



# THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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## Upcoming Changes to June 2024 Program Rules

All changes included in this document are effective beginning June 1, 2024.

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### Agility Program

AG.23.07 Remove Requirement for a Minimum Number of Different Obstacles in Jumpers

Approved by ASCA Board of Directors: June 27, 2023.

Current Wording:

#### Section 6.3 Obstacle Requirements

The Jumpers course shall consist of a minimum of twelve different obstacles, of which there can be one double bar jump. The minimum and maximum obstacles allowed for any Jumpers course is as follows:

Novice: 14 – 16

Open: 16 – 18

Elite: 18 – 20

The Jumpers course may consist of jumps, a tire jump, and tunnels. A course does not have to utilize the tire jump or any tunnels, therefore consisting only of single jumps and a double bar jump, if available. There shall not be more than three total tunnel performances per course for Open and Novice levels, and not more than two total tunnel performances for Elite level.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

#### Section 6.3 Obstacle Requirements

~~The Jumpers course shall consist of a minimum of twelve different obstacles, of which there can be one double bar jump.~~ The minimum and maximum obstacles allowed for any Jumpers course is as follows:

Novice: 14 – 16

Open: 16 – 18

Elite: 18 – 20

The Jumpers course may consist of jumps, a tire jump, and tunnels. A course does not have to utilize the tire jump or any tunnels, therefore consisting only of single jumps and a double bar jump, if available. There shall not be more than three total tunnel performances per course for Open and Novice levels, and not more than two total tunnel performances for Elite level.

# Obedience Program

## OB.23.02 Novice A and B Class Eligibility

Approved by ASCA Board of Directors: May 27, 2023.

### Current Wording:

#### **Section 3.1 Novice A Class**

The Novice class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age that have not earned the CD title from any registry. A handler must own or co-own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family, and cannot have previously handled or regularly trained a dog that has earned a CD title from any registry in order to be eligible to enter or handle any dog in the Novice A class, nor may a dog be handled in this class by such person. No dog may be entered in both the Novice A and Novice B classes at any one trial. More than one dog may be shown by the handler provided the handler has not placed a CD title on a dog from any registry and the dog does not have a CD title from any registry. The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises, with the following exception. Each dog in this class must have a different handler during sits and downs when judged in the same group; this additional handler for the group exercises need not be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. A dog may continue to be shown in Novice A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that the requirements for a CD have been completed. After the 180-day grace period is over the team must move out of Novice A. The team can move to Novice B and remain there until they receive a HIT, after the 180-day grace period, OR earn an Open leg. Failure to move out of Novice A will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. earned beyond the grace period.

#### **Section 3.2 Novice B Class**

The Novice B class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) month of age that do not qualify for Novice A. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person (this includes persons that have never placed a CD on a dog from any registry). A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class, but each dog must have a separate handler for the group exercises when judged in the same group. No dog may be entered in both Novice A and Novice B classes at any one (1) trial. A dog that earns the CD title from the Novice B class can continue to be shown in Novice B for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that the requirements for a CD have been completed. After the 180-day grace period is over, the team may continue to compete in Novice B until they earn a qualifying score in Open OR receive HIT. If a Novice team earns HIT after the 180-day grace period has expired, they are required to move on to the next class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. which may be earned from the Novice B class beyond the grace period. Dogs may not compete in both Novice and Open at the same trial.

### New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

#### **Section 3.1 Novice A Class**

The Novice A class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age that have not earned the CD title from any registry. A handler must own or co-own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family, and cannot have previously handled or regularly trained a dog that has earned a CD title from any registry in order to be eligible to enter or handle any dog in the Novice A class, nor may a dog be handled in this class by such person. No dog may be entered in both the Novice A and Novice B classes at any one trial. More than one dog may be shown by the handler provided the handler has not placed a CD title on a dog from any registry and the dog does not have a CD title from any registry. The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises, with the following exception. Each dog in this class must have a different handler during sits and downs when judged in the same group; this additional handler for the group exercises need not be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. A dog may continue to be shown in Novice A ~~for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that the requirements for a CD have been completed~~ until notified by the ASCA Business Office that the CD title has been earned; ~~After the 180-day grace period is over~~ the team must then move out of Novice A at the next show weekend at which they enter Novice. The team can move to Novice B and remain there for one (1) year after earning the CD title ~~until they receive a HIT, after the 180-day~~

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~~grace period~~, OR until they earn an Open leg (CDX or ODX), whichever comes first. The team may move to Novice C at any time after earning the CD title, where they may remain indefinitely. Failure to move out of Novice A will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. earned beyond the grace period. Dogs may not compete in both Novice A and Open at the same trial.

### Section 3.2 Novice B Class

The Novice B class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) month of age that do not qualify for Novice A. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person (this includes persons that have never placed a CD on a dog from any registry). A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class, but each dog must have a separate handler for the group exercises when judged in the same group. No dog may be entered in both Novice A and Novice B classes at any one (1) trial. A dog that earns the CD title from the Novice B class can continue to be shown in Novice B for ~~180 days~~ one (1) year after earning the CD title, OR until they earn an Open leg (CDX or ODX), whichever comes first ~~following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that the requirements for a CD have been completed. After the 180-day grace period is over, the team may continue to compete in Novice B until they earn a qualifying score in Open OR receive HIT. If a Novice team earns HIT after the 180-day grace period has expired, they are required to move on to the next class for which they are eligible.~~ The team may move to Novice C at any time after earning the CD title, where they may remain indefinitely. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. which may be earned from the Novice B class beyond the grace period. Dogs may not compete in both Novice B and Open at the same trial.

### OB.23.03 ~~Blind Handler Assistance~~ Handlers with Disabilities (Revised 8/16/2023)

Approved by ASCA Board of Directors: August 27, 2023.

#### Current Wording:

#### 2.14 Handicapped Handlers

The Australian Shepherd Club of America strives to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in its events. As such, a judge may modify the judging requirements to accommodate a physically challenged handler.

Judges may modify the specific requirements of these Regulations to the extent necessary to permit physically challenged handlers to compete, provided such handlers can move about the ring without physical assistance or guidance from another person except for the Judge or Steward. Blind handlers may have a Steward assist them in individual and group exercises. The primary function of exhibiting the dog is the responsibility of the handler and not the assistant. A physically challenged handler may compete using a cane, crutch, wheelchair, or other mobility device.

Dogs handled by such handlers shall be required to perform all parts of all exercises as described in these Rules and Regulations and shall be penalized for failure to perform any part of an exercises.

#### New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

#### 2.14 ~~Handicapped~~ Handlers With Disabilities

The Australian Shepherd Club of America strives to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in its events. As such, a judge ~~may~~ shall modify the judging requirements to accommodate ~~a physically challenged handlers with disabilities.~~

Judges ~~may~~ shall modify the specific requirements of these Regulations to the extent necessary to permit physically challenged handlers to compete, provided such handlers can move about the ring without physical assistance or guidance from another person except for the Judge or Steward, with the following exception. ~~Legally blind h~~Handlers with a vision impairment who are substantially limited in seeing or in the major bodily function of using their eyes may have a Steward ~~assist them in~~ or an assistant of their choice position the handler before and/or after each exercise for both the individual and group exercises. Assistants may not coach or provide instruction, except as to where the handler should be positioned, and cannot carry toys or treats into the ring. In Beginner Novice, ~~legally blind~~ handlers with a vision impairment who are substantially limited in seeing or in the major bodily function of using their eyes may have a Steward or assistant of their

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choice read the signs aloud. The primary function of exhibiting the dog is the responsibility of the handler and not the assistant. A ~~physically-challenged~~ handler with a disability may compete using a cane, crutch, wheelchair, or other mobility device.

Dogs handled by ~~such~~ handlers with a disability shall be required to perform all parts of all exercises as described in these Rules and Regulations and shall be penalized for failure to perform any part of an exercise.

## Rally Program

### RA.23.05 Clarification of Course Map Distribution

Approved by ASCA Board of Directors: July 27, 2023.

Current Wording:

#### 2.22 General Procedures

##### 2.22.1 THE BASICS OF POSTING COURSE MAPS

- A. A set of course maps must be posted no later than fifteen minutes prior to the first walk through of the course. Course maps should be spaced a few feet apart to allow multiple people to view each course map at the same time.
- B. Course maps can be posted as early as the Judge wishes. A good time to post is when setup of the ring starts.
- C. If there are two trials in the day, the course maps for the second trial should not be posted or distributed until after conclusion of the first trial. A good time to post is when setup of the ring starts for the second trial.
- D. Many Judges make extra copies of course maps that handlers can take back to their setup without having to refer to the set that is posted. While exhibitors have come to expect to have course maps available, it is not required.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

#### 2.22 General Procedures

##### 2.22.1 THE BASICS OF POSTING AND DISTRIBUTING OF COURSE MAPS

~~A.~~ A set of course maps must be posted no later than fifteen minutes prior to the first walk through of the course. Course maps should be spaced a few feet apart to allow multiple people to view each course map at the same time.

If course maps will be distributed to exhibitors, they cannot be distributed earlier than the courses are posted.

Under no circumstances should the Trial Secretary or Judge share courses with any other person, exhibiting or not, prior to the time courses are made available to all exhibitors at the trial.

The only exception to this is a course building set (which stays at the table when not in use) will be made available to the course builder up to 60 minutes before the trial is to begin in order to help the trial run smoothly and efficiently.

~~B. Course maps can be posted as early as the Judge wishes. A good time to post is when setup of the ring starts.~~

~~C.~~ If there are two trials in the day, the course maps for the second trial should not be posted or distributed until after conclusion of the first trial. ~~A good time to post is when setup of the ring starts for the second trial.~~

D. Many Judges/clubs make extra copies of course maps that handlers can take back to their setup without having to refer to the set that is posted. While exhibitors have come to expect to have course maps available, it is not required.

Current Wording: None.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

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## Chapter 18 Trial Guidelines

### Section 18.1 Judges

#### 18.1.9 Distribution of Course Maps and Score Sheets

Judges may choose bring copies of course maps, sign change lists/pull sheets and score sheets with them or can choose to provide electronic copies of course maps, sign change lists/pull sheets and score sheets to the trial Secretary no more than 48 hours prior to the trial date to help the trial run smoothly and efficiently.

Exceptions to the time frame requirement for sending electronically may need to be made for judges traveling out of the country to judge, and for events occurring during the ASCA National Specialty show, including Pre-Trials.

If the Judge chooses not to send the course maps electronically, or bring exhibitor copies with them, they must provide at least three copies of each map for purposes of course building, posting, and to send into the business office with the results paperwork. The Judge will also need to bring with them enough score sheets for each level and a few extra for move-ups and/or Move-ups.

#### RA.23.06 Stay Exercises

Approved by ASCA Board of Directors: July 27, 2023.

##### Current Wording:

#### 1.18.4 TIES FOR HIT

In case of a tie between dogs eligible for any of the above awards, each Team shall perform the Novice course, including the stay exercise, on lead. The highest score shall determine the winner. If more than one Team receives the same score, the faster time shall determine the winner. The sit or down stay will be kept on the course for the run-off.

##### New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

#### 1.18.4 TIES FOR HIT

In case of a tie between dogs eligible for any of the above awards, each Team shall perform the Novice course, including the stay exercise, on lead. The highest score shall determine the winner. If more than one Team receives the same score, the faster time shall determine the winner. ~~The sit or down stay will be kept on the course for the run-off.~~

##### Current Wording:

#### 2.4 Judge's Directions

The Judge's instructions should be given to each handler in a clear and understandable manner, and in such a way that the work of the dog is not disturbed. Prior to starting each run, the Judge shall check to be sure the leash is properly placed for the Sit Stay or Down Stay exercise (if included), the timer is ready, and lastly, will ask the exhibitor "Are you ready?"

##### New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

#### 2.4 Judge's Directions

The Judge's instructions should be given to each handler in a clear and understandable manner, and in such a way that the work of the dog is not disturbed. Prior to starting each run, the Judge shall check to be sure the leash is properly placed for the ~~Sit Stay or Down~~ Stay exercise (if included), the timer is ready, and lastly, will ask the exhibitor "Are you ready?"

##### Current Wording:

#### 2.16 Use of Leash

All dogs shall be kept on leash except when in the Rally ring or exercise ring. Dogs must be brought into the ring and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards. The leash shall 30 be left on the Judge's table or other designated place for Advanced, Excellent, and

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Masters classes. The leash must be of fabric or leather and, for the Sit Stay or Down Stay station in the Novice class, the leash must be six feet in length.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

## **2.16 Use of Leash**

All dogs shall be kept on leash except when in the Rally ring or exercise ring. Dogs must be brought into the ring and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards. The leash shall be left on the Judge's table or other designated place for Advanced, Excellent, and Masters classes. The leash must be of fabric or leather and, for the ~~Sit Stay or Down~~ Stay station exercise in the Novice class, the leash must be six feet in length.

Current Wording:

## **2.23 Scoring and Minimum Penalties**

10-point deduction for each occurrence of the following:

6. Failure to complete the Sit/Stay or Down/Stay exercise (IP) when not starred, no retries allowed.

20-point deduction for occurrence of any of the following:

6. Failure to complete the Sit/Stay or Down/Stay exercise (IP) when starred, no retries allowed.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

## **2.23 Scoring and Minimum Penalties**

10-point deduction for each occurrence of the following:

6. Failure to complete the ~~Sit/Stay or Down/~~Stay exercise (IP) when not starred, no retries allowed.

20-point deduction for occurrence of any of the following:

6. Failure to complete the ~~Sit/Stay or Down/~~Stay exercise (IP) when starred, no retries allowed.

Current Wording:

## **3.5 Novice Exercises and Scores**

### **3.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Rally Novice A, B, and C courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of six Stationary exercises, and a minimum of three Novice only signs per course. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for Star stations, which will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. All Novice courses will require the Start/ Heeling and Conduct station and one Sit Stay or Down Stay station. Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

## **3.5 Novice Exercises and Scores**

### **3.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Rally Novice A, B, and C courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of six Stationary exercises, and a minimum of three Novice only signs per course. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for Star stations, which will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. All Novice courses will require the Start/ Heeling and Conduct station and one ~~Sit Stay or Down~~ Stay station exercise. Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

Current Wording:

## **4.5 Advanced Exercises and Scores**

### **4.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**



Rally Advanced A, B, and C courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Advanced level courses must also have the Start/Heeling and Conduct station and a minimum of four Advanced (not eligible for Novice) exercises. A Sit Stay or Down Stay exercise is optional at the Advanced level. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for the Star stations, which will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

## **4.5 Advanced Exercises and Scores**

### **4.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Rally Advanced A, B, and C courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Advanced level courses must also have the Start/Heeling and Conduct station and a minimum of four Advanced (not eligible for Novice) exercises. A ~~Sit Stay or Down~~ Stay exercise is optional at the Advanced level. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for the Star stations, which will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

Current Wording:

## **5.5 Excellent Exercises and Scores**

### **5.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Rally Excellent A, B, and C courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of eight Stationary exercises per class. Excellent level courses must also have the Start/Heeling and Conduct station and a minimum of four Excellent (not eligible for Novice or Advanced) and three Advanced (not eligible for Novice) exercises, not including the jump. A Sit Stay or Down Stay exercise is optional at the Excellent level. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for Star stations, which will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. Any other Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

## **5.5 Excellent Exercises and Scores**

### **5.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Rally Excellent A, B, and C courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of eight Stationary exercises per class. Excellent level courses must also have the Start/Heeling and Conduct station and a minimum of four Excellent (not eligible for Novice or Advanced) and three Advanced (not eligible for Novice) exercises, not including the jump. A ~~Sit Stay or Down~~ Stay exercise is optional at the Excellent level. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for Star stations, which will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. Any other Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

Current Wording:

## **6.5 Masters Exercises and Scores**

### **6.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Rally Masters courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of nine stationary exercises per class. Masters level courses must also have the Start/Heeling and Conduct station, the Sit/Stay or Down/Stay station, and a minimum of four Masters only and three Excellent (not eligible for Advanced or Novice) exercises, not including the jumps. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for Star stations that will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. Any other Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

## **6.5 Masters Exercises and Scores**

## 6.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Rally Masters courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of nine stationary exercises per class. Masters level courses must also have the Start/Heeling and Conduct station, ~~the Sit/Stay or Down/~~ a Stay ~~station~~ exercise, and a minimum of four Masters only and three Excellent (not eligible for Advanced or Novice) exercises, not including the jumps. Each sign will have a 10-point value except for Star stations that will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. Any other Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

Current Wording:

### 19.3.3 STATIONARY EXERCISES

D. The Sit Stay and Down Stay exercises do not count in the total number of stationary exercises on a course.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

### 19.3.3 STATIONARY EXERCISES

D. The ~~Sit Stay and Down~~ Stay exercises do not count in the total number of stationary exercises on a course.

Current Wording:

### 19.3.4 STAY EXERCISES

A Sit Stay or a Down Stay is required in Novice and Masters. They are allowed in Advanced and Excellent. The following distance requirements for the stays are below.

New Wording Effective June 1, 2024:

### 19.3.4 STAY EXERCISES

A ~~Sit Stay or a Down~~ Stay exercise is required in Novice and Masters. They are allowed in Advanced and Excellent. The following distance requirements for the stays are below.