longer, it makes sense to remove them from the rule book and be consistent with the number of weaves that are actually used.

Affected: Judges and Clubs.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

AG.23.04 Clarifying the Start Line

Motion carried (8-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Sims.

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

Committee Recommendation: Clarifying the Start Line

Motion by Jan Niblock to approve this motion because it will clarify where a dog can start and clarify that a sling shot start that begins past the start is not legal. Seconded by Donalee McElrath.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 7. Disapproved: 4. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Dissent from Committee Member Nicole Watts: I agree the rulebook needs clarifying, but do not agree with the requirement that the dog be forced to start behind an imaginary start line (so I do not agree with the start line rule as currently worded; I understand that my "no" vote is indicative of this). One reason is how often start jumps are crowded very close into a corner, with very little room to line the dog up (if it is on a start line) or send them (if no start line). I think flexibility is called for, here. Said as someone who regularly does "sling shots" in all venues with one of my dogs, but almost never past the plane of the first obstacle, since backside start jumps don't work very well for me anyway.

But, in general, I just believe the time should start when the dog takes the first obstacle, and that what happens before that is not very important. There are many disadvantages to not having a start line, and I don't believe it is necessary to make things more difficult for those teams. I will also note, in some response to Pamela B-M's comments about "just train a start line," that some of us have worked valiantly for start lines with particular dogs, with no good results. Sometimes there are dogs that just really do not want to stay, even if their criteria is great on other things. Or there are dogs that shut down if left on a start.

Also, a concern re: the stated rationale, if a straight tunnel is #1, starting the dog past the plane of the correct tunnel entrance and sending it back to a correct tunnel entrance is not a backside. So I don't see any contradiction there with ASCA's "flow" rules. And a start tunnel is a very common start for jumpers courses, especially.

Current Wording:

Section 5.6 Determining Course Time

5.6.1 Determining a Dog's Course Time

In the Regular class, a dog's course time shall be determined using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. The time should begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The time for the course shall end when any part of the dog completes the final obstacle and crosses the finish line. A dog's course time shall be recorded by the timekeeper for every run.

6.5.1 Determining a Dog's Course Time

In the Jumpers class, a dog's time for running the course shall be determined using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. The time should begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The time for the course shall end when any part of the dog completes the final obstacle and crosses the finish line. A dog's course time shall be recorded by the timekeeper for every run.

Section 7.6 Determining Course Time

7.6.1 Determining a Dog's Recorded Course Time

In the Gamblers class the dog's time shall be determined by using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. The 'opening sequence' time should begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The plane of the start line shall be clearly marked for the timer and handler.

The time for the course shall end when any part of the dog crosses the finish line after attempting/performing the 'closing gamble sequence'. The finish line shall be placed as close to the last obstacle (jump or tunnel) in the closing sequence.

Section 9.3 Start and Finish Lines

9.3.1 Purpose of Start and Finish Lines

For all classes, the start and finish lines shall not be considered 'obstacles' as part of the course, but merely a way to determine how long it takes a dog to complete the obstacles that comprise the course. In all classes, a dog's time for running the course shall be determined using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. The time should begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The time for the course shall end AFTER the dog completes the last obstacle and THEN any part of the dog crosses the finish line.

9.3.2 Bypassing First and Last Obstacles

If the dog crosses the start line but bypasses the first obstacle, time will begin. However, if the dog bypasses the last obstacle, time shall not end until he completes the last obstacle and then crosses the finish line. If the dog never completes the last obstacle, he shall receive a 20-point fault (for failure to compete) and the dog's course time will end when the handler places the leash on the dog.

Proposed Wording:

Section 5.6 Determining Course Time

5.6.1 Determining a Dog's Course Time

In the Regular class, a dog's course time ~~shall~~ will be determined using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. The time should will begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The time for the course ~~shall~~ will end when any part of the dog completes the final obstacle and crosses the finish line. A dog's course time ~~shall~~ will be recorded by the timekeeper for every run.

6.5.1 Determining a Dog's Course Time

In the Jumpers class, a dog's time for running the course ~~shall~~ will be determined using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. The time should will begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The time for the course ~~shall~~ will end when any part of the dog completes the final obstacle and crosses the finish line. A dog's course time ~~shall~~ will be recorded by the timekeeper for every run.

Section 7.6 Determining Course Time

7.6.1 Determining a Dog's Recorded Course Time

In the Gamblers class the dog's time ~~shall~~ will be determined by using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. The 'opening sequence' time should will begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The plane of the start line ~~shall~~ will be clearly marked for the timer and handler.

The time for the course ~~shall~~ will end when any part of the dog crosses the finish line after attempting/performing the 'closing gamble sequence'. The finish line ~~shall~~ will be placed as close to the last obstacle (jump or tunnel) in the closing sequence.

Section 9.3 Start and Finish Lines

9.3.1 Purpose of Start and Finish Lines

For all classes, the start and finish lines ~~shall~~ will not be considered 'obstacles' as part of the course, but merely a way to determine how long it takes a dog to complete the obstacles that comprise the course. In all classes, a dog's time for running the course ~~shall~~ will be determined using electronic 'eye' timing or by using a stopwatch. ~~The dog must start behind the plane of the entrance of the first obstacle.~~ The time should will begin when any part of the dog crosses the start line. The time for the course ~~shall~~ will end AFTER the dog completes the last obstacle and THEN any part of the dog crosses the finish line.

9.3.2 Bypassing First and Last Obstacles

If the dog crosses the start line but bypasses the first obstacle, time will begin. However, if the dog bypasses the last obstacle, time ~~shall~~ will not end until he completes the last obstacle and then crosses the finish line. If the dog never completes the last obstacle, he ~~shall~~ will receive a 20-point fault (for failure to compete) and the dog's course time will end when the handler places the leash on the dog.

Comments/Rationale: It is not clear that the dog cannot start past the plane of the entrance of the first obstacle which was brought up in the discussion about sling shot starts. The ability to set the dog up inside of the start line and send it to the first obstacle is not allowed in the rules but there are some who interrupt it as allowable. Also doing a sling shot past the start line will be a back side which is not allowable in ASCA. This motion will clarify both in the rules.

Affected: Agility Judges, Timers, and Handlers.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

CONFORMATION COMMITTEE

CO.23.01 Awarding 3-Point Major to Reserve Winners Dog/Bitch at National Specialty

Motion carried (8-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Sims.

Motion by Liaison Creelman to approve the following recommendation from the Conformation Committee.

Committee Recommendation: 3-point major awarded to Reserve Winners Dog/Bitch at National Specialty

Motion by Elizabeth Stibley to approve the following changes to Section 12.1 and Section 12.3 of the ASCA Conformation Rulebook. Seconded by Jeff Rusho.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 12. Disapproved: 2. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Dissent from Committee Member Ann DeChant: I am opposed to awarding a major for a Reserve win at Nationals. I would not be opposed to 1 or 2 points. I feel that the win is worthy of points, but a major is too much. This could be one-third of the majors needed to finish a Championship. I feel that Championship titles should be earned by all 3 majors earned in wins that don't include a major from a Reserve. I feel if we are going to do that, we need rules to ensure that no Championship can be earned with more than one from a Reserve if a motion like this is passed.

Dissent from Committee Member Mary Hellmeister: I agree with Ann that a three-point major is too much. I can deal with one or two points. If the 3-point major stays in there, then a provision needs to be built in that a dog cannot finish on Reserve wins alone. We had a dog years ago that won seven Reserves before he finally won Winners Dog. So, this dog could have easily finished on Reserves alone. I like the general idea of awarding points for Reserve at big shows. Why not include them right from the start? I see an opportunity here to make the program more attractive to exhibitors and clubs and that helps ASCA as well in receiving more funds in fees. Another thought: Most clubs are on schedule 1 or 2. For this to actually happen at big shows the clubs would need to be at least on schedule three, in my opinion, to have the large number of entries we are thinking of. So, for schedule 3 it would have to be 40 entries; 50 entries for schedule 4 and 60 entries for schedule five, divided by sex. The whole thought process needs to include the European clubs and members who provide up to 15% of ASCA's income each year.

Current Wording:

Section 12.1 Calculating Points – Intact

Intact Championship points will be recorded for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each sex, and according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused, or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

Section 12.3 Calculating Points – Altered

Altered Championship points will be recorded for the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. According to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each sex, and according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors. In counting the number of eligible dogs in Competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused, or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

Proposed Wording:

Section 12.1 Calculating Points – Intact

Intact Championship points will be recorded for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each sex, and according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused, or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

At the National Specialty the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number

required for a five-point major, according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors. No major for Reserve Winners shall be given based upon an award of Best of Winners. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused, or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

Section 12.3 Calculating Points – Altered

Altered Championship points will be recorded for the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. According to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each sex, and according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors. In counting the number of eligible dogs in Competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused, or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

At the National Specialty the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five-point major, according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors. No major for Reserve Winners shall be given based upon an award of Best of Winners. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused, or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

Comments/Rationale: The National Specialty is the breed's most prestigious show of the year, with many exhibitors traveling great distances to attend. As such, the National Specialty entry is often 3-5 times greater than local affiliate shows. Awarding points to the Reserve winners at the National Specialty is acknowledging that these winners are defeating (at a minimum) double the number of dogs required to obtain a 5-point major at a local affiliate show. It also recognizes and honors the prestige of the National Specialty.

Affected: Intact Class Dogs/Bitches entered at the National Specialty; Altered Class Dogs/Bitches entered at the National Specialty. ASCA Business Office (The Office Manager confirmed he is okay with the motion, and it will not require programming).

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

CO.23.02 Clarification of Section 7.4 Owned or Co-Owned Dogs (Corrected 1/13)

Motion carried (7-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Larson, McCabe, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gerken, Sims.

Motion by Liaison Creelman to approve the following recommendation from the Conformation Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Gail Karamalegos to approve the following changes to Section 7.4 of the Conformation Rule Book. Seconded by Brandy Greenhagen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 14. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

Section 7.4 Owned or Co-Owned Dogs

No dog owned, co-owned, bred, or co-bred by an officiating Conformation judge can compete in the same Conformation event that he or she is judging. An exception will be made for a show at

which multiple judges are judging. Dogs owned or co-owned by a judge may not be shown at that show, but dogs bred or co-bred by a judge may be shown, as long as they are not shown under the judge who bred or co-bred them.

Dogs owned, co-owned, bred, or co-bred by an officiating judge may be shown in Junior Showmanship as long as the judge is not judging Junior Showmanship. In no case will a junior show a dog to a judge who is an owner or co-owner, breeder, or co-breeder of the dog.

Proposed Wording:

A. No dog owned, co-owned, bred, or co-bred by an officiating Conformation judge can compete in the same Conformation event that he or she is judging. ~~An exception will be made for a show at which multiple judges are judging. Dogs owned or co-owned by a judge may not be shown at that show, but dogs bred or co-bred by a judge may be shown, as long as they are not shown under the judge who bred or co-bred them.~~

B. At a show at which multiple judges are judging, such as the National Specialty and associated pre/post Conformation shows, dogs owned or co-owned by a judge who is officiating at that show may not be shown at that show, but. Dogs bred or co-bred by a judge who is officiating at that show may be shown, as long as they are not shown under the judge who bred or co-bred them, and they are not shown in a class in which they would potentially be shown to end up under the judge who bred or co-bred them. An example of that scenario would be Winners Dog/Bitch being shown in Best of Breed.

C. Dogs owned, co-owned, bred, or co-bred by an officiating judge may be shown in Junior Showmanship as long as the judge is not judging Junior Showmanship. In no case will a junior show a dog to a judge who is an owner or co-owner, breeder, or co-breeder of the dog.

Comments/Rationale: Many judges have been misinterpreting this rule, and in speaking with them, it has been clear that they had assumed that their owned/co-owned dogs were allowed to be shown, as long as it was under another judge at the same event. The proposed wording is a clarification only, and does not change the rule, nor does it impact the Business Office or the computer programming.

Affected: Judges.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

OB.23.01 Revise Point Deduction on Novice and Beginner Novice Fronts for Recalls

Motion carried (7-0) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Larson, McCabe, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gerken, Sims.

Motion by Liaison Busquets to approve the following recommendation from the Obedience Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Revise Point Deduction on Novice and Beginner Novice Fronts for Recalls

Motion by Hilary Hines to include touching the handler on Beginner Novice and Novice recalls as a minor to a substantial deduction. Seconded by Betsy Coleman.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 8. Disapproved: 2. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

Novice

Section 3.12 Recall, Scoring

A dog must receive a score of non-qualifying (NQ) for the following: not Staying without additional command or signal, failure to “Come” on the first command or signal, moving from the place where left before being called or signaled, not sitting close enough so that the handler could readily touch its head without stretching or moving either foot. Substantial deductions shall be made for a slow response to the Come, varying with the extent of the slowness; failure of the dog to come at a brisk trot or gallop; for the dog's standing or lying down instead of waiting in the Sit position; for failure to Sit in Front; failure to Finish or Sit at Heel; or for an extra command or signal to Sit or Finish. Minor to substantial deductions shall be made depending on the specific circumstances in each case for failure to come directly in to the handler. Minor deductions shall be made for slow or poor “Sits” or for “Finishes” which are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

Beginner Novice

Section 8.15 Recall, Scoring

A dog must receive a score of non-qualifying (NQ) for the following: not staying without additional command or signal, moving from the place where left before being called or signaled, not coming to the handler, coming to the handler after more than two commands and/or signals to come, or not coming close enough so that the handler could readily touch its head without stretching or moving either foot. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for the handler's extra command or signal to come or to sit, for the dog's failure to come at a brisk trot or gallop, or for the dog's failure to sit. Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

Proposed Wording:

Novice

Section 3.12 Recall, Scoring

A dog must receive a score of non-qualifying (NQ) for the following: not Staying without additional command or signal, failure to “Come” on the first command or signal, moving from the place where left before being called or signaled, not sitting close enough so that the handler could readily touch its head without stretching or moving either foot. Substantial deductions shall be made for a slow response to the Come, varying with the extent of the slowness; failure of the dog to come at a brisk trot or gallop; for the dog's standing or lying down instead of waiting in the Sit position; for failure to Sit in Front; failure to Finish or Sit at Heel; or for an extra command or signal to Sit or Finish. Minor to substantial deductions shall be made depending on the specific circumstances in each case for failure to come directly in to the handler **or touching the handler**. Minor deductions shall be made for slow or poor “Sits” or for “Finishes” which are not prompt or smart, ~~for touching the handler on coming in~~ or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

Beginner Novice

Section 8.15 Recall, Scoring

A dog must receive a score of non-qualifying (NQ) for the following: not staying without additional command or signal, moving from the place where left before being called or signaled, not coming to the handler, coming to the handler after more than two commands and/or signals to come, or not coming close enough so that the handler could readily touch its head without stretching or moving either foot. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for the handler's extra command or signal to come or to sit, for the dog's failure to come at a brisk trot or gallop,

for the dog touching the handler, or for the dog's failure to sit. Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

Comments/Rationale: Currently there is no point deduction listed in Beginner Novice for touching the handler on the recall, and only minor point deductions for the Novice recall. When a dog slams forcefully into the handler on the recall, judges should be able to deduct substantial points. This motion will allow judges more flexibility in scoring.

Affected: Judges. Obedience Exhibitors. ASCA Business Office and Webmaster will not be affected. Program Software Vendors will not be affected.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.