

TRACKING PROGRAM RULES

June 2023



The Australian Shepherd Club of America
6091 E. State Hwy 21, Bryan, TX 77808

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These rules were last updated:

Date	Change	Related Motion
6/1/2023	1.18.1 During Hunting Season	TR.22.01

Shaded and ~~strikethrough~~ areas indicate rule changes with the **effective date** listed.

Tracking Documents on the ASCA Website:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Sample Premium | Conduct Evaluation of a Provisional Judge |
| Sample Judging Program | Application to Allow One Judge at a Tracking Trial |
| Sample Catalog | Temporary Crisis Judge (TCJ) Application |
| Sample Tracklayer Handout | Tracking Test Sanctioning Request Form |
| Sample Tracking Test in Progress Sign | Judge's Book Cover Sheet |
| Tracking Entry Form | Tracking Test Grid |
| Tracking Judge Qualification Form | Tracking Test Report |
| Beginning Tracking Judge/Examiner Qualification Form | Tracking Interest Profile |

Important Documents on the ASCA Website:

- [ASCA's Code of Ethics for Judges](#)
- [ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules & Incident Report Form](#)
- [ASCA's Conflict Resolution Protocol & Request Form](#)

The following contents are clickable links that will take you directly to that section.

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Chapter 1. General Regulations

1.1 Purpose of a Tracking Test

The purpose of a Tracking Test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind. Tracking, by nature, is a vigorous, noncompetitive outdoor sport. Tracking Tests demonstrate the willingness and enjoyment of the dog in its work and should always represent the best in sportsmanship and camaraderie by the people involved.

1.2 Host Affiliate Clubs

Only ASCA Affiliate Clubs, in good standing, may sanction and conduct ASCA Events. Only one type of event may be held in each state or area (in those states divided into areas). A "type of event" is defined as Conformation, Obedience, Stockdog Trial, Tracking, or Agility. An ASCA Affiliate Club may host more than one event per day, per state or area (for those states or regions divided by area).

California is divided into three areas: from the Mexican border north to the city of Ventura, from Ventura north to San Jose, from San Jose north to Oregon. Nevada is divided into two areas: from the southernmost border, North to Highway 6, North to the Oregon and Idaho borders.

Affiliate Club(s) in good standing with ASCA will have the exclusive right to schedule, sanction and conduct ASCA programs. No individuals, non-ASCA affiliated corporations or businesses shall realize any monetary profit, or any other benefit as a result of any connection with an ASCA Sanctioned Event. Normal event sponsorship or advertisement by any individuals, corporations or businesses shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule. Individuals, corporations or businesses that enter into agreements with an Affiliate Clubs to supply materials, services, facility rentals, livestock rentals or any other need required for the conduct of sanctioned events shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule.

The use of an Affiliate Club's Name for event purposes cannot be transferred. Each Host Affiliate Club, which holds a sanctioned event at least once in every two consecutive years, shall have first right to claim the corresponding dates or holiday weekend for its event to be held in the next succeeding two years. If the Affiliate Club having first right to the dates does not host a sanctioned event on that date in the following year, another Affiliate Club may use the pre-existing date for an event. The original Host Affiliate Club shall still have first right to the date on the second year following their original event. If they do not host a sanctioned event on that date in the second year, they lose the first right to the date.

The ASCA Business Office will hold paperwork from any other Affiliate Club wishing to use a pre-existing date until the Business Office has been notified that the Host Affiliate Club with the pre-existing date will not use the event date that year. If paperwork has to be held pending receipt of the notification from the Host Affiliate Club with the preexisting date, the Business Office will notify the second Affiliate Club within fourteen days upon receipt of the Sanctioning Request Form. To facilitate timely receipt of materials, Affiliate Clubs wishing to use a pre-existing date should contact the Host Affiliate Club and request notification be sent in writing to the Business Office stating the pre-existing date will not be used that year. If the Host Affiliate Club with the pre-existing date does not use that date on the second year following their original event, the first claim to that date will pass to a second Host Affiliate Club if there is one. If a date has not been previously claimed*, the Host Affiliate Club whose sanctioning is postmarked first shall be awarded the date.

*When determining when a Host Affiliate Club has a grand-fathered weekend, the Business Office will make the determination based on the date that the Saturday of the weekend falls.

ASCA Affiliate Club(s) shall not request sanctioning for any event to be held outside of their state/area in a state/area that is already served by at least one Affiliate Club. If a state/area is not served by an Affiliate Club, then an Affiliate Club from another State/area may sanction an event there on a first come basis.

If an Affiliate Club wishes to sanction an event at a site that is outside of their state/area, they must first secure written permission from all the Affiliate Club(s) in that state/area. This written permission shall be submitted to the Business Office with the Sanction Request before sanctioning can be granted.

If an Affiliate Club organizes in a state/area that formerly did not have an Affiliate Club, then the new Club shall have primary sanctioning authority. Out of state/area Affiliate Clubs must then follow the procedure as outlined in the previous two paragraphs.

Affiliate Clubs who sanction a Pre-National Event to be held in the state/area of the National Specialty Event are exempted from the provisions of this section.

1.3 Sanctioning Rules and Approval of the Judges' List

An Affiliate Club may offer a TD, and/or a TDU, and/or a TDX Test(s) (in any combination or all three tests) at any ASCA Tracking Trial provided the total number of tracks does not exceed the limit listed for the judges in these Regulations. At

any given Trial, there may be only one TD, and/or one TDU, and/or one TDX test. There may be more than one Trial per day (see [Appendix A](#)).

Any ASCA Tracking Trial must be sanctioned by ASCA. Affiliate Club(s) in good standing with ASCA will have the exclusive right to schedule, sanction and conduct Official ASCA Programs. All Australian Shepherds six months and older must have an ASCA Individual Registration Number to compete in an ASCA Sanctioned Event. This includes all areas of competition.

No dog may receive a Tracking Title, without an ASCA Individual Registration Number, or a QTracker Number from the ASCA Business Office. Photocopies of the Registration Papers or originals must be presented to the Tracking Test Secretary upon request, when entering any ASCA Sanctioned Event.

The results of all ASCA Tracking Trials will be officially recorded by ASCA, only if the event has been sanctioned by the Business Office.

The awards at any Affiliate Club Tracking Trial will be officially recorded by ASCA only if the "Sanction Grant" of the Business Office is published on the first page of the Premium stating that permission has been granted by ASCA for the Tracking Trial; and it is to be held under ASCA Rules and Regulations, i.e., sanctioned.

ASCA will NOT approve as Judge for any given Tracking Trial the following:

- A. The Tracking Test Secretary,
- B. The Tracking Test Chairperson, or
- C. Any approved Tracking Judge while suspended from the privileges of ASCA, the AKC, the CKC, the UKC, or the sponsoring member, the Host Affiliate Club.

1.3.1 THE SANCTION REQUEST

An ASCA Affiliate Club that meets the requirements of ASCA and wishes to hold a Tracking Trial, at which any Tracking Title may be awarded, must make an application to ASCA on the form provided for permission to hold such test(s). The Sanction Request must be sent to the ASCA Business Office and must be dated/ postmarked (hand canceled/legible) at least sixty days prior to the date or dates of the test(s). The Business Office will confirm or deny the requested date within fifteen days of receipt of paperwork.

An Affiliate Club must send a Tracking Trial Premium to the Business Office along with the Sanction Request. Any ASCA Affiliated Club requesting ASCA Sanctioning for any event(s) shall, when making application for said event(s), include any applicable county, state, country or any other bylaws, rules, rules of conduct or associated restrictions regarding dogs, their exhibition and the holding of said event(s) and shall include a list of such rules, bylaws or restrictions in the Tracking Trial Premium. Such rules, bylaws, restrictions, etc., shall be printed in English and in the language of the country where said event(s) will be held, listing all pertinent information.

The Sanction Request shall list:

- A. Date(s) and location(s) of the Tracking Trial.
- B. The Tracking Test Secretary's name, address, and phone number.
- C. The Tracking Test Chairperson's name, address, and phone number.
- D. All the Tracking Test(s) offered.
- E. The name(s), address(s), and assignment(s) of each Judge.

The Host Affiliate Club is responsible for seeing that all Official Test/Trial Forms are submitted. All Affiliate Clubs must send a Tracking Trial Premium to the Business Office along with the sanctioning forms. The Business Office will acknowledge receipt of the sanctioning paperwork, and approval of the premium.

A sanctioning fee shall be submitted to the Business Office with the Sanction Request, which will be supplied on request from the Business Office. The Affiliate Club shall pay a fee, the amount to be fixed and determined by the ASCA Board of Directors, for the privilege of holding such Trial under ASCA Rules. The Business Office will consider the same and notify the Affiliate Club of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected. If the Business Office disapproves the application the fee will be returned to the Host Affiliate Club.

1.3.2 THE SHOW COORDINATOR

The Show Coordinator must be an ASCA Member in good standing and appointed by the Host Affiliate Club. The Show Coordinator will be responsible for filing the Show/Trial/Test Sanction Request, along with appropriate fees, in a timely manner.

1.3.3 LATE SANCTIONING FEES

A Sanction Request received between forty-five to sixty days prior to an event will be accepted upon payment of a fine determined by the ASCA Business Office. A Sanction Request received by the Business Office less than forty-five days

prior to a sanctioned event(s) will not be accepted under any circumstances. An Affiliate Club submitting a delinquent Sanctioning Request three times will lose all late sanctioning privileges for a period of two years. It is recommended the Affiliate Club retain proof of mailing for all Sanction Requests.

The Business Office will not accept responsibility for a Sanction Request lost in the mail. All Sanction Requests sent after the sixty-day postmark deadline must be original forms (no faxes or e-mails) and must have all required signatures and fees.

If the Host Affiliate Club with the pre-existing dates postmarks their Sanctioning Request past the sixty-day deadline and it is not received forty-five days prior to the event, they will lose first right to this date for that year.

1.4 Sanctioned Tracking Trial

An Affiliate Club may be approved by the ASCA Business Office to hold a Sanctioned Tracking Trial. ASCA Sanctioning must be obtained by any Affiliate Club that holds any ASCA Tracking Test. All Sanctioned Tracking Trials shall be governed by all of these regulations.

An ASCA Tracking Trial shall not be held in conjunction with a Tracking Test of another canine titling organization, nor may a Tracking Test of another canine titling organization be sanctioned as an ASCA Tracking Test. Tracking Trials need not be limited to Australian Shepherds only, with the exception of a SPECIALTY; then, it shall be for ASCA Registered Australian Shepherds ONLY. Other breeds entered in Tracking Trials sanctioned by ASCA Affiliate Clubs must abide by ASCA Rules and Regulations.

A copy of this Rulebook must be available at any ASCA TD, TDU, or TDX test.

1.4.1 CHANGE OF TRACKING SITE

If it becomes necessary to change the physical site where a Tracking Trial is to be held, after the Sanction Request has been received by the ASCA Business Office, the Tracking Test Committee or the Show Coordinator shall obtain approval of the new site location from the Business Office.

If the site location change is made prior to twenty days before the date of the Tracking Trial, notice of the change must be sent to all prospective exhibitors. The Host Affiliate Club will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place at the original Tracking Test site informing exhibitors of the change in location. The notice must state "specific directions" to the new site.

1.5 The Tracking Trial Premium

A copy of the premium must be sent to the ASCA Business Office with the Sanction Request. A copy of the premium is to be sent to the Judge(s) who are to officiate and should be distributed and/or posted to prospective exhibitors in advance of the proposed test(s) date. If any Tracking Test is to be held within seven days before or after an Affiliate Club's Show or Obedience Trial, it may be announced in the premium for the show or trial, and the Tracking Test(s) Entries may be included in the Show or Obedience Trial Catalog, otherwise, a separate premium must be prepared.

The Tracking Trial Premium shall include the following information:

1. The proposed date(s).
2. A description of the ground cover and topography of the test site(s), (i.e., hay, mowed lawn, sagebrush, sand, etc.).
3. A listing of the type and number of all tests offered, (i.e., TD, TDU, and/or TDX).
4. A listing of entry fees, description of any discounts or price reductions offered, and the refund policy for withdrawals.
5. The date and time for the close of entries.
6. The exact time, location of the "Draw for Entry to the Test(s)", and a notice that this draw is open to the public.
7. The specific draw order, the "Draw for Entry to the Test", for each test to be held as written in these rules and regulations.
8. A description of ribbons, prizes, and awards to be offered, if any.
9. The names of the Judges who are to officiate, and their assignments as approved by the ASCA Business Office.
10. Any applicable county, state, country or any other bylaws, rules of conduct or associated restrictions regarding dogs, their exhibition and the holding of said event(s) and shall include a list of such rules, bylaws or restrictions must be listed in the premium. Such rules, restrictions, bylaws, etc., shall be printed in English and the language of the country where said event(s) will be held, listing all pertinent information.
11. A description of any restrictions for entry into the test(s).
12. The statement, "This Tracking Trial will be held under ASCA Tracking Rules and Regulations." must be printed on the first page of the premium."
13. The name, address, and phone number of the veterinarian(s) on call, and the name, and phone number/s, of the nearest hospital and/or emergency clinic.

14. If the Tracking Trial is to be more than a one-day event, a schedule of the test(s) to be judged each day shall be given.
15. A mappable street address of the location of the test(s) with specific driving directions to the site from various directions; and if available, the exact, mappable, location of where the "Draw for Tracks" will be held.
16. The name, phone number, and email address of the Tracking Test Secretary and Tracking Test Chairperson. (The names of the other Tracking Test Committee members may also be listed.)
17. The name, street address, phone number, and email address of the person who is to receive entries if other than the Tracking Test Secretary.
18. Include, or state where to find, an ASCA Tracking Test Entry Form, and a copy of the current Service Membership and ASCA QTracker Number Application and current Tracking Rulebook.
19. A statement whether bitches in season will, or will not, be allowed to run.
20. Premiums published prior to approval by the ASCA Business Office should have the words, "Sanction Pending" on the cover.
21. Specific requirements pertaining to this Tracking Trial such as: "dogs must be on leash at all times".
22. If it is posted in the Tracking Trial Premium, the Host Affiliate Club may allow those dogs that do not have either an ASCA Registration or ASCA QTracker Number, to enter the Sanctioned Tracking Test(s) to earn ASCA Tracking Title(s) if the handler applies for an ASCA QTracker Number concurrently with the submission of their entry.
23. The premium may include other pertinent information. **Example:** accommodations that allow dogs; maps, and hospitality.

1.5.1 CLOSING OF ENTRIES

If a Tracking Test is announced in a Show or Trial Premium, the Show or Trial Closing Date shall apply to Tracking Entries. Otherwise, the closing date for Tracking Test Entries shall be at least ten days prior to the Tracking Test.

1.6 Judging Programs

The Host Affiliate Club shall prepare a Judging Program containing all entries, numbered in the order that they were drawn at the "Draw for Tracking Test Entry," or in the order received when the total entry falls short of the advertised limits. The Judging Program shall also include the scheduled time of the "Draw for the Run Order of Tracks," and directions to the drawing location. A copy of the Judging Program shall be mailed to the owner of each entered dog, to each Judge and to the ASCA Business Office no less than seven days prior to the Test. This Judging Program shall be printed in the Draw Catalog. No judging shall occur at any Tracking Test prior to the time specified in the Judging Program.

1.7 Draw Catalog

The Host Affiliate Club must provide, at the Tracking Test, a Draw Catalog or a typewritten listing of each Entered Dog and each Alternate Dog. The Draw Catalog, or listing, must contain all of the identifying information that normally appears in a Dog Show Catalog. The identifying information must include the name of the certifying Judge and the date of the Judge's Certification for every dog whose entry states that it is certified prior to entry in the Tracking Test. If a dog is not certified or does not have an equivalent title, the Catalog shall say, "Not Certified". The presence of a veterinarian shall not be required at a Tracking Trial.

If the Draw Catalog and/or the Judge's Book of any Tracking Trial shall, by error or mistake, set forth any information contrary to the information which appears on the entry form of the dog for that Tracking Test, the Tracking Test Committees and/or the Tracking Test Secretary, upon request of the owner or handler of said dog prior to the judging, shall correct the entry in the Judge's Books and in the marked Draw Catalog to be sent to the ASCA Business Office, and said dog may run in the Tracking Test.

All prizes offered in the Premium of a Tracking Trial shall be printed in the Draw Catalog, and no change shall be printed in the Draw Catalog, and no change shall be made in the descriptions or conditions of these prizes, nor shall any prize or trophy be added that was not offered in the Premium or in the separate list of prizes.

1.8 Tracking Test Chairperson and Tracking Test Committee

An Affiliate Club holding a Sanctioned Tracking Trial must appoint: a Tracking Test Chairperson, a Tracking Test Secretary who shall be a full member of ASCA in good standing (who may also act as Chairperson), and a Tracking Test Committee.

Whenever a Tracking Trial is announced in the premium of an Affiliate Club's Show or Obedience Trial, the Affiliate Club shall appoint a Tracking Test Secretary, Chairperson, and a Tracking Committee of the Tracking Rules and Regulations. This Tracking Committee shall appoint one person to receive all the entries for the Tracking Trial other than the person designated to receive the Show or Obedience Trial entries.

The Tracking Test Committee shall be composed of at least three members of the Host Affiliate Club, which may include the Tracking Test Chairperson and Tracking Test Secretary. A Tracking Test Committee shall consist of the Tracking Test Secretary and Club's Officers present at the Tracking Test unless otherwise stated in the premium.

Tracking Test Committees shall be held responsible for the enforcement of all rules and regulations relating to Tracking Trials and the exhibiting of dogs and must provide themselves with a copy of the ASCA Tracking Rules and Regulations and a copy of the Show Rules. The Tracking Test Committee will be held responsible for the maintenance of clean and orderly conditions throughout the precincts of the judging area during all hours when dogs are permitted to be present.

The Tracking Test Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog or person from its show for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for doing so with ASCA Business Office, within seven days of the close of the Tracking Trial. This Tracking Test Committee shall exercise all authority vested in a Show Committee and shall have sole jurisdiction over all matters that may properly come before it. The Tracking Test Committee shall investigate any reports of abuse of dogs on the grounds or premises of any Tracking Test. The Tracking Test Committee shall deal with any person who conducts themselves in such manner or in any other matter prejudicial to the best interest of the sport. The offender shall be dealt with promptly during the Tracking Trial, if possible, after they have been notified of the specific charges against them and has been given an opportunity to be heard in their own defense, in accordance with the ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol. The Tracking Test Committee shall be responsible for compliance of [Section 1.15](#) of these Show Regulations and the ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol.

At least three members of the Tracking Test Committee shall be present throughout the Tracking Trial. The Tracking Test Secretary must be on the Tracking Trial Grounds for the entire Tracking Test. Tracking Test Secretaries and Tracking Test Chairpersons shall be eligible to enter any Tracking Test where they act in these official capacities. Any person acting in the capacity of a Tracking Test Secretary, or persons responsible for contacting and/or hiring Judges, shall be eligible to exhibit or act as agent or handler at the Tracking Trial. If entered in the Test as a handler, the Tracking Test Secretaries and Tracking Test shall notify the judges and track layers and cross-track layers and any other person participating in mapping or laying of tracks that they are entered as a handler. If entered in the Test, Tracking Test Secretaries and Tracking Test Chairpersons must remove themselves immediately from any discussions of plotting or track laying on both the plotting day and test day or during the planning of the test. Any person acting in the capacity of Judge at a Tracking Test shall not exhibit or act as agent or handler at the Tracking Trial.

1.9 Entries

Every dog must be entered on an Official ASCA Entry Form in the name of the person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed. The right to exhibit a dog cannot be transferred. A Registered Dog which has been acquired by some person other than the owner, as recorded with ASCA, must be entered in the name of its new owner at any Tracking Trial for which entries close after the date upon which the dog was acquired, and Application for Transfer of Ownership must be sent to the ASCA Business Office by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the Tracking Trial.

The new owner must state on the entry form that the transfer application has been mailed to ASCA or will be mailed within the specified time. If there is any unavoidable delay in obtaining the completed application required to record the transfer, ASCA may grant a reasonable extension of time, provided the new owner notifies the Business Office by mail within seven days after the Tracking Trial, of the reason for the delay. If an entry is made by a duly authorized agent of the owner, the name of the actual owner must be shown on the entry form. Dogs must be entered under their ASCA Registered Names. Owners are responsible for errors in entry forms regardless of who may make such errors.

A Host Affiliate Club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium, or in any way discriminate between exhibitors or entrants. Allowances for refunds on cancellations will be left to the discretion of the Host Affiliate Club.

1.9.1 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Tracking Tests shall be for dogs not less than six months of age and otherwise eligible for a particular Tracking Test.

1.9.2 CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY

At a Tracking Trial, a dog may be entered in only one Tracking Test. No dog may be entered more than once in any Tracking Test. No entry shall be made, and no entry shall be accepted by a Tracking Test Secretary that specifies any condition as to its acceptance.

No entry may be changed or cancelled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received by the Tracking Test Secretary prior to the closing date for entries, except that a dog may be transferred from their current Tracking Test to another Tracking Test if the dog has completed the title for the Tracking Test they are entered, and if there is an available slot in another Tracking Test in which the entrant is qualified to run.

No dog wrongly entered in a Tracking Test may be transferred to another Tracking Test. Owners are responsible for errors in entry forms regardless of who may make such errors. Allowances for refunds on cancellations will be left to the

discretion of the Host Affiliate Club. No entry shall be accepted for any disqualified dog or from any person who is disqualified from all ASCA programs or is not in good standing with ASCA or the Host Affiliate Club on the day of the close of entries. Before accepting entries, a list of disqualified dogs and persons not in good standing will be provided by the ASCA Business Office as part of any Tracking Trial Sanctioning Paperwork. No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless that name has been registered with ASCA.

An "exhibitor" or "entrant" is defined as the individual or, if a partnership, all the members of the partnership exhibiting or entering in a dog show. In the case of such an entry by a partnership every member of the partnership shall be in good standing with ASCA before the entry will be accepted. In case of any infraction of these rules all the partners shall be held equally responsible. Every dog entered and present at a Tracking Trial must compete in the Test for which it is entered or becomes eligible unless it has been withdrawn, excused, dismissed, disqualified or found to be ineligible under the rules.

1.10 Dogs that May Not Compete

No dog belonging wholly or in part to an officiating Judge or to any member of such a person's immediate family or household shall be entered in any ASCA Tracking Trial nor may any of these officials handle or act as agent for any dog entered at any ASCA Tracking Test at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate. The Official Veterinarian shall not exhibit or act as agent or handler at the Tracking Trial, and dogs owned wholly or in part shall not be eligible to be entered at that Tracking Test.

No Judge, or any person residing in the same household with a Judge, shall exhibit or act as agent or handler for any dog at any ASCA Tracking Trial at which they are officiating as Judge and dogs owned wholly or in part by such Judge and any member of their household shall be ineligible to be entered at such event. Subject to the foregoing, members of a Judge's immediate family who no longer reside in the same household may enter or handle a dog at a Tracking Test if the Judge is not officiating over any competition for which the dog is entered or may become eligible.

No dog shall be entered or shown under a Judge at any Tracking Test if the dog has been owned, sold, or held under lease within one year prior to the date of the test, by the officiating Judge or by any member of their immediate family or household, and no such dog shall be eligible to compete.

1.10.1 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

No dog shall be eligible to compete at any Tracking Trial, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any Tracking Test, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a Tracking Test shall immediately be removed, if it:

1. Shows clinical symptoms of canine influenza, distemper, infectious hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease, or
2. Has been confirmed by a veterinarian to have a communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the show, or
3. Has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the show in a household in which there were veterinarian-confirmed cases of canine influenza, distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease.

The ASCA Board of Directors reserves the right to call a quarantine if the situation warrants. The length and details of such quarantine will vary depending on the specific disease and the gravity of the situation.

Protocol for Communicable Disease Notification:

1. In the event that a Host Affiliate Club is made aware of a dog exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease, the Affiliate will in turn investigate, following the steps outlined in the Conflict Resolution Protocol, observe the dog, and, if warranted, remove the dog. Dogs that within thirty days prior to the show have traveled or have been kenneled with a dog exhibiting symptoms may also be removed. In the case of removal of a dog(s), the Affiliate shall immediately report it to the ASCA Board via the Executive Secretary by emailing the Affiliate Health and Safety Report. The Affiliate shall provide a copy of the report to the owner of the dog(s).
2. Owners who believe that their dogs have contracted a communicable disease while at an ASCA event or have attended an ASCA event within the incubation period of a communicable disease should report the illness to the ASCA Board via the Executive Secretary and submitting the Owner's Health and Safety Report form. All reports will be kept confidential.
3. Reports received by the ASCA Board will be investigated by an assigned Director, per normal Board procedure, to assess the extent of the communicable disease risk. The assigned Director will investigate and will report findings and a recommendation to the Board within three working days.
4. In instances of reported cases of communicable disease during or following the ASCA National Specialty, ASCA will send out a notice to the membership through its official means of communication, notifying members of the report of the disease and providing educational information concerning the disease in question. Affiliate clubs

scheduling events within thirty days of the ASCA National Specialty should be aware of possible financial losses if a quarantine is necessary.

5. The owner of a dog that has been in contact with another dog which has been confirmed by a veterinarian to have a Communicable Disease will be required to provide Veterinarian documentation to the ASCA Affiliate or the ASCA National Specialty Committee in order to receive an entry refund. This rule will be in force prior to or after the close of entries.

1.10.2 DISQUALIFICATION AND INELIGIBILITY

A dog that is blind or that has been changed in appearance by artificial means (except for such changes as are customarily approved for its breed) may not compete in any Tracking Test and must be disqualified. Blind means without useful vision.

A dog will NOT be considered to have been changed by artificial means because it has been spayed or neutered, or because it has had the removal of dewclaws and/or docking of tail. Spayed bitches, castrated dogs, monorchid or cryptorchid males, and dogs that have faults which would disqualify them under the standards for their breeds may compete in any Tracking Test if otherwise eligible under these regulations.

When a Judge finds any disqualifying conditions in any dog he is judging, he shall disqualify the dog by marking their Judge's Book "Disqualified" and stating the reason. They shall not obtain the opinion of a veterinarian. The Judge must disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person or dog. They shall mark the dog "Disqualified" or "Excused" and state the reason in their Judge's Book and shall give the Show or Tracking Test Secretary a brief report to the dog's actions which shall be submitted to ASCA with the [Report of the Tracking Trial](#). A dog so excused shall not be counted as having competed. When a dog has been disqualified under this rule, Tracking Awards earned by that dog at a Tracking Test shall be cancelled by ASCA, and the dog may not again be tested unless and until, following application by the owner to ASCA, the owner has received official notification from ASCA that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated.

A dog that is lame at any Tracking Test may not compete and shall not be marked as "Passed" in any Tracking Test in which it was determined to be lame. It shall be the Judge's responsibility to determine whether a dog is lame. They shall not obtain the opinion of a veterinarian. If, in the Judge's opinion, a dog is lame, they shall mark their Judge's Book "Excused-lame."

No dog shall be eligible to compete in any Tracking Test if it is taped or bandaged in any way or if it has anything attached to it for medical or corrective purposes. Such a dog must be immediately excused and under no circumstances may it be returned later for judging after the tape, bandage or attachment has been removed. However, if the dog has anything attached to it for protection or adornment, such a dog may, at the Judge's sole discretion, be judged at a later time if the offending condition has been corrected.

A Tracking Judge is not required to be familiar with the breed standards nor should they scrutinize each dog as in Dog Show judging but shall be alert for conditions which may require disqualification or exclusion under this section.

1.11 No Added Requirements

No Judge shall require any dog or handler to do anything nor penalize a dog or handler for failing to do anything that is not required by these Regulations.

1.12 Boundaries of the Tracking Trial Grounds

The limits are the boundaries of any Tracking Test grounds. Premises constitute a larger area, its boundaries not well defined. It consists of the land, buildings and all parking areas adjacent to and a continuation of any Tracking Test grounds where that Tracking Test is being held, whether held separately or in conjunction with a Dog Show, Obedience Trial, Agility Trial, or Stockdog Trial. Any area inside the limits is on the premises but an area does not have to be within the limits to be considered within the premises.

1.13 Training on the Grounds of the Tracking Trial

There shall be no practice tracks on the grounds or premises at any Sanctioned Tracking Trial site.

1.14 Abuse of Dogs

The Tracking Test Committee shall investigate any reports of abuse of dogs or severe disciplining of dogs on the grounds or premises of any Tracking Test. Physical or verbal discipline of dogs shall not be permitted except to a reasonable extent in the case of an attack on a person or another dog. Any person who conducts themselves in such manner shall be dealt with promptly in accordance with the ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol. The Tracking Test Committee shall be responsible for compliance with this section and shall investigate any reports of infractions.

1.15 Code of Personal Conduct

According to ASCA's By-Laws, one of the objectives and purposes of the Club is to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Australian Shepherd as a purebred dog and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, working and obedience trials, tracking tests/trials and at any other event where Australian Shepherds participate. Contestants, event workers, judges, and visitors are expected to maintain a family-oriented, sportsmanlike atmosphere. Judges and workers are expected to exhibit professionalism and courtesy. Competitors are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level of sportsmanship.

1.15.1 PERSONAL CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP AT ASCA EVENTS

ASCA has the right to reprimand or suspend its members, contestants, judges, helpers, and officials, from any or all privileges of ASCA for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Australian Shepherd, ASCA events or ASCA. ASCA has the right to remove from its show grounds any visitors who violate its code of conduct. Everyone at an ASCA event shall maintain the highest level of sportsmanship and are to conduct themselves accordingly. Foul/ abusive language, yelling at exhibitors or judges, disorderly conduct, and/or poor sportsmanship will not be allowed and will be disciplined.

Poor Sportsmanship is grounds for discipline. This includes purposeful harassment and bullying. If poor conduct occurs, an Affiliate or the ASCA Board of Directors may take direct action, even if no formal request for conflict resolution is filed. If a representative of the Affiliate (Show Secretary, President, other officer, etc.) witnesses improper conduct, the Affiliate should remove the disruptive individual(s) from the event grounds for the entire show/trial weekend. Any other person observing poor sportsmanship should file a Request for Conflict Resolution, making the behavior in question subject to the ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol.

The presiding Judge/Judges is/are responsible for enforcing the preceding within the ring/trial arena. The Event Committee is responsible for enforcing the preceding outside the ring/trial arena and within the Show Grounds. For enforcement, the following definitions apply:

Boundaries of Ring/Trial Arena and Show Grounds:

1. RING/TRIAL ARENA: The ring/trial arena is the bounded area in which judging of an event occurs and over which the Judge has authority. The boundary is defined by physical barriers plus a buffer zone extending ten feet from such physical barriers.
2. SHOW GROUNDS: The Show Grounds are the boundaries of the grounds on which ASCA events are held. They include, but are not limited to, all areas outside the ring/trial arena (including the buffer zone) set aside to support the conduct of the event.

1.16 Risk

The owner or agent entering a dog in a Tracking Trial does so at their own risk and agrees to abide by all ASCA Rules and Regulations.

1.17 Compliance with Regulations and Standards

In accordance with the Acknowledgement Agreement Signature on the entry form, the handler of each dog and the person signing each entry form must be familiar with the Tracking Regulations applicable to the Tracking Test in which the dog is entered.

1.18 Identification

No bandages, club jackets, coats with kennel names thereon or ribbon prizes shall be worn or displayed, and no other visible means of identification may be used by an individual while under judgment with a dog in any Tracking Test(s).

1.18.1 ~~DURING HUNTING SEASON~~ PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

~~With the approval of the Judges, dogs may wear an unmarked hunting vest during Hunting Season.~~

Dogs may wear protective coats and/or footwear. If worn, the coat, tracking harness, and footwear must be put on in the presence of both judges. **Effective June 1, 2023.**

1.19 Duration of Test

In the event of an unforeseen emergency the Tracking Test Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Judges, may extend the duration of a Tracking Trial by one day or more, within a fifteen-day period after the original date, provided that the change of date is satisfactory to the handlers and owners of entered dogs. If a satisfactory date cannot be agreed upon, the Tracking Trial is then canceled.

1.20 Ribbons, Prizes and Awards

If ribbons or prizes are offered at any Tracking Trial, they shall be awarded only to dogs which pass the Test(s).

Such ribbons or rosettes shall be dark green, at least two inches wide, approximately eight inches long, and shall bear on their face the words "Tracking Test or Trial," and the name of the Host Club. The ASCA logo may be used in awards offered by an ASCA Affiliate hosting a Sanctioned Tracking Trial.

If an ineligible dog has been entered in any Tracking Test, or if the name of the owner given on the entry form is not that of the person or person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, or if shown in a Tracking Test for which it has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid or unacceptable by ASCA under these rules, all resulting awards shall be cancelled by ASCA.

If the award of a dog shall be cancelled by ASCA, the owner of the dog shall return all ribbons and prizes to the Host Club within ten days of receipt of the notice of the cancellation from ASCA. The Host Club shall in each instance of failure to comply with this rule notify forthwith ASCA of such failure and ASCA upon receipt of such notice shall suspend the exhibitor so in default from all privileges of ASCA and notify the exhibitor so in default that it has done so. Said suspension shall continue until ASCA is notified that restitution has been made.

1.21 Draw for Test Entries and Alternates List

Entries for any Tracking Test shall be accepted until the Official Closing Date and Time even though the advertised limit has been reached. A random drawing of all entries, "the Draw for Test Entries", will be held within forty-eight hours after the closing date and time to determine which dogs will participate in the Test. If the advertised limit is not reached, a drawing is optional.

Provided it is so announced in the premium, when there is more than one type of Test offered at any Tracking Trial, if the limits for entries is not reached in one Test and the limit for entries is exceeded in another Test, the number of tracks may be exchanged up to a maximum total of twelve TD's, twelve TDU's, or six TDX's. The "Draw for Test Entries" shall be held and is open to all interested persons. The results of the "Draw for Entries" shall be available to the people present at this Draw for Entries. Entries will be drawn by the Tracking Test Secretary on the date, hour, and location specified for such in the premium. Such a place need not be identical to the locations where entries are received. In conducting the "Draw for Entries", the Tracking Test Secretary shall avoid any method that raises any questions as to its randomness and impartiality.

1.21.1 THE TD "DRAW FOR TEST ENTRIES"

The TD "Draw for Test Entries" shall be at random from all Entries received, except that for a Tracking Dog (TD) Test, priority in the "Draw for Test Entries" shall be given in the following order (having or not having one or more TDX's and/or UTDX's shall not affect a dog's order of draw for a TD or TDU test):

1. To all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds who have not yet earned a TD-3 or TDU-3 or a combination of TD's and TDU's that equal three but with certifications or an equivalent title.
2. To all dogs with ASCA QTracker Numbers who have not yet earned a TD-3 or TDU-3 or a combination of TD's and TDU's that equal three but with certifications or an equivalent title.
3. To ASCA registered Australian Shepherds with three or more TD/TDU titles.
4. To dogs with ASCA QTracker Numbers with three or more TD/TDU titles.
5. To a non-titled ASCA registered Australian Shepherd without a certification or equivalent title.
6. To a non-titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number without a certification or equivalent title.

When the advertised limit of entries has been drawn, all remaining entries, subject to the same preferences set forth in the preceding paragraph, shall be drawn for a position on the Alternate List.

Note: *TD and TDU Certifications may be used to enter either test. These priorities for the "Draw for Entries" order shall be published in premium of the Tracking Dog (TD) Test.

1.21.2 THE TDU "DRAW FOR TEST ENTRIES"

The TDU "Draw for Test Entry(s)" shall be at random from all entries received, except that for a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, priority in the draw for test entry shall be given in the following order (having or not having one or more TDX's and/or UTDX's shall not affect a dog's order of draw for a TD or TDU test):

1. To all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds who have not yet earned a TD-3 or TDU-3 or a combination of TD's and TDU's that equal three but with certifications or an equivalent title.
2. To all dogs with ASCA QTracker Numbers who have not yet earned a TD-3 or TDU-3 or a combination of TD's and TDU's that equal three but with certifications or an equivalent title.
3. To all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds with TDU-3, TD-3, or TDU/TD-3 titles.
4. To all dogs with ASCA QTracker Numbers with TDU-3, TD-3, or TDU/TD-3 titles.

5. To a non-titled ASCA registered Australian Shepherd without a certification or equivalent title.
6. To a non-titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number without a certification or equivalent title.

When the advertised limit of entries has been drawn, all remaining entries, subject to the same preferences set forth in the preceding paragraph, shall be drawn for a position on the Alternate List. **Note:** *TD and TDU Certifications may be used to enter either test. These priorities for the “Draw for Entry(s)” order shall be published in the premium for the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test.

1.21.3 THE TDX OR UTDX “DRAW FOR TEST ENTRIES”

The TDX or UTDX “Draw for Test Entries” shall be at random from all entries received, except that for a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) or Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) tests, priority in the “Draw for Test Entries” shall be given in the following order:

1. To all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds that do not yet have two TDX’s or two UTDX’s or a TDX and a UTDX.
2. To all dogs with ASCA QTracker Numbers that do not yet have two TDX’s or two UTDX’s or a TDX and a UTDX.
3. To all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds with TDX-2 or UTDX-2 titles or MT titles.
4. To all dogs with ASCA QTracker Numbers, with TDX-2 or UTDX-2 titles or MT titles.

When the advertised limit of entries has been drawn, all remaining entries, subject to the same preferences set forth in the preceding paragraph, shall be drawn for a position on the Alternate List. These priorities for the “Draw for Entry Order” shall be published in the premium for the Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.

1.21.4 VERSATILITY COMPETITION AND THE “DRAW FOR TEST ENTRIES”

When a Versatility Competition is offered in conjunction with a Tracking Trial the “Draw for Test Entries” shall be given in the following order:

Priority draw order for TD/TDU:

1. To an untitled (in Tracking) ASCA registered Australian Shepherd with a TD/TDU certification or equivalent title.
2. To a titled (in Tracking) ASCA registered Australian Shepherd who is entered in the Versatility Competition.
3. To an untitled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number with a TD/TDU certification or equivalent title.
4. To a TD/TDU or TDX/UTDX titled ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd.
5. To a TD/TDU or TDX/UTDX titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number.
6. To a non-titled ASCA registered Australian Shepherd without a certification or equivalent title.
7. To a non-titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number without a certification or equivalent title.

Priority draw order for TDX/UTDX:

1. To an ASCA registered TD/TDU titled Australian Shepherd, not previously titled in TDX/UTDX.
2. To a TDX titled ASCA registered Australian Shepherd who is entered in Versatility Competition.
3. To a TD/TDU titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number, not previously titled in TDX.
4. To an ASCA registered Australian Shepherd, titled through TDX-1/UTDX-1 but not entered in Versatility Competition.
5. To a dog with an ASCA QTracker Number, titled through TDX-1/UTDX-1 but not entered in Versatility Competition.
6. To an Australian Shepherd, titled through TDX2/UTDX2 or MT but not entered in Versatility Competition.
7. To a dog with an ASCA QTracker Number, titled through TDX-2/UTDX-2 or MT but not entered in Versatility Competition.

When the advertised limit of entries has been drawn, all remaining entries, subject to the same preferences set forth in the preceding paragraph, shall be drawn for a position on the Alternate List.

When a Tracking Trial is held in conjunction with an ASCA National Specialty Show, the draw priorities for TD/TDU entry and TDX/UTDX entry shall be listed as follows:

Priority for draw order for TD/TDU test:

1. Aussies that are untitled in Tracking, with a certification or an equivalent title.
2. TD/TDU and TDX/UTDX-titled Aussies entered in Most Versatile Aussie competition.
3. Aussies titled through TD/TDU-2 but not entered in Most Versatile Aussie Competition.
4. Aussies who are uncertified.

Priority for draw order for TDX/UTDX test:

1. TD/TDU titled Aussies not previously titled in TDX or UTDX.
2. TDX or UTDX titled Aussies who are entered in Most Versatile Aussie competition.

3. Aussies who have previously titled through TDX-1 or UTDX-1.
4. Aussies with TDX-2 or UTDX-2 or MT titles.

These priorities for the “Draw for Test Entries” shall be published in the Premium for the ASCA National Specialty Show Tracking Trial.

1.21.5 TEST WORKER OPTION

A club may set aside tracks for test workers from previous tests, as defined and identified by the test giving club. This information and the number of tracks to be set aside must be published in the premium list. Entries from workers are to be drawn first, up to the limits shown in the table below. Once the tracks set aside for workers are filled, any remaining test worker entries will be added to the non-worker entries for the draw of the remaining tracks. There will be no separate alternate list for test workers only. A test worker may not benefit from a track set aside at a test in which they are working. Deviations from the table are not permitted for any test.

Total # of Test Tracks Offered	# of Worker Tracks Allowed
1-2	0
3-5	1
6-8	2
9-11	3
12 or more	4

1.22 Informing Entrants and Alternates of the “Draw for Test Entries”

Following the “Draw for Test Entries,” the Tracking Test Secretary shall promptly contact all entrants and advise them of the outcome. Alternates shall be given the option to accept or decline being placed on the Alternate List. Those who accept shall be placed on the Alternate List in the order in which they were drawn. Those who opt to decline shall have their entry fees, and any Certification, returned after the Tracking Test Secretary has completed the Tracking Trial, within seven days of the Test. Any other conditions under which the entry fees are returned to entrants or alternates shall be so stated in the premium.

The complete list of alternates, whether they accepted or declined, is to be included with the Tracking Test Report which is sent to the ASCA Business Office following the Tracking Trial.

1.23 Temporary Crisis Judge

1.23.1 ACCEPTANCE AS A TEMPORARY CRISIS JUDGE

If a temporary shortage of Judges occurs due to any type of natural disaster, war, disease, travel restrictions, etc., a Temporary Crisis Judge(s) may be used when holding ASCA Tracking Tests. A description of the crisis must be submitted to the ASCA Tracking Committee when submitting the sanctioning paperwork.

If the local Tracking Committee cannot hire ASCA approved tracking judge(s) due to crisis situations, they may then ask to have a person approved as a Temporary Crisis Judge(s) for their tests. The Temporary Crisis Judge must fill out an application (see the [ASCA Website](#)) The ASCA Tracking Committee may approve a temporary crisis judge (TCJ) based on their experience in tracking, titles earned, experience laying tracks and working at tests. Tracking Committees may request to host a test with only one judge if circumstances prevent them from hiring a second judge (this includes TDX and UTDX tests).

The local tracking Secretary will submit the Temporary Crisis Judge (TCJ) application with sanctioning paperwork. Temporary crisis judges must carry a copy of the current rule book with them to their assignment. The rules may be electronic (downloaded to a phone or tablet) or paper copy. The rules may not be on the internet (cloud based) since often tracking tests are held in areas with poor internet connectivity.

1.24 Judging Assignments

ASCA Judges and other persons whose qualifications meet the approval of ASCA may be selected for judging a Tracking Trial. Two Judges must judge each dog (see [Section 1.28](#)). The maximum number of dogs that two Judges may test at a Tracking Dog (TD) Test or a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test in one day is twelve. The maximum number of dogs two Judges may test at a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test in one day is six. When TD (and/or TDU) and TDX are offered on the same day, the maximum of dogs that two Judges may test in one day is based on a substitution factor of two TD’s (or two TDU’s) for one TDX.

The Tracking Test Committee shall, in every instance, notify appointed Judges of their assignments and such notifications shall be given before the publication of the premium except in a situation as stated in the Conformation Rules and Regulations, Section 5.2h. ASCA will NOT approve as Judge for any given Tracking Trial the following:

- A. The Tracking Test Secretary.

- B. The Tracking Test Chairperson.
- C. Any approved Tracking Judge while suspended from the privileges of ASCA, the AKC, the CKC, the UKC, or the sponsoring member Affiliate Club.

If it becomes necessary to replace an advertised Judge before any Tracking Trial and no person on the ASCA Eligible Judge's List is available to take their place, the Tracking Test Committee may select as a substitute for the advertised Judge, a person who is qualified under Conformation Rules and Regulations, Section 7.1 and Section 7.2. A Tracking Test Committee, which shall be informed at any time prior to twenty days before the date of the Tracking Trial that an advertised Judge will not fulfill their engagement to judge, shall substitute a Judge in their place. A substitute Judge must be approved by the ASCA Business Office, and the Host Affiliate Club shall give notice of the name of the substitute Judge to all those who entered dogs in the Tracking Trial. All those who have entered dogs to be shown under the advertised Judge shall be permitted to withdraw their Entries at any time prior to the close of entries and the entry fees paid for entering such dogs shall be refunded.

Should a Tracking Test Committee be informed at any time less than twenty days before the date of the Tracking Trial that an advertised Judge will not fulfill their engagement to judge, it shall substitute a qualified Judge in their place and must attempt to obtain approval of the change from the Business Office. No notice need be sent to those exhibitors who have entered dogs under the advertised Judge. The Tracking Test Committee will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place within the Show grounds if the Tracking Trial is held in conjunction with a Specialty, as soon after the Show opens as is practical, informing exhibitors of the change in Judges.

In case an advertised Judge shall have judged part of a Tracking Trial and then finds it impossible to finish, a substitute Judge shall be selected by the Tracking Committee and in that event the awards made by the regular Judge shall stand, and their substitute shall judge only the remaining entries. No dogs entered under the regularly selected Judge shall be withheld from competition. A substitute Judge shall finish the judging of the dog/handler team they are judging if they have begun to judge before the advertised Judge arrives at the Tracking Trial. In the event that one of the Judges is injured or otherwise unable to continue the judging of a Tracking Test, the Tracking Test Secretary shall select a knowledgeable person to assume that Judge's duties.

The Co-Judge will instruct the replacement Judge as to the layout of the tracks and all other information needed for the completion of the Tracking Test(s). The Judges must check the equipment and fields and/or, sites provided for use before beginning to plot the tracks and must report to ASCA, after the Tracking Trial, any undesirable conditions or deficiencies that have not been corrected promptly by the Club.

1.25 Club Responsibilities

The officials of the Affiliate Club holding the Tracking Test are responsible for providing personnel, equipment, and the site that is suitable for tracks that meet the requirements of these regulations. Ground maps, roughly to scale, of the tracking area showing the major features of terrain and boundaries must be provided by the Host Affiliate Club and sent to the Judges about sixty days prior to the Tracking Trial.

The most recent copy of the ASCA Tracking Rules and Regulations must be mailed to the Tracking Judges for this event. The Affiliate Club shall retain the Tracking Trial Entries (and Certifications) for six months following the test(s).

1.26 Submission of Records

After each ASCA Sanctioned Tracking Trial, the following must be sent to the ASCA Business Office, postmarked no later than fifteen days after the close of the Trial:

1. All marked Judge's Book(s) with Judge's Charts/maps.
2. A Draw Catalog, or a typewritten listing of each Entered Dog and each Alternate Dog, and Absent Dogs, marked with all applicable awards and titles.
3. The original ASCA Official Entry Forms for all qualifiers.
4. A Gross Receipts Report.
5. The Event Membership Dues.
6. The Sanction Grant.
7. Any Late Filing Fees.

The Tracking Test Secretary is responsible for filing all reports with appropriate fees to ASCA after the Tracking Trial in a timely manner. A penalty fee for non-compliance will be set by the Business Office for each day's delay, and such other penalties as may be imposed by the ASCA Board of Directors.

The Host Affiliate Club shall retain all other ASCA Official Entry Forms, plus photocopies of the Original Entry Forms listed above for qualifiers, for a period of one year from the date of any Tracking Trial.

1.27 Protests against Dogs

Every exhibitor shall have the right to request through the Tracking Test Committee the examination of any dog within Tracking Trial premises, which is considered to endanger the health of other dogs in any Tracking Test. A protest against a dog, for reasons other than health, may be made by any exhibitor, or any member of ASCA. It shall be in writing and be lodged with the Tracking Test Secretary within seven days of the last date of the Tracking Trial unless the protest is made by ASCA.

A protest calling for a decision as to the physical condition of a dog which can be determined only with the advice of a veterinarian or at the time of the Tracking Test shall be made before the closing of the Tracking Trial. No protest will be entertained unless accompanied by a deposit set by ASCA which will be refunded if the protest is sustained. This does not apply to protests by ASCA, or to a protest made at the Tracking Trial before the rendering of a decision by the Judge.

If a protest shall be made during the holding of a Tracking Trial, the Tracking Test Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible and give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard and shall at once render its decision. If a protest shall be made after the Tracking Trial, it shall be decided by the Host Affiliate Club within thirty days of its receipt. Ten days' notice of the date and place of hearing shall be sent to all parties concerned by certified mail. Written copies of all decisions on protests shall be forwarded immediately to the ASCA Business Office.

An appeal to the ASCA Executive Secretary from a decision of a Tracking Test Committee where a dog has been protested may be taken and shall be forwarded to the Business Office within seven days of the date on which the decision was rendered together with a deposit, the amount of which is set by the Business Office). If the decision is sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited, but if reversed, the deposit shall be returned.

1.28 Making an Application to Allow One Judge at a Tracking Trial

In some special instances, and with the permission from the ASCA Business Office, one Judge may act in lieu of the two Judge requirement (see [Section 1.28](#)) at a Sanctioned Tracking Trial, with limitations. Permission will be decided on a case-by-case basis and is for Affiliates who would not otherwise be able to hold a Tracking Trial without this permission, or Affiliates who demonstrate plausible need, including (but not limited to) financial, site, Judge availability, or other constraints. Limitations:

1. The Application applies to the following Tests only: Tracking Dog (TD) and Tracking Dog Urban (TDU).
2. The Tracking Trial may consist of one or both Tests, but the maximum number of dogs to be judged by a single Judge at one Trial is a total of six or fewer, including Alternate tracks used for titling.
3. Application must be made for each Tracking Trial for which special permission is sought.
4. Provisional Tracking Judges (TD/TDU) may NOT act as the sole Judge at any Tracking Trial.

The Test Secretary should submit the Application (included in the Regulations at the back of these rules) together with the Tracking Trial Sanction Request and Premium.

Chapter 2. Regulations for Performance and Judging

2.1 Decisions

The Judges are in sole charge of the Tracking site (the area in which the tracks are laid) until the assignment is completed. The decisions of the Judges shall be final in all matters affecting evaluation and the working of the dogs and their handlers. Judges are not required to explain their decisions and need not enter into a discussion with any entrant who appears to be dissatisfied. After a Tracking Trial has been judged in accordance with these rules and regulations, it shall not be re-judged.

Each Judge must be supplied with the Judge's Books in which they shall mark all awards and all absent dogs. The original Judge's Books shall be in the custody of the Judge, Tracking Test Secretary or Tracking Test Chairperson. None other shall be allowed access to it. A Tracking Trial is considered judged when the Judge has marked their Judge's Books. If any errors have been made by the Judge in marking the awards as made, they may correct the same but must initial any such corrections. At the conclusion of the judging, the Judge's Book must be signed by the Judge and any changes which may have been made therein initialed by them. A Judge's decision, as marked in the Judge's Book, cannot be changed by them after filing with the ASCA Business Office, but an error appearing in the Judge's Book may be corrected by the Business Office after consultation with the Judge and the Tracking Test Secretary.

If a Judge disqualifies a dog at any Tracking Test, they shall make a note in the Judge's Book giving their reasons for such disqualification. The Tracking Test Secretary will acknowledge to the Business Office the name of the disqualified dog, the ASCA Registration Number and owner's name and address.

The Tracking Test Committee shall decide all other matters arising at the test, including protests against dogs made under ASCA's Conflict Resolution Protocol.

2.2 Disturbances

The Judges shall remove from participation any dog that its handler cannot control, any handler who interferes willfully with another entrant or dog, and any handler who disciplines or abuses a dog. Abuse of a dog must be reported to the Tracking Test Committee. The Judges may excuse any dog that they feel is unfit to participate. If a dog or handler is excused by the Judges, the reason shall be noted in the Judge's Book(s). A Judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempt to control a dog while it is being tested, must act promptly to stop such behavior. If, in the Judge's opinion, the circumstances warrant, the dog may be failed.

2.3 Complexity

At a Tracking Test, all tracks should be of approximately equal complexity within the limitations of changing cover and terrain. Judges should make every effort to age the tracks for about the same length of time. The same methods and standards are to be used in plotting tracks and judging the working of all breeds of dogs. Judges are not to inject their own variations into any Tracking Test but must see that each handler and dog is tested on a track that completely satisfies the Tracking Regulations. A handler who is familiar with these Regulations should be able to enter any Tracking Test without being confronted with an unexpected requirement.

2.4 Plotting

At a Tracking Trial, a track that is plotted within three days in the same site may not cross or be within fifty yards of a previously used track unless prior approval has been obtained from the ASCA Business Office. All tracks are to be started in a cover of a type predominant in the area of the site that contains the first leg and first turn of the track.

Both Judges must be present on the day of plotting and walk every track. At a Tracking Test (TD) or a Tracking Dog Urban Test (TDU) the Judges may divide the plotting responsibilities and then walk the other Judge's tracks. If extenuating circumstances prevent either Judge from walking every track at a Tracking Test (TD), or a Tracking Dog Urban Test (TDU), the circumstances must be fully explained in a report submitted with the Judge's Book(s).

Plotting of the tracks by any person other than a Judge is prohibited. On the day the tracks are plotted, all persons connected with the Tracking Trial other than the Judges, ASCA Officials, and Apprentices, with prior approval of the Judges, and those required for the laying of the tracks, shall not be on the tracking site.

For each dog entered, a separate track shall be plotted by one or both Judges for a Tracking Test (TD) or a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU), and by both Judges for a Tracking Test (TDX), at least the day prior to the test.

Flags that the Tracklayer can readily follow on the day of the Tracking Test shall mark the track except for the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) where corner, sighting, and drop flags may be used at the Judges' discretion, but only the start flags are required. An Official Chart/map of each track shall be made by each Judge, showing the approximate length in yards of each leg, the total length of the track, and all pertinent information including major landmarks and boundaries.

2.5 Alternate Track

Judges are encouraged to plot an Alternate Track in the event a retest of one of the dogs is required, or if one of the tracks becomes invalidated. The Alternate Track should be fully equivalent to any other track so that it can be used promptly, saving time and permitting the test to proceed in an orderly fashion without interruption. The Judge's Chart/map showing the plot of the Alternate Track should appear in the Judge's Books. The Alternate Track may be used as a titling track if it is not needed as an Alternate Track, if its use does not require the Judges to judge more than the allowed number of tracks per test, and if the Judges agree to use it for titling.

2.6 Articles

Judges shall approve all articles well in advance of the time the track is laid so that any article that is not acceptable can be replaced. The articles shall have been in the Tracklayer's possession for sufficient time to ensure that it is impregnated with the Tracklayer's scent. All articles shall be inconspicuous in color in comparison to the surrounding terrain. All articles are to be about the same size as a leather glove or a wallet. Articles are to be dropped on the track by the Tracklayer. Except at the start, after being dropped, an article should not be visible from a distance of more than twenty feet and shall not be covered with any substance in order to conceal it.

2.7 Turns

A turn is a substantial and abrupt change in direction. Legs that gradually curve or meet in open angles that deviate only slightly from a straight line are not turns.

2.8 Bitches in Season

Any bitch that appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element is considered to be in season.

Bitches in season may participate in a Tracking Test, at the Host Affiliate Club's option, under the following conditions:

- A. When the Tracking Trial Premium specifically states, "BITCHES IN SEASON MAY PARTICIPATE."
- B. The Tracking Test Secretary and Judges are notified that a bitch is in season prior to the drawing for tracks. The last track to be laid shall be reserved for the bitch in season. If there is more than one bitch in season, a second draw for these bitches will be held.
- C. "Bitches in season" will be allowed to participate in a Tracking Test only after all the other dogs and bitches not in season have been tested.
- D. The Tracking Test Chairman is responsible for ensuring that bitches in season are allowed on the tracking site only immediately prior to their running.

In the event the handler of a bitch in season does not comply with the conditions above, the handler and dog shall be excused from the Tracking Test and any award withheld. The Judges shall notify the ASCA Business Office of any infraction in the conditions above by noting the infraction on the inside cover of the Judge's Books. If the owner or handler violates the intent of this section at a second Tracking Test, ASCA may initiate action that is considered to be appropriate.

2.9 Drawing for the Run Order of Tracks

Prior to the "Draw for the Run Order of the Tracks", the Tracking Test Secretary shall ask all entrants to check all of the information regarding their entries. If the Catalog and/or the Judge's Books of any Tracking Trial shall, by error or mistake, set forth any information contrary to the information which appears on the Entry Form of the dog for that Tracking Test, the Tracking Test Committee and Tracking Test Secretary, upon request of the owner or handler of said dog, prior to the judging, shall correct the entry in the Judge's Books and in the marked Catalog to be sent to the ASCA Business Office, and said dog may compete in the Tracking Test and for all prizes for which it's entry form discloses it was entered.

At the time of the "Draw for the Run Order of the Tracks" the Tracking Test Secretary, with one or both Judges present, will assemble the participants just prior to starting time, for a drawing by lot of the assigned Catalog numbers to determine the order of running for each participant. Once the numbers have been drawn, they may not be exchanged except under unusual circumstances and only with the Judge's approval. Any such exchanges must be fully reported in the Judge's Books.

A dog that is absent from the site at the scheduled time of the "Draw for Run Order of the Tracks" is to be marked "Absent" by the Judges if an alternate is present to draw. Alternates who are present will be selected to draw by their order on the Alternates List. If no alternate is present, the Judges may mark the dog absent at the scheduled time of "Draw for Run Order of the Tracks" or the Judges may designate the Tracking Test Secretary to draw for the absent dogs. In this case, the dog shall be marked absent if it is not present in time for the running of its track. If a dog is withdrawn or excused, after the "Draw for Run Order of the Tracks," but before the track is started by the dog, the next alternate present shall run the track. The Judges shall determine the Catalog number of each track, and the order in which the tracks are run.

The Judges may modify the "Draw for the Run Order of the Tracks" to meet the requirements of the tracklayers.

2.10 Track Laying

Tracklayers are critical in contributing to the success of a Tracking Test. Every effort must be made to walk each track at its designated time on the day of the test. In addition, Tracklayers should report any errors made in the laying of any track immediately to the Judges.

Affiliates must secure Tracklayers in advance of the date of any Tracking Test. The Affiliate will confirm to each person who accepts an invitation to be a Tracklayer with a Judging Program, a phone call, and/or an e-mail notifying each Tracklayer of the date and location of the test, the time to report for the plotting of the track(s), and the time to report for the test.

A person cannot act as a Tracklayer for a dog if they have boarded, laid track for or regularly trained within thirty days prior to the tracking test. The Tracklayer must not be a person with whom the dog has resided or a member of the household or a member of the immediate family of the dog's handler.

It is suggested that a test should have a Chief Tracklayer. The Chief Tracklayer is appointed by the Tracking Test Committee to be in charge of coordinating the track laying schedule. The Chief Tracklayer may be asked to obtain the Tracklayers and communicate with them before the test if needed. The Chief Tracklayer will be present at the Test site on both Plotting Day and the day of the Trial. The Chief Tracklayer will make arrangements to transport the Judges and the Tracklayers to the tracking site(s) and between the different tracks on both Plotting Day and the day of the Test.

On Plotting Day, the Chief Tracklayer will:

1. Be familiar with the tracking site so they can assist the Judges in getting to, and being picked up from, the beginning and the end of the tracks.

2. Keep a written chart of the track numbers, the name of the tracklayer for each track, and the color of flags used.
3. Receive from the Judges a chart of the estimated time a track will be laid, and an estimated time the track will be run.

On Test Day, the Chief Tracklayer will:

1. Make sure that all Tracklayers and Judges are transported to and from their tracks and that all Tracklayers and Cross-tracklayers are at their designated tracks on time.
2. Keep track of the exact times that the tracks are actually laid.

Tracklayers should refrain from discussing (or appearing to discuss) the dogs or the exhibitors with a Judge, and should not show (or appear to show) the Catalog to a Judge, nor should they show (or appear to show) their maps to anyone before or during a test, nor should they discuss (or appear to discuss) their tracks with exhibitors or others not officially associated with the test. Tracklayers must not take part in (or seem to take part in) judging. When not actively engaged in their duties, Tracklayers should place themselves near or within the gallery, so their presence does not interfere with the entered team, nor block the view of those watching the test. Tracklayers should take any additional cues for their placement from the Judges.

Tracklayers have the right to raise issues of concern about the safety of the track that they are being asked to lay at any time. Tracklayers have a right to decline to lay a track for just cause.

Tracklayers are encouraged to read the ASCA Tracking Regulations prior to accepting a post and are further encouraged to ask questions or seek guidance from persons associated with the test, particularly Judges. Experienced tracklayers familiar with the ASCA Tracking Rules and Regulations are preferred. If possible, no tracklayer should lay consecutive tracks, nor lay tracks within the same field/ area. It is recommended that inexperienced or less physically fit Tracklayers should lay no more than two tracks per test. No person shall be allowed to serve as a Tracklayer whose judging privileges have been revoked.

Each Tracklayer is expected to walk their tracks with the Judges on plotting day and walk the same tracks solo on the day of the test.

2.10.1 TRACKLAYERS NEEDED FOR TD, TDU, AND TDX

One Tracklayer is needed to lay each TD/TDU track. One Tracklayer is needed to lay the primary TDX track, and two Cross-tracklayers to cross each TDX track. Cross-tracklayers MUST be different from the person laying the main track, and if possible, should not be from the same household.

2.10.2 TRACKLAYERS ON PLOTTING DAY

Tracklayers are to be present during the day of plotting so as to be generally familiar with the Tracking Test site and the location of the tracks. When a Tracklayer is not present, an explanation shall be made in the Tracking Test Secretary's Report. It is the Judge's responsibility to instruct the Tracklayer so that each track will be properly laid. Tracklayers are encouraged to make maps of their tracks for personal reference, and in addition may be asked to help carry flags. Tracklayers should walk in a position or place as directed by the Judges during the plotting of the tracks. Before the start of the test, Tracklayers should be given maps of their tracks by the Judges showing all pertinent feature information. Tracklayers should inform the Judges and the Chief Tracklayer if there are discrepancies between their own maps and the Judge's maps. One or both Judges should make every effort, within the limitations of terrain, to observe each Tracklayer laying their track on the day of the test.

Each Tracklayer shall wear their own footwear which may be of any material. The Judges shall instruct the tracklayer to walk in a natural manner. The tracklayer shall go to the first flag, pause, place the cloth start article, and then proceed in walking the track. Circling or scuffing the feet around the flag(s) or scuffing the feet over any portion of the track is prohibited.

2.10.3 TRACKLAYERS DUTIES ON TEST DAY

The Tracklayer will walk their track, solo at the appointed time, as directed by the Judges and will remove all flags from the track except:

1. The first two flags in a Tracking Dog (TD) Test or a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test.
2. The first flag in a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.
3. The cross-track flags in a TDX Test.

The Tracklayer will drop their articles at the site(s) designated by the Judges. After dropping the last article, the Tracklayer shall continue in a straight line for at least thirty yards and exit the track's site in the direction previously described by the Judges. No Tracklayer, after laying the track, should return within fifty yards of any unused part of the track. Under no circumstances should a Tracklayer cross or walk over any portion of the track once it has been laid until the team running that track has completed their run.

After a Tracklayer has laid their track, the Judges will determine the Tracklayer's position during the time when that track is being run. Tracklayers should be aware that they need to be immediately available to the Judges if a question arises. Judges will make arrangements if a conflict could arise for a Tracklayer's availability during a test track. A Tracklayer may be asked to assist an entrant to finish a test track if the Judges have failed the dog. Under no circumstances will a Tracklayer make any notation in the Judge's Books or erase or strike out any notation made by the Judge.

2.10.4 CROSS TRACKLAYERS

The Judges will instruct the Cross-tracklayers how to enter and exit the field on the day of the test, where to cross the track, and how they should cross the track on the day of the test. The Judges shall make sure that the Cross-tracklayers carry an outline of the track showing all pertinent information. Both Cross-tracklayers all lay their tracks as directed by the Judges at the designated time. The Cross-tracklayers will remove all the cross-track flags as they lay their cross-tracks.

2.10.5 GALLERY MANAGEMENT

The Judges will make arrangements to manage the gallery (see [Section 2.13](#)).

2.11 Errors in Track Laying

Despite all precautions, there may be errors in track laying. If the Tracklayer is aware of an error, it must be made known to the Judges as soon as possible. The Judges will then decide whether the use of this track meets the requirements of the Tracking Rules and Regulations.

2.12 Retest

In cases of unforeseen circumstances, the Judges may, in rare instances and at their own discretion, retest the dog and handler on a new track. The circumstances shall be noted in the Judge's Books. If, when the dog is working, the Judges encounter a flag still standing in the field, the dog's performance must be evaluated in light of the likely route taken by the Tracklayer. If the length of the track remains within the requirements of the regulations, the Judges must decide whether the tracking performance of the dog met the other criteria for awarding of the title, or whether the dog should be retested on another track.

2.13 Distractions on the Track

The Judges are responsible for seeing that spectators and unauthorized persons remain further than fifty yards from the starting flag until after the dog, handler, and Judges have moved out of the area of the start. The Judges may authorize a member of the Tracking Test Committee to move spectators onto the area of the used track to observe the tracking field so long as the spectators do not:

- A. Interfere with the dog's work.
- B. Indicate the location or direction of the unused portion of the track.
- C. Do not contaminate other unused tracks.

Should an animal interfere with the work of the tracking dog by aggressive action or by its position on the track, the Tracking Test would normally be invalidated. However, the appearance of an animal or a vehicle in the field, whether or not it has crossed the track, is usually not justification for a retest.

The presence of people on the Tracking site for TD and TDX could represent conflicting cross-tracks. The decision whether or not to invalidate the track is left to the discretion of the Judges. However, for the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, normal traffic of humans, animals, or vehicles in an urban or suburban type area is to be expected. The decision whether or not to invalidate any track is left to the discretion of the Judges.

2.14 Leash, Harness and Distance between Handler and Dog

The leash shall be between twenty and forty feet in length, attached to the top of harness while tracking, and it shall not be deliberately run through the underside of the dog—controlling or restricting the dog's movement. The dog shall wear a harness while tracking. The harness shall be constructed of straps of plain, pliable material, and designed so there is minimum restriction of the dog's movement. Inconspicuous marking is permitted on the harness to identify the dog in case of loss.

If a collar is worn by the dog while tracking, the collar must be a well-fitting plain buckle or slip collar. Buckle collars with buckles made of metal or plastic with or without a tongue may be used. The required licenses or rabies tags may be attached to the collar. Slip collars of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings, one on each end are acceptable. Fancy collars, or special training collars, or collars that are either too tight or so large that they hang down unreasonably in front of the dogs are not permitted.

The handler shall follow the dog at a distance of no less than twenty feet. To avoid entanglement, the leash may be dropped briefly during the Tracking Test but must be retrieved as soon as possible. If the leash becomes entangled, the

handler may unsnap the leash to free it. While the leash is being untangled, the dog shall be under immediate control and in close proximity to the handler. If the leash becomes repeatedly tangled when tracking in dense vegetation, the Judges may allow the handler to follow the dog at less than twenty feet, but no closer than required to avoid entanglement. The handler shall return to following the dog at twenty feet or more when the dog leaves the area of dense vegetation.

2.15 Commands and Signals

Handlers may give verbal commands and verbal encouragement to the dog. However, commands, signals or body motions used by the handler to indicate the specific location or direction of the track are prohibited (see [Section 2.16](#)). Harsh verbal commands or physical force used to discipline the dog are also prohibited.

2.16 Guiding and Restraining

Guiding is defined as any behavior by the handler that influences or determines the dog's direction. Guiding is prohibited and the dog shall be marked failed. Restraint is permitted to slow a dog that is moving too fast for the handler or in cases of an unusual distraction. However, repeated restraint that influences the dog's direction is not permitted and shall result in the dog being failed. A dog that is at the end of the leash and is actively searching, including casting, should not be considered as being restrained.

2.17 Assistance to Handler

Neither the Judges nor any other person may give the handler any assistance in determining the direction of the track.

2.18 Carrying Water on the Track

The handler may carry plain water or ice on the track, and may with the Judge's approval, provide it to the dog for drinking or use it to cool the dog. The use of any liquid other than plain water requires the dog to be failed and excused from the Tracking Test.

2.19 Food and Other Motivational Items on the Track

Praise and petting of the dog are allowed after the dog finds the first and intermediate articles, but the handler may not excessively play with articles as toys or toss them on the ground unless the track is completed. Only those items considered by the Judges to be essential to the conduct of the Tracking Test, and allowed by these Regulations, are permitted on the tracking field.

Judges shall not allow motivational items for a dog, including, but not limited to food, balls, or toys, to be used or carried within fifty yards of any track. The carrying or use of food or other motivational items by the handler on a track requires that the dog be failed and excused from the Tracking Test.

2.20 Time Limit

There is no time limit for completing the track, but a dog that is not working should not be given any minimum time and marked failed.

2.21 Fouling the Track

A dog that fouls the area during the running of a track is not to be failed for that reason alone.

2.22 Judge's Book

An ASCA Judge's Book will include a complete report stating total number of dogs and bitches, names of Passing Dogs. This Judge's Book must be signed by the Judge. Either the Judge's own Maps, or the Official Charts/maps, are to be marked, one by each Judge, at the time the dog is tracking. If a Judge's own Map is used by another Judge, all pertinent information is to be transferred in its entirety to the Official Chart/map as soon as practicable. The following information is to be shown on each Official Chart/map that measures eight and a half inches by eleven inches (see also [Tracking Dog Judge's Book Cover Sheet](#) and [Tracking Test Report](#)):

1. A plot of the track including the length, in yards, of each of the legs and the total length of the track. The plot on the Official Chart/map should be generally proportional to the track itself.
2. A broken line showing the approximate path of the dog.
3. The time the Tracklayer started and/or finished the track.
4. A brief description of the terrain/site.
5. An arrow showing the direction of the wind at the start.
6. A brief description of weather conditions.
7. Indication of steep hills and valleys.
8. All pertinent landmarks and markers used to locate turns.

9. Each Judge is to indicate the dog's Catalog number, whether the dog Passed or Failed, and sign the Official Chart/map.
10. A track shall have a start article at the first flag, and a second article at the end of the track.
11. All important areas of topography should be indicated on the Official Chart/ map.
12. Judges should also include any man-made structures that may affect scent.

A passing performance requires the agreement of both Judges. It would be highly irregular for one Judge to consider a dog "Passed" while another marked it "Failed." If this occurred, the dog should not have passed the Test. In this case, a written report, explaining the circumstances of the decision, would be required from each Judge.

No person other than the Judges shall make any entry in the Judge's Books (see [Section 2.1](#)). Each Judge shall receive a marked copy of the Catalog or sheet listing the entered and alternate dogs at the completion of the Tracking Trial. The Judge's Books should include an additional page for the exhibitors. A Tracking Trial is considered judged when the Judge has marked their Judge's Book. Copies of the Judge's Books shall be made available through the Tracking Test Secretary for examination by the owners and handlers immediately after the Tracking Trial. After a Tracking Trial, the Host Affiliate Club or Tracking Test Secretary shall forward copies of the Judge's Books including the marked Official Judge's Charts/maps, a list of all dogs which were entered, the complete list of alternates drawn and a marked and certified copy of the Catalog pages or sheet listing the dogs entered in the Tracking Trial to the ASCA Business Office, to be received postmarked fifteen days after the event.

2.23 Passing Performance

It is each Judge's responsibility to determine whether the nature and degree of the handler and dog's work warrant the granting of any Tracking Title. The dog must follow the track, and either clearly indicate or retrieve the end (second) article in a Tracking Dog (TD) Test or a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, or clearly indicate or retrieve the second, third and fourth articles in a Tracking Dog (TDX) Test.

The decision as to whether the dog satisfactorily indicated or retrieved an article is the responsibility of the Judges. In order for the dog to pass in a Tracking Dog Test (TD) or a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, the end (second) article must be presented to the Judges when the track is completed. In a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test, the second, third and fourth articles must be presented to the Judges when the track is completed.

Judges must never pass a dog that has not met the minimum requirements of following the Test Track unaided and finding the article(s). If the dog is not considered to be tracking by the Judges it shall not be passed, even though it has found the article or articles.

If, in the Judge's opinion, the dog actively searched the area where an article was dropped but did not find the article, and the Judges cannot find the article, the dog shall be given credit for finding the article. In the event that the dog does not actively search the area and the Judges cannot find the article, the dog shall be tested on another track that meets the requirements of the Regulations.

2.24 Track Laying Sequence

Judges should make every effort to age the tracks for about the same length of time.

A tested, workable sequence is:

1. Lay Track No. 1 and Lay Track No. 2
2. Run Track No. 1
3. Lay Track No. 3
4. Run Track No. 2
5. Lay Track No. 4, Etc.

This will give elapsed time of about thirty minutes to one hour for tracks to age. In addition, it will mean there will be no long waits between dogs tracking as would be the case if two or three consecutive tracks were laid, and sequentially executed. This procedure, however, requires the Judges to shuttle back and forth between fields.

Chapter 3. The Tracking Dog Test (TD)

The fundamental features of a Tracking Dog Test (TD) are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of conditions on moderate terrain and find an article dropped by that person.

3.1 Eligibility for the TD Test

The Tracking Dog (TD) Test shall be for dogs not less than six months of age that are eligible for entry and which meet the requirements of the following [Section 3.2](#). A dog may continue to participate in the TD Test after it has earned the

titles TD, TDU, or TDX. The Tracking Test Secretary shall give dogs not holding a TD Title priority for entry in the TD Test. A statement to this effect shall appear in the Premium. Draw for Test Entries applies (see [Section 1.21](#)).

3.2 Certification for the TD Test

A written, signed, and dated, Certification may accompany each entry for a Tracking Test for any dog that has not previously passed an ASCA Tracking Dog Test for a Tracking Dog (TD) Title. This Certification must be dated within two years of the date the Tracking Test is to be held and must certify the dog has satisfactorily performed a Certification Track.

Certification can be done by any ASCA Tracking Judge, ASCA Provisional Tracking Judge, anyone with an ASCA TDX or other advanced ASCA tracking title beyond TD/TDU, anyone with a CKC TDX or UTDX, anyone who can do certifications for AKC, or any Tracking Judge from an organization recognized by ASCA (see [Appendix B](#)).

Equivalent Titles: Tracking Titles earned from other registries, on tracks of the same or greater distance and difficulty as required for an ASCA TD or TDU Test Track can be substituted for Certification if the equivalent title has been earned on the entered dog. A photocopy of the equivalent title must be submitted with the entry.

An entry received without Certification or without copy of an equivalent title will be considered only if space is not taken by a dog with Certification or copy of an equivalent title. If Certification or a copy of the equivalent title is not included with the entry form, the dog will only be allowed to compete if there are tracks available after the dogs with Certification or an equivalent title are entered.

The Certification Track should be of a complexity equivalent to the Tracking Dog (TD) Test and take place under conditions similar to such a Tracking Dog (TD) Test Track.

A dog that does not satisfactorily complete the Certification Track in its entirety should not be certified. A dog that fails a Tracking Dog (TD) Test may not be re-certified by either of the Judges based on its performance at that Tracking Dog (TD) Test, regardless of how close the dog came to passing.

It is permissible for a dog to be entered under the certifying Judge. Judges who wish to enter in a Tracking Dog (TD) Test are subject to the same requirements as other entrants. Judges shall not provide Certification to any dog owned wholly or in part by them.

The Certification, signed by a Provisional or Approved Tracking Judge, should be worded similar to the following:

"I observed the tracking performance of (Registered Name, Registration Number, Breed) on a track of equivalent complexity and under conditions similar to a regulation ASCA Tracking Dog (TD) Test. I hereby certify the dog performed the Certification in its entirety, and is ready to participate in an ASCA Sanctioned Tracking Test."

Date: (Date of Certification) / Original Judge's signature:

Judge's typed or printed name: / ASCA Tracking Judge's Number:

The Judge shall provide four copies of the Certification based on the dog's completion of one Certification Track. Should the dog fail four successive Tracking Tests within the twelve-month period, the dog must be re-certified. Certifications must be originals, cannot be used again, and must be retained by the Host Affiliate Club with the entry forms. TD and TDU Certifications may be used to enter either Test.

In unusual circumstances, ASCA, through its Tracking Committee, may issue Certification based on statements provided by the handler concerning the dog's tracking ability. However, in no case will ASCA issue more than four copies of such Certification to any dog.

3.3 The TD Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog (TD) title to:

- A. ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs.
- B. Australian Shepherds with an ASCA LEP Number.
- C. And any other dogs with an ASCA QTracker Number

The use of the letters "TD" is permitted after the name of each dog that has been certified by both Judges to have passed a Tracking (TD) Test. The dog may be entered in either a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test or a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test for which entries have not closed.

Any dog that is already holding an ASCA TD title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TD title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TD-2, TD-3, TD-4, etc.

The owner of a dog holding both the UD and TD titles may use the letters “UDT” after the name of the dog, signifying “Utility Dog Tracker.” The owner of a dog holding both the UDX and TD titles may use the letters “UDXT” after the name of the dog, signifying “Utility Dog Excellent Tracker.”

3.4 Requirements for the TD Track

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a TD track:

1. The track shall be at least 440 yards and not more than 500 yards in length.
2. The length of each of the legs shall be at least fifty yards.
3. The scent on the track shall be not less than thirty minutes or more than two hours old.
4. A total of three to five turns shall be used. Both left and right turns shall be used. No acute angle turns are to be used. The first turn must be more than thirty yards from the second flag.
5. At least two of the turns shall be right angle turns and there should be more than two turns. At least two of the right-angle turns shall be well out in the open where there are no fences or boundaries to guide the dog.
6. No part of the track shall follow any fence or boundary within fifteen yards of such fence or boundary.
7. No part of the track may be within fifty yards of any other part of the same track.
8. Consecutive parallel tracks shall not be used.
9. No part of any track shall be laid within fifty yards of another track. However, with two tracks going in opposite directions from the same area, the starting flags may be as close as fifty yards from each other.
10. A track shall not cross a body of water or a paved road.
11. No TD track should have changes of cover that would be suitable for a TDX obstacle.
12. No conflicting (cross) tracks shall be used.
13. A track shall have a start article at the first flag, and a second article at the end of the track.

If, because of the terrain, the Judges are unable to plot a track that meets all requirements for a Tracking Dog (TD) Test, an explanation of the circumstances must be reported in the Judge’s Books.

3.5 Articles for the TD Track

The criteria for articles as contained in [Section 2.6](#) shall apply. In a Tracking Dog (TD) Test there shall be a cloth start article, and the end article shall be a leather glove or wallet.

3.6 Start of the TD Track

The start shall have a flag at the beginning, and a second flag, indicating the direction of the first leg, thirty yards from the first flag. The Tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in [Section 2.10](#). An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag. This article shall be Cloth, (such as but not limited to, a Bandana, or a Sock) and close to the same size as the end article, a Leather Glove or Wallet. The tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in [Section 2.10](#).

At the direction of the Judges, the handler and dog will approach the first flag. The handler may use any method, including restraining the dog by the leash as long as no force, directional guidance, or roughness, is used to start the dog at the first flag on the track. The handler may pick up the article at the start flag and use it to give scent to the dog while on the track. If the article is not at the start, the handler, while controlling the dog at the start flag, may request from the Judges another article belonging to the Tracklayer.

The Tracking Dog (TD) Test begins when the dog leaves/passes the first flag. The initial thirty yards between the flags is part of the track and all requirements for the track apply. In this portion of the track, the dog may be restrained by the handler, but any leading or guiding of the dog constitutes grounds for deeming the handler “off the track” and failing the dog.

Provided the dog has not passed the second flag, the handler may request permission from the Judges for a restart. If approved by the Judges, the handler may restart the dog, either from their present location or after returning to the starting flag. Only one restart is permitted. If a restart is requested, an auxiliary article can no longer be requested.

Chapter 4. The Tracking Dog Urban Test (TDU) Test

The purpose of the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test is to demonstrate the dog’s ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of conditions in a more urban or suburban-like environment than is used by the Tracking Dog (TD) Test and Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test, and to find an article dropped by that person.

The location of Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test site(s) may include but are not limited to city parks, college campuses, schools, office or industrial parks, fairgrounds, and other more urban or suburban-like environments having areas of vegetation not primarily dedicated to agriculture or wildlife.

ASCA approved Tracking Dog (TD) or Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Judges in good standing may judge this Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test.

4.1 Eligibility for the TDU Test

This Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test shall be for dogs not less than six months of age that are eligible for entry and which meet the requirements of the following [Section 4.2](#). A dog may continue to participate in this TDU Test after it has earned the titles, TD, TDU, or TDX.

The Tracking Test Secretary shall give dogs not holding a TDU title priority for entry in the TDU Test. A statement to this effect shall appear in the Premium. Draw for Test Entries applies (see [Section 1.21](#)).

4.2 Certification for the TDU Test

A written, signed, and dated, Certification may accompany each Entry for an ASCA Tracking Dog Urban Test for any dog that has not previously passed an ASCA Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test for a Tracking Dog (TDU) Title. This Certification must be dated within two years of the date the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test is to be held and must certify the dog has satisfactorily performed a Certification Track.

Certification can be done by any ASCA Tracking Judge, ASCA Provisional Tracking Judge, anyone with an ASCA TDX or other advanced ASCA tracking title beyond TD/TDU, anyone with a CKC TDX or UTDX, anyone who can do certifications for AKC, or any Tracking Judge from an organization recognized by ASCA (see [Appendix B](#)).

Equivalent Titles: Tracking Titles earned from other registries, on tracks of the same or greater distance and difficulty as required for an ASCA TD or TDU track can be substituted for Certification if the equivalent title has been earned on the entered dog. A photocopy of the equivalent title must be submitted with the entry.

An entry received without Certification or copy of an equivalent title will be considered only if space is not taken by a dog with Certification or copy of an equivalent title. If Certification or a copy of the equivalent title is not sent, the dog will only be allowed to compete if there are tracks available after the dogs with Certification or an equivalent title are entered.

The Certification Track should be of a complexity equivalent to the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test and take place under conditions similar to such a test. A dog that does not satisfactorily complete the Certifying Track in its entirety should not be certified. A dog that fails a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test may not be re-certified by either of the Judges based on its performance at that Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, regardless of how close the dog came to passing. It is permissible for a dog to be entered under the certifying Judge.

Judges who wish to enter in a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test are subject to the same requirements as other entrants. Judges shall not provide Certification to any dog owned wholly or in part by them.

The Certification signed by a Provisional or Approved Tracking Judge should be worded similar to the following:

"I have observed the tracking performance of: (Registered Name, Registration Number, and Breed) on a track of equivalent complexity and under conditions similar to a regulation ASCA Tracking Dog Urban Test (TDU). I hereby certify that the dog performed the Certification Track in its entirety, and is ready to participate in an ASCA Sanctioned Tracking Test."

Date: (Date of Certification) / Original Judge's signature:

Judge's typed or printed name: / ASCA Tracking Judge's Number:

The Judge shall provide four copies of the Certification based on the dog's completion of one Certification Track. Should the dog fail four successive Tracking Tests within the twelve-month period, the dog must be re-certified. Certifications must be originals, cannot be used again, and must be retained by the Host Affiliate Club with the entry forms. TD and TDU Certifications may be used to enter either test. In unusual circumstances, ASCA, through its Tracking Committee may issue Certification based on statements provided by the handler concerning the dog's tracking ability. However, in no case will ASCA issue more than four copies of such Certification to any dog.

4.3 The TDU Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Title to:

- A. ASCA registered Australian Shepherd dogs.
- B. Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP Numbers.
- C. Any other dogs with an ASCA QTracker Number.

The use of the letters "TDU" is permitted after the name of each dog that has passed an ASCA sanctioned Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test. As soon as a dog has been certified by both Judges to have passed an Affiliate's Tracking Dog Urban

(TDU) Test, it may be entered in any Affiliate's Tracking Dog (TD) Test or Tracking Dog Excellent Test (TDX) for which the entries have not closed.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TDU title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TDU title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TDU-2, TDU-3, TDU-4, etc. The owner of a dog holding both the UD and TDU title may use the letters "UDT-U" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Tracker-Urban." The owner of a dog holding both the UDX and TDU titles may use the letters "UDXT-U" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Excellent Tracker-Urban."

4.4 Requirements for the TDU Track

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a TDU track:

1. The track shall be at least 350 yards and not more than 400 yards in length.
2. The length of each of the legs should be at least fifty yards. In certain circumstances and due to site restrictions, legs may be as short as thirty yards and must be explained in the Judge's Book.
3. The scent on the track shall be not less than thirty minutes or more than two hours old.
4. A total of three to four turns shall be used. Both left and right turns shall be used.
5. No acute angle turns are to be used. It is recommended that the first turn be more than thirty yards from the second flag if possible.
6. At least two of the turns shall be right angle turns, and there should be more than two turns. At least two of the right-angle turns shall be well out in the open, where there are no boundaries to guide the dog. It is recommended that all turns be on vegetation consistent with the primary terrain or cover. However, it is understood the Judges may need to make whatever decisions they deem necessary to fulfill track requirements which may include (but are not limited to) making a turn in or close to a non-vegetated area. Such a turn must be explained in the Judge's Books.
7. No part of the track may be within fifty yards of any other part of the same track. In certain circumstances and due to site restrictions, lesser yardage may be used and must be explained in the Judge's Books.
8. Consecutive parallel tracks shall not be used.
9. No part of any track shall be laid within fifty yards of another track. However, with two tracks going in opposite directions from the same area, the starting flags may be as close as fifty yards to each other.
10. A track shall not cross a body of water, nor have changes of cover that would be suitable for a TDX field obstacle, and no conflicting (cross) tracks shall be plotted or used. However, normal traffic of humans, animals, or vehicles is to be expected and does not constitute a retest.
11. There shall be no physical obstacles, barriers or obstructions for the handler or dog to negotiate. (**Example:** stairs would constitute an obstruction although a curb would not.) Crossing areas easily negotiated by a dog and handler are not considered as obstacles. A track may cross areas of non-vegetated cover.
12. The total non-vegetated cover shall account for between ten to twenty percent of the entire track. More than eight percent of the track must be on vegetated cover. Non-vegetated areas may include (but are not limited to): sidewalks, mulch, paths, secondary roads, small ditches, flower beds, gardens, low shrubbery, hedgerows, open stands of trees, portions of parking areas (such as pavement, concrete, gravel or dirt) or other areas easily negotiated by a dog and handler.
13. A track may pass closely by or under trees tall enough to allow a handler to stand/ walk easily, pass through relatively open landscaping, and beside roadways and sidewalks.
14. The track shall be dictated by the terrain and may come close to a building or other such man-made structure if necessary, however large buildings are to be avoided if possible.
15. A track shall have a start article at the first flag, and a second article at the end of the track.
16. Tracks must NOT be run on areas where there is knowledge or concern of recent treatment with any substance which could cause harm to dog or handler.
17. If, because of the site or terrain, the Judges are unable to plot a track that meets all requirements for a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, an explanation of the circumstances must be reported in the Judge's Books.
18. A site partially or completely covered in snow should be treated the same as a Tracking Dog Test in the same situation, however caution must be exercised if there is a possibility that some of the track may be salted or chemically treated to encourage melting. Also, the integrity of the track must be taken into consideration if there are any areas which have had the snow removed by plow or shovel.

4.5 Articles for the TDU Track

The criteria for articles as contained in [Section 2.6](#) shall apply. In a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test there shall be a Cloth start article, and the end article shall be a Leather Glove or Wallet.

4.6 Start of the TDU Track

The start shall have a flag at the beginning, and a second flag, indicating the direction of the first leg, thirty yards from the first flag. The Tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in [Section 2.10](#). An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag. This article shall be Cloth, (such as but not limited to, a Bandana, or a Sock) and close to the same size as the end article, a Leather Glove or Wallet.

At the direction of the Judges, the handler and dog will approach the first flag. The handler may use any method, including restraining the dog by the leash as long as no force, directional guidance, or roughness is used to start the dog at the first flag on the track. The handler may pick up the article at the start flag and use it to give scent to the dog while on the track. If the article is not at the start, the handler, while controlling the dog at the start flag, may request from the Judges another article belonging to the track layer.

The TDU Test begins when the dog leaves/passes the first flag. The initial thirty yards between the flags is part of the track and all requirements for the track apply. In this portion of the track, the dog may be restrained by the handler, but any leading or guiding of the dog constitutes grounds for deeming the handler "on the track" and failing the dog. Provided the dog has not passed the second flag, the handler may request permission from the Judges for a restart. If approved by the Judges, the handler may restart the dog, either from their present location or after returning to the starting flag. Only one re-start is permitted. If a re-start is requested, an auxiliary article can no longer be requested.

4.7 Judge's Books for the TDU Test

For the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Judge's Books, as in the current Tracking Dog (TD) Test regulations, all yardage, sight points, and important areas of topography should be indicated on the Official Chart/map. Judges should also include any major man-made structures that may affect scent. Judges need not keep an exact yardage count of non-vegetated areas although it must be estimated to total less than twenty percent of the entire length of the track. This should be easy to evaluate by reviewing the Official Chart/map.

Chapter 5. The Tracking Dog Excellent Test

The fundamental feature of a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test is to show unquestionably that the dog has the ability to discriminate scent and possesses the stamina, perseverance and courage to do so under a wide variety of conditions. A Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test presents difficult challenges. It can lead anywhere a person might go. Judges are to plot tracks as challenging and realistic as the terrain will permit, while maintaining proper concern for the safety of the dogs and handlers.

5.1 Eligibility for the TDX Test

The Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test shall be for dogs that have earned the TD or a TDU Title. A dog may continue to participate in this TDX Test after it has earned the TDX title. However, dogs not holding a TDX title shall be given priority for entry in the TDX Test by the Tracking Test Secretary. A statement to this effect shall appear in the Premium. Draw for Test Entries applies (see [Section 1.21](#)).

5.2 The TDX Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Title to:

- A. ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs.
- B. Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP Number.
- C. Any other dogs with an ASCA QTracker Number.

The use of the letters "TDX" is permitted after the name of each dog that has passed an Affiliate Club Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TDX title may re-enter the same test without limits, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TDX Title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TDX-2, TDX-3, TDX-4, etc. The owner of a dog holding both the "UD" and "TDX" Titles may use the letters "UDTX" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Tracker Excellent." The owner of a dog holding both the "UDX" and "TDX" Titles may use the letters "UDXTX" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Excellent Tracker Excellent."

5.3 Requirements for the TDX Track

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Track:

1. The track shall be at least 800 yards and not more than 1,000 yards in length.
2. The length of each of the legs of the track shall be at least fifty yards.

3. The scent on the track shall not be less than three hours or more than five hours old.
4. A total of five to seven turns shall be used. Both left and right turns shall be used. The first turn shall be in an open area. Acute angles should never be used except in unusual circumstances when terrain dictates. A turn whose angle is severely acute shall not be used.
5. At least three turns shall be right angle turns, and there should be more than three turns.
6. No part of the track may be within fifty yards of any other part of the same track.
7. No part of the track shall be within fifty yards of any other track.
8. Cross-tracks (see [Section 5.5](#)).
9. Obstacles (see [Section 5.6](#)).
10. Articles (see [Section 5.7](#)).

If because of the terrain, the Judges are unable to plot a track that meets all requirements for a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test track, explanation of the circumstances must be reported in the Judge's Books.

5.4 Tracklayers

The Tracklayer will begin about thirty yards from the starting flag, lining up with the starting flag and the next (corner or sight) flag. The Tracklayer will pause momentarily at the first flag, drop the first article and continue walking the track as specified in [Section 2.10](#).

5.5 Cross-tracks for the TDX Track

On instructions from the Judges, two Cross-tracklayers will lay the plotted cross-tracks at least one hour and fifteen minutes, but not later than one hour and forty-five minutes after the Tracklayer has started laying the actual Test Track.

The Cross-tracklayers shall walk side by side, about four feet apart, and will follow each of the two cross-tracks which were staked out with flags a day or more earlier, collecting all of the Cross-track flags along the way.

The following restrictions and minimum requirements apply to all cross-tracks:

1. The track shall be crossed at two widely separated places, never on the same leg or on the first leg.
2. The cross-tracks are to be located so as to be in full view of the Judges when following the track.
3. The actual track should be crossed at an angle of approximately ninety degrees.
4. The cross-tracks shall be more than thirty yards from an article or an obstacle, and more than fifty yards from a turn.
5. The cross-tracks shall be plotted so as to permit the dog to follow the cross track without the interference of a physical barrier or a scenting distraction.
6. The cross-track may not be within fifty yards of the start of the track and must not be closer than fifty yards to any other part of the track, except when they cross the track.
7. After the last crossing of the track, the cross-tracklayers shall proceed straight ahead for at least fifty yards.
8. The cross-track may not be within fifty yards of any other track.

In a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test, a dog that follows a cross-track for more than fifty yards shall be marked failed.

5.5.1 CROSS-TRACK FLAGS

The cross-track flags or markers are to be distinctly different from the flags or markers used on the actual Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test track. Cross-track flags should be a different color than those used on the primary track or as drop flags.

5.6 Obstacles for the TDX Track

There shall be at least two obstacles to challenge the dog and handler. Obstacles are to be separated from articles and cross-tracks by more than thirty yards. A turn may be within thirty yards of an obstacle. There shall be no obstacle on the first leg. The purpose of an obstacle is to test one or more of the following:

- A. The dog's ability to adapt to changing scent conditions.
- B. The dog's ability to continue scenting while overcoming physical obstacles.
- C. The dog's ability to continue scenting under difficult and varied handling conditions.

Various types of terrain and cover, including gullies, plowed land, woods, and vegetation may be used. Natural obstacles such as streams or man-made obstacles such as fences, bridges or lightly traveled roads may be used.

The Official Chart/map must clearly indicate the obstacles used in the Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.

5.7 Articles for the TDX Track

The criteria for articles as contained in [Section 2.6](#) shall apply. The Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test articles shall consist of four personal, dissimilar articles, about the same size as a glove or wallet, which are to be dropped on the track by the Tracklayer at the points indicated on the Judges' Charts/maps.

The first article shall be dropped at the starting flag and be clearly visible to the handler. The next two articles shall be dropped at wide intervals directly on the track. The fourth article shall be dropped at the end of the track. Only the last article may be a glove or a wallet. The articles shall be designated by the Judge(s) and marked on their Official Chart/map. Articles shall be dropped more than thirty yards from a turn, an obstacle, or a cross-track.

5.8 Start of the TDX Track

The start shall have one flag in an area that permits the direction of the track to begin in a radius of 180 degrees.

The Judges, at a distance of about fifty yards from the starting flag, will instruct the handler as to the location of the starting flag, but will not indicate the direction of the track.

The angle between the handler's approach and the Tracklayer's direction of approach shall be less than ninety degrees. No two handlers shall be directed to approach the starting flags at the same angle.

The handler may use any method as long as no force, guidance or roughness is used to start the dog at the first flag of the test. Since there is no second flag in this test, the handler must wait for the dog to commit itself before leaving the starting flag. At the start of the track, the dog is to be given ample time to take the scent and to begin tracking. Once the handler has left the starting flag the test has begun, and no restart is permitted. The handler may pick up the article at the starting flag and use it, as well as subsequent articles, to give scent to the dog while on the track.

5.9 Aiding of the Dog on the TDX Track

The handler may physically assist the dog when obstacles, barriers or terrain so require.

5.10 Judges Books for the TDX

The Judge's Official Charts/maps should be marked, one by each Judge (as in a TD or TDU) and include the following additional information:

1. The time the Cross-tracklayer started.
2. The location and description of the articles used.
3. The location and description of the obstacles used.
4. The location and direction of the cross-tracks.

Chapter 6. The Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Test

The fundamental feature of an Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Test is to show unquestionably that the dog has the ability to discriminate scent and possesses the stamina, perseverance, and courage to do so under widely varying surfaces in an urban setting. An Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) presents different surface challenges. It can be laid anywhere a person can walk in an urban environment. Judges are to plot tracks as challenging and realistic as the terrain will permit, while maintaining proper concern for the safety of the dogs and handlers.

6.1 Eligibility for the UTDX Test

The Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Test shall be for dogs that have earned the TDU Title or TDX. A dog may continue to participate in this UTDX Test after it has earned the UTDX title. However, dogs not holding a UTDX title shall be given priority for entry in the UTDX Test by the Tracking Test Secretary. A statement to this effect shall appear in the Premium. Draw for Test Entries applies (see [Section 1.21](#)).

6.2 The UTDX Title

ASCA will issue an Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Title to:

- A. ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs.
- B. Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP Number.
- C. Any other dogs with an ASCA QTracker Number (QT).

The use of the letters "UTDX" is permitted after the name of each dog that has passed an Affiliate Club Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Test.

Any dog already holding an ASCA UTDX title may re-enter the same test without limits. However, draw for test entry rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial UTDX Title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: UTDX-2, UTDX-3, etc.

6.3 Requirements for the UTDX Track

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for an Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Track:

1. The track shall be at least 600 yards and not more than 750 yards in length.
2. The length of each of the legs of the track shall be at least thirty yards.
3. The scent on the track shall not be less than two hours or more than four hours old.
4. A minimum of four and maximum of six turns shall be used. Both left and right turns shall be used. The first turn shall be in an open area and have multiple options for the direction the track may start. Acute angles should never be used except in unusual circumstances when terrain dictates. A turn whose angle is severely acute shall not be used. When structures funnel the dog through an area that turns, but no choice is available to the dog, it will not be considered a turn. Turns can be made on any surface.
5. At least two turns shall be right angle turns. At least one of the right-angle turns shall be to the right and at least one shall be to the left. At least one right angle turn shall be on a non-vegetated surface and at least one right angle turn shall be on vegetated surface.
6. No part of the track may be within fifty yards of any other part of the same track if there is no physical feature separating them. If the parts of the track are separated by a physical feature, they may be thirty yards apart. Physical features may include (but not limited to) buildings, hills, mounds, thick woods, tall solid fences or walls. No parallel legs may be closer than fifty yards even when separated by a building.
7. No part of the track will cross under/over another part of the track (such as an elevated walkway). A tracklayer may enter or exit the track crossing under/over another part of the track (such as using an elevated walkway to exit the tracking area).
8. Surfaces (see [Section 6.5](#)).
9. Articles (see [Section 6.7](#)).

If, because of the terrain, the Judges are unable to plot a track that meets all requirements for an Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Test track, explanation of the circumstances must be reported in the Judge's Books.

6.4 Tracklayers

The tracklayer will begin about twenty yards from the starting flag, lining up with the starting flag and the first turn. The tracklayer will pause momentarily at the first flag, place the first article in a plastic bag, and continue laying the track. The tracklayer will not leave the first article at the start. Instead, the tracklayer will keep possession of the bag until they finish laying the track and give it to the judge. The tracklayer will continue walking the track as specified in [Section 2.10](#).

6.5 Surfaces

The track must contain surfaces from these three categories:

1. Vegetation - grass, moss, weeds low growing ground cover, etc.
2. Non-Vegetation soft surface - dirt, bark, mulch, wood chips, gravel, etc.
3. Hard Surface - cobblestone/brick, cement, concrete, asphalt, rubberized play surface, etc.

Surface criteria:

1. Track must contain at least thirty yards of each category but no more than sixty to eighty percent non-veg, preferably with a combination of hard and soft non-veg.
2. Track must contain at least three surface transitions; some transitions can be between surfaces in the same category (**Example:** brick to asphalt is a transition).
3. The start and first twenty yards will be on vegetation.
4. No snow will be allowed on an Urban Excellent track. In the case of snow, the test must be cancelled or rescheduled.

6.6 Obstacles

The track will not have obstacles/barriers on the track that could require handlers to lift or carry their dog. Stairs are not considered an obstacle.

Streets and sidewalks can be used; however, areas with heavy or high-speed traffic are to be avoided.

Tracks must be plotted close (less than twenty yards) to building(s) or solid structure(s) of such size that its proximity to the track creates a scent challenge for the dog in at least one leg, or portion of a leg, and may include a turn. This location will be noted in chart/map.

6.7 Articles for the UTDX Track

The criteria for articles as contained in [Section 2.6](#) shall apply. The Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Test articles shall consist of four personal, dissimilar articles, about the same size as a glove or wallet, which are to be dropped on the track by the Tracklayer at the points indicated on the Judges' Charts/maps.

Start article - cloth item such as : handkerchief, hat, sock, mitten, slipper.

Intermediate article - wood, cloth, plastic and metal item such as water bottle (metal or plastic), shoe/sandal/flip flop, smashed cell phone (metal or plastic), cell phone case (metal or plastic), candy or mint container (metal or plastic), key fob with key(s), lanyard with id badge, purse, check book cover, etc. The mate to start article (e.g., sock, mitten, or slipper) may be one of the intermediate articles.

The end article must be composed primarily of leather and be a glove, wallet or similar size item as cell phone case or purse.

The Start Article:

1. Shall be a primarily cloth item such as: handkerchief, hat, sock, mitten, slipper (non-slip sole slipper is acceptable).
2. At the time the track is laid the tracklayer will place the scented start article in a sealed plastic bag labeled with the track layer's name and track number. The bag will stay in the possession of the track layer. The track layer will give the bag containing the start article to the judges when requested.

The Intermediate and End Articles:

1. The next two articles shall be dropped at wide intervals directly on the track as directed by the judges on plotting day. The intermediate articles will be of different (dissimilar) material composition from each other. The end article shall be dropped at the end of the track. Track layer will continue walking twenty yards in the straight line before exiting the track.
2. If an article is missing and the dog is actively working the track scent in the area of the plotted article location, judges will give dog and handler credit for the article as if it were found. If an article is moved, such as, but not limited to, a passerby places it on top of a trash can, and the dog misses it, it will not constitute a failure.

The articles shall be designated by the Judge(s) and marked on their Official Chart/map. Articles shall be dropped more than twenty yards from a turn. There will be no article on the first leg. Articles will only be dropped on legs longer than fifty yards. At least one article will be dropped on a non-vegetated surface. The end article may be dropped on a non-vegetated surface.

6.8 Start of the UTDX Track

The start shall have one flag in an area that permits the direction of the track to begin in a radius of 180 degrees, where possible, but must at least allow several directions of travel. The Judges, at a distance of about thirty yards from the starting flag, will instruct the handler as to the location of the starting flag, but will not indicate the direction of the track. The judges will give the handler the bag containing the tracklayers scented start article. The angle between the handler's approach and the Tracklayer's direction of approach shall be less than ninety degrees.

The handler may use any method as long as no force, guidance or roughness is used to start the dog at the first flag of the test. Since there is no second flag in this test, the handler must wait for the dog to commit itself before leaving the starting flag. At the start of the track, the dog is to be given ample time to take the scent and to begin tracking. The handler may start the dog however they choose, such as, but not limited to, scenting from the bag, placing the article on the ground at the flag, casting the dog within a line length of the flag. Once the handler has left the starting flag the test has begun, and no restart is permitted. The handler may re-scent to the dog at any time while on the track.

The handler may follow as close as ten feet behind the dog at any time. The dog may choose to work closer to the handler in which case the handler will hold position until dog is working at least ten feet distance before following. The handler may approach or recall dog to detangle line, re-scent or water dog at any time but once again wait until dog is the minimum ten feet distance before following.

6.9 Aiding of the Dog on the UTDX Track

There should be no obstacles or barriers on Urban tracks there would necessitate helping the dog. If one occurs after the track is laid, then it must be noted on the judge's map. If the track is near or crosses a street with traffic and the dog wishes to cross the street, the handler may stop the dog and lead it across to check the other side in a manner which is safe for the dog and handler. This will not be considered guiding.

6.10 Judges Books for the UTDX

The Judge's Official Charts/maps should be marked, one by each Judge (as in a TD or TDU) and include the following additional information:

1. The location and description of the articles used.
2. The building that is a significant scent obstacle
3. The location and description of the surfaces used.

Chapter 7. The Master Tracker (MT) Title

ASCA will issue the title of Master Tracker (MT) to:

- A. ASCA registered Australian Shepherds.
- B. Australian Shepherds with an ASCA LEP Number.
- C. Any other dog with an ASCA QTracker Number.

The use of the letters "MT" is permitted after the name of each dog eligible for the title.

The title of Master Tracker (MT) will be awarded to dogs who have earned a higher level of achievement in tracking by passing a variety of Tracking Tests a number of times at ASCA sanctioned Tracking Trials. The required number of passes will be taken from the total number of passes in TD, TDU, UTDX, and TDX by the ASCA Business Office.

7.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for the title Master Tracker (MT) a dog must successfully pass a minimum of:

1. Three Tracking Tests (see [Section 3.3](#)) or three Tracking Dog Urban Tests (see [Section 4.3](#)) or any combination of TDs and/or TDUs to total three, and
2. Two Tracking Dog Excellent Tests (see [Section 5.2](#)) or two Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Tests (see [Section 6.2](#)) or a combination of a TDX and a UTDX to total two.

Example: A dog may pass two TDUs and one TD and two TDXs or a dog may pass three TDs and two TDXs etc. to earn the title of Master Tracker (MT).

A dog may earn the title of Master Tracker (MT) only once regardless of the number of passes beyond the minimum requirements. Dogs that already hold the ASCA Tracking titles of TD, TDU and TDX will have those titles applied towards the MT title; however, each dog must earn the required number of passes at each test level before the title of MT will be awarded. Draw for Test Entries applies (see [Section 1.21](#)).

Chapter 8. The Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD)

The Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD) is an optional title and not a pre-requisite for a TD or TDU. The fundamental features of a Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD) are the dog's ability to follow a short track laid by a person and find an article dropped by that person. The purpose of this test is to make ASCA tracking more accessible in all parts of the country (world). This test may be held as a tracking test with up to ten dogs judged in a day and not to exceed eight total hours judging time by an examiner. However, it was also designed to be flexible enough that it could be held similar to a certification test with a judge/examiner and one or two participants. It may be held in conjunction with other ASCA events (e.g., conformation show on a local fairgrounds) or as a standalone event.

8.1 Eligibility for the BTD Test

The Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Test shall be for dogs not less than six months of age that are eligible for entry and have not earned an ASCA TD or TDU. A dog may continue to participate in the Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Test after it has earned the title of BTD but not after it has earned a TD or TDU.

The Tracking Test Secretary shall give dogs not holding a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Title priority for entry in the Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Test. A statement to this effect shall appear in the Premium.

8.2 The BTD Title

ASCA will issue a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) title to:

- A. ASCA Registered Australian Shepherds.
- B. Australian Shepherds with an ASCA LEP Number.
- C. Any other dogs with an ASCA QTracker Number.

The use of the letters "BTD" is permitted after the name of each dog that has been certified by a qualified judge/examiner to have passed a Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD).

Any dog that is already holding an ASCA BTM title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply.

8.3 Requirements for the BTM Track

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a TD track:

1. The track shall be at least 175 yards and not more than 250 yards in length.
2. The length of each of the legs shall be at least fifty yards.
3. The scent on the track shall be not less than fifteen minutes or more than one hour old.
4. The track layer is to be chosen by the participant and may be known to the dog. There is no restriction on the track layer, and it may be a member of the family, a member of the examiner's family, a training partner, or a stranger. The tracklayer may not talk with the participant between laying the track and the track being run.
5. The track does not have to be plotted the day before (but it may be). The track may be plotted and then walked by the track layer two or more hours later.
6. A total of two turns shall be used. Both left and right turns must be used. No acute angle turns are to be used. The turn must be more than thirty yards from the second flag.
7. The turn should be greater than ninety degrees whenever possible.
8. No part of the track shall follow any fence or boundary within fifteen yards of such fence or boundary.
9. No part of the track may be within fifty yards of any other part of the same track.
10. Consecutive parallel tracks shall not be used.
11. No part of any track shall be laid within fifty yards of another track. However, with two tracks going in opposite directions from the same area, the starting flags may be as close as fifty yards from each other.
12. A track shall not cross a body of water or a paved road.
13. No BTM track should have changes of cover that would be suitable for a TDX obstacle.
14. No conflicting (cross) tracks shall be used.
15. A track shall have a start article at the first flag, and a second article at the end of the track.

If, because of the terrain, the judge/examiner is unable to plot a track that meets all requirements for a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTM) Test, an explanation of the circumstances must be reported in the Judge's Books.

8.4 Articles for the BTM Track

Articles shall meet the same criteria as articles for the TD set out in [Section 2.6](#). There will be no penalty for the handler and dog team playing with the end article when they find it. The handler may carry a toy or food and reward the dog upon finding the article. In a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTM) Test there shall be a cloth start article, and the end article shall be a cloth or leather glove or wallet.

8.5 Start of the BTM Track

The start shall have a flag at the beginning, and a second flag, indicating the direction of the first leg, thirty yards from the first flag. The Tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in [Section 2.10](#) with the exception that the track does not have to be plotted the day before (see [Section 6.3](#) #5 for plotting requirements). An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag. This article shall be Cloth, (such as but not limited to, a Bandana, or a Sock) and close to the same size as the end article, a cloth or leather glove or wallet.

At the direction of the examiner, the handler and dog will approach the first flag. The handler may use any method, including restraining the dog by the leash as long as no force, directional guidance, or roughness, is used to start the dog at the first flag on the track. The handler may pick up the article at the start flag and use it to give scent to the dog while on the track. If the article is not at the start, the handler, while controlling the dog at the start flag, may request from the judge/examiner another article belonging to the Tracklayer.

The Beginning Tracking Dog (BTM) Test begins when the dog leaves/passes the first flag. The initial thirty yards between the flags is part of the track and all requirements for the track apply except that during this time the examiner, at their discretion, may give advice to the handler, including letting them know they may restart. The handler does not need to follow the advice and any advice given should be only for the purpose of helping a new handler be comfortable on the track and giving them the best chance possible of passing. In this portion of the track, the dog may be restrained by the handler. The examiner, during this part of the track, should ask the handler to stop any leading or guiding of the dog but it does not constitute grounds for deeming the handler "off the track" and failing the dog. Provided the dog has not passed the second flag, the handler may request permission from the judge/examiner for a restart. If approved by the examiner, the handler may restart the dog, either from their present location or after returning to the starting flag. Only one restart is permitted. If a restart is requested, an auxiliary article can no longer be requested.

8.6 Judge/Examiner for BTB Track

A person who has put at least one TDX or VST or equivalent title on a dog may be a judge/examiner for the BTB. The title may be a title from ASCA, AKC, or CKC. Other organizations may be approved by the ASCA tracking committee when requested (**Example:** titling organizations in other countries or IPO). When submitting sanctioning paperwork, a photocopy or digital copy of the title(s) the judge/examiner earned shall be included.

Chapter 9. The Tracking Interest Profile

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

9.1 Eligibility for the Tracking Interest Profile

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

9.2 The Tracking Interest Profile

ASCA will issue Official Tracking Interest Profile sheets to any qualified examiner. The examiner will need to send their qualifications to the ASCA Business Office along with a request for the number of profiles they want. The price of the profiles will be set by the Business Office. The profit from these profiles will be split evenly between the Stockdog Finals (to support the purpose of the breed) and the National Tracking Test.

9.3 Requirements for the Tracking Interest Profile Track

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

1. The track shall be at least sixty yards and not more than one hundred yards in length.
2. The scent on the track shall be not less than five minutes or more than thirty minutes old.
3. The track layer is to be the handler or other person designated by the handler.
4. The track layer may place food in the start and end article and at about the halfway point of the track.
5. The placing of food shall be at the handler's discretion.
6. No part of the track shall follow any fence or boundary within fifteen yards of such fence or boundary.
7. No part of the track may be within fifteen yards of any other part of the same track.
8. No part of any track shall be laid within fifteen yards of another track. However, with two tracks going in opposite directions from the same area, the starting flags may be as close as fifteen yards from each other.
9. A track shall not cross a body of water or a paved road.
10. No Tracking Interest Profile track should have changes of cover that would be suitable for a TDX obstacle.
11. No conflicting (cross) tracks shall be used.
12. A track shall have a start article at the first flag, and a second article at the end of the track.

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

9.4 Articles for the Tracking Interest Profile Track

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

9.5 Start of the Tracking interest Profile Track

The start shall have a flag at the beginning, and a second flag, indicating the direction of the first leg, thirty yards from the first flag. The Tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in [Section 2.10](#) with the exception that the track is not pre-plotted.

An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag. The dog may be held by a person and watch the track being laid at the handler's discretion. The person laying the tracking may turn around and engage the dog by calling its name or showing it the article if the handler so wishes.

At the direction of the examiner, the handler and dog will approach the first flag. The handler may use any method, including restraining the dog by the leash as long as no force, directional guidance, or roughness, is used to start the dog at the first flag on the track. The handler may pick up the article at the start flag and use it to give scent to the dog while on the track. The examiner may give help and suggestions during the track. The handler should remain six to ten feet behind the dog after they pass the second flag.

9.6 Examiner for Tracking Interest Profile

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

Chapter 10. Judge Requirements

10.1 Outside Registry Judges

Judges in good standing with the following organizations may judge ASCA Tracking Trials after they complete and send a Tracking Judge Qualification Form (see the [ASCA Website](#)) to the ASCA Business Office, and provided they are in good standing with ASCA:

1. IPO Judges approved to judge through IPO III.
2. Canadian Kennel Club Tracking Judges, to the level they are approved to judge in CKC.
3. American Kennel Club Tracking Judges, to the level they are approved to judge in AKC.

Judging an ASCA Tracking Trial is a privilege not a right. Approval to judge Tracking Tests for other organizations is not a guarantee of approval to judge any ASCA Tracking Test. Judges must follow ASCA Tracking Regulations and adhere to ASCA's Code of Ethics. Any documented failure to perform at this level may result in the revocation of judging privileges by the ASCA Board of Directors without regard to any other qualifications or for former service.

10.2 ASCA Tracking Judge Applicants

Applicants who wish to apply to become an ASCA Tracking Judge, without affiliations other than ASCA, should fill out the Tracking Judge Qualification Form, (see the [ASCA Website](#)), and send it to the ASCA Business Office. The Form will be forwarded to the Tracking Committee for review. If approved, Applicants will become Provisional Judges for a minimum of two assignments per test level. After the Provisional Judge's assignments are completed, the Applicant can petition the ASCA Board of Directors to be moved to regular status by sending the Board the copies of the Co-judge reviews. Their name will be published on the ASCA Website and in the AussEnews for vote by the Board on their status. Information received by the Webmaster by the twenty-fifth of the current month will be published on the ASCA Website and in the AussEnews by the first of the following month.

10.3 Requirements

The ASCA Business Office will review that all information is in the application. Resume:

- A. One TD/TDU for TD/TDU level
- B. One TDX for TD and TDX level
- C. Three tracking maps for a tracking test (not needed for those judges with Full Status Other Registry)
- D. Two recommendations of tracking experience (not needed for those judges with Full Status Other Registry)
- E. Tracking Judge Application Form (see the [ASCA Website](#))

10.4 Approval Process

All levels need approval of the ASCA Business Office and the ASCA Board of Directors. Other Registry that are full status TDX can be approved by the Business Office then the Board.

Other Registry provisional status – Approval by the ASCA Tracking Committee, then the ASCA Business Office, then the ASCA Board of Directors.

ASCA Tracking Application – Approval by the ASCA Tracking Committee, then the ASCA Business Office, then the ASCA Board of Directors.

10.5 Moving from Provisional Status

Fill out Part 1 and Part 5 of the application – Approval by the ASCA Tracking Committee, then the ASCA Business Office, then the ASCA Board of Directors.

10.6 Beginning Tracking Judge/Examiner

Anyone who has handled a dog to one TDX or VST or equivalent title from ASCA, AKC, CKC may Judge a Beginning Tracking Dog test. Applicants who wish to apply to judge a Beginning Tracking Dog test who are not an ASCA approved tracking judge, should fill out the Beginning Tracking Dog Judge/Examiner Form and send it to the ASCA Office with the sanctioning paperwork. The Form will be forwarded to the Tracking Committee for review if the Judge/Examiner is using a tracking title from an organization other than ASCA/AKC/CKC for review. If the form is completed and a copy of a TDX/VST tracking certificate is included, the ASCA Business Office can approve the examiner without sending it to the Tracking Committee.

Judging an ASCA Tracking Trial is a privilege not a right. Approval to judge Tracking Tests for other organizations is not a guarantee of approval to judge any ASCA Tracking Test. Judges must follow ASCA Tracking Regulations and adhere to ASCA's Code of Ethics. Any documented failure to perform at this level may result in the revocation of judging privileges by the ASCA Board of Directors without regard to any other qualifications or for former service.

Chapter 11. The Tracking Championship (TCH)

ASCA will issue the title of Tracking Championship (TCH) to ASCA registered Australian Shepherds, Australian Shepherds with an ASCA LEP Number, and any other dog with an ASCA Office QTracker Number. The use of the letters "TCH" is permitted before the name of each dog eligible for the title.

The title of Tracking Championship (TCH) will be awarded to dogs who have earned a higher level of achievement in tracking by passing a variety of Tracking Tests at ASCA sanctioned Tracking Trials.

11.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for the title Tracking Championship (TCH) a dog must successfully pass all levels of Tracking tests, TD, TDU, TDX and UTDX. ASCA will issue a Tracking Championship certificate and will permit the use of the letters TCH preceding the name of each dog that has earned this title.

*In order to receive the TCH Tracking Championship title, dog owners must fill out the form called "Tracking Championship Verification Form" and submit it to the ASCA Business Office - email to stockdog@asca.org.

APPENDIX A: Glossary

Immediate Family: Immediate family means husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law.

Immediate Household: To mean all those residing within the residence.

Registered Dogs: As used in these regulations, the term “dog” refers to either sex. All Australian Shepherds must have a Registration Number or an LEP Number in order to compete in an ASCA Sanctioned Tracking Trial. Dogs must be six months or older in order to compete in any Tracking Test. Tracking Trials need not be limited to Australian Shepherds only, with the exception of a SPECIALTY, and then it shall be for ASCA registered Australian Shepherds ONLY. Other breeds entered in a Tracking Trial sanctioned by ASCA Affiliate Clubs must abide by ASCA rules and regulations and have an “ASCA Office QTracker Number” in order to compete in an ASCA Sanctioned Tracking Trial.

Unregistered Dogs: At the discretion of the club, and it must be posted in the Trial premium, a dog will be allowed to compete in the Trial if the handler applies for an “ASCA Office QTracker Number” concurrently with the submission of the entry. The handler will be issued a receipt by the Tracking Test Secretary valid for sixty days to allow the ASCA office time to issue the Office QTracker Number.

ASCA: The words “Australian Shepherd Club of America” may appear in these rules in an abbreviated form as “ASCA.”

Club: An ASCA Affiliate in good standing.

USA: The words “United States of America” wherever used in these rules and regulations shall be constructed to include all territories and possessions of the United States of America and all vessels sailing under the American Flag.

Dog: The word “dog” wherever used in these rules and regulations includes both sexes.

“Specialty” Show: A show sanctioned by an ASCA Affiliate Club at which championship points will be given and which includes an Obedience and/or Working trial.

“Member” Show: A show at which championship points may be awarded. Application for sanctioning of this type of show must be submitted by an ASCA Affiliate Club in good standing.

Sanctioned Event: A Conformation Show, Obedience Trial, Stockdog Trial, Tracking Trial, Rally Trial or Agility Trial that may be held alone or in conjunction with the other events.

Tracking Trial: One or more of the following tests: TD, TDU and TDX held under one sanctioning number and using one Premium.

Tracking Test: A sanctioned and judged test of a dog’s scenting ability consisting of a number of separate tracks for separate entrants at one equivalent level, (i.e., a TD test, a TDU test or a TDX test).

APPENDIX B: Guidelines for Tracking Tests

Tracking is a sport in the truest sense. The dog works for the sheer love of scenting. The tracking fraternity is known for its friendliness, hospitality, and encouragement of all participants.

Tracking Judges are members of a very select group. Judges are expected to maintain the high standards that have been set for the handlers entering all ASCA Tracking Tests. At the same time, a Judge should endeavor to make any Tracking Trial itself a pleasurable event for dogs, handlers, spectators, and the club sponsoring the Trial. Adherence to the principles provided in the Tracking Regulations and Guidelines will enable Judges to achieve these goals.

Assignments

A tracking assignment entails a two-day commitment by the Judges. Acceptance of an assignment presumes that if a Tracking Test is on a Saturday, the Judges will be available to plot tracks the day before. Similarly, a Sunday Tracking Test will involve the Judges for both days of that weekend. No Judge should accept an assignment, which requires more in one day than they are physically and mentally able to accomplish. Tracking Judges who judge at Events with combined venues that include tracking may compete at other venues at that event once their tracking judging assignments have been completed.

Assignment Limitation

There are no restrictions regarding time or distance for Tracking Trial assignments other than the Judge's availability to satisfactorily carry out the responsibilities of plotting and judging.

A Provisional TD Tracking Test Judge must judge at least twice before petitioning the ASCA Board of Directors to be moved into Regular TD status. At each assignment, the Co-judge must make a written report of the Provisional Judge's performance (see the [ASCA Website](#)). A copy of this report should be sent to the ASCA Office with relevant paperwork and another copy should be given to the Provisional to submit with their Application for Regular Status. No Tracking Test may be judged by two Provisional Judges. **NO PROVISIONAL JUDGE MAY JUDGE AT AN ASCA NATIONAL TRACKING TRIAL.** A Provisional Tracking Judge is required to judge their provisional assignments with at least three different approved Tracking Test Judges, none of which can be a member of the Provisional Judge's family or immediate household.

Physical Fitness

A Tracking Test entails two days of extensive walking over varied terrain. Tracking Judges must be physically fit. No Judge should accept an assignment with the assumption that the Co-judge will do the lion's share of the physical work. When people are not capable of carrying out the responsibility of a Tracking Judge because of physical difficulties, they do themselves and the sport a disservice by continuing to accept assignments.

Attire

Tracking Tests are outdoor events and subject to all varieties of weather. Tracking Judges should be prepared with suitable outdoor gear for inclement conditions.

Weather

In the event of an "unforeseen emergency" (severe weather or lightning could be considered in this category), a Tracking Trial may be postponed. Judges and the Tracking Test Secretary must consider the difficulty such a postponement would pose for the entrants who may have traveled great distances to the event. Postponement could pose problems for the Host Affiliate Club as well as for the Judges. A normal rainstorm is not considered sufficient justification to delay a track or conducting a Tracking Test. A sudden torrential cloudburst or lightning could be justification for a retest on another track if the scent of the original track, in both Judges' opinions, was completely washed out. Similarly, a cloudburst could delay laying a track.

Use of Tracking Area

The most frequent problem confronting Tracking Judges is the underestimation, by Host Affiliate Clubs, of the space required for an ASCA Regulation Track. Judges must resist any pressure to accept too small an area. The statement "We handled 'x' number of tracks in this one field last year" should not influence the Judges. At the same time, valuable tracking space should not be wasted, and Judges must make every effort to utilize all the terrain available to its best possible advantage.

If the Judges determine that the safety of the handler and dog, or the performance of the dog will be affected on unsuitable grounds, the Judges must give each entrant the option of withdrawing their entry. If the entrant chooses not to run the track under these circumstances, the club shall refund the entry fee. A complete report of unsuitable grounds or lack of sufficient areas in which to plot the tracks shall be made to ASCA by the Judges in the Judge's Books.

Club Responsibilities

See also [Section 1.23](#). It is the responsibility of each Host Affiliate Club to furnish the following:

1. Transportation for the Judges to and from the tracking area.
2. A more than adequate supply of tracking flags of sufficient height so as to be readily visible to Tracklayers in the existing ground cover. There should be different colored flags for the successive numbered tracks and cross-tracks so as to eliminate any possibility of error. More than one mallet should be available to drive flags firmly into the ground.
3. Adequate manpower to assist the Judges.
4. A tracking area that can easily accommodate the number of entries in the test. The area must also meet the requirements of the Regulations as to terrain.
5. Articles that meet the requirements of the Tracking Regulations.
6. Judge's Books.
7. A map of the Tracking area.

If there are any questions concerning the sufficiency of land to handle the entry, or of suitability as to terrain, the Judges should conduct an overall survey of the tracking area before plotting.

Length of Stride

Each Tracking Judge should determine the length of their stride, walking normally. A Judge should be able to easily convert each step into yards or parts of a yard. A Judge should check the length of their stride as a part of the preparation for plotting tracks.

Handler's Responsibility

Handlers have the responsibility to train and prepare the dog for a variety of terrain and conditions that may be encountered in the various Tests. It is essential for handlers to realize that obstacles are an important characteristic of the Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test and that dogs need training to work through obstacles of varying difficulty.

Position of the Judges During the Tracking Test

While it is possible to see an entire track from a single vantage point, it is virtually impossible to evaluate a marginal or failing performance from this same single or stationary point. It is also unfair to dogs and their handlers. Distance can play tricks with the precise location of turns. Anyone can pass a dog that unhesitatingly executes every turn and, nose down, tracks perfectly and finds the article(s). Judges are needed for the evaluation of imperfect performances.

To ensure that the dog and handler are on the track, it is essential that the Judges follow the dog and handler at a discreet distance. A recommended position for evaluating the performance is on the leg of the track just completed. In the case of a very long leg, a position about forty to fifty yards behind the handler works well. If the handler and dog cannot be observed, due to terrain or dense vegetation, the Judges may move closer to observe the handler and dog.

The Judges should confine their position to a completed portion of the track. By walking into a still unused part of the field, the Judges show the handler that a track cannot go into this area. Also, Judges who move only when the dog is moving in the correct direction may indicate the direction of the track to the handler.

Evaluation of the Tracking Performance

The position of the handler relative to the track and the action of the dog is the key to the Judges' overall evaluation. If the handler is on the track or at a turn and the dog is working but has not given a positive indication to the handler to move, the Judges should wait for the handler to commit themselves to a direction. On the other hand, if the handler has been led off the track by the dog, and the dog is casting widely, trying to find a scent that is nonexistent in this area, the dog and handler may be called "off the track". It is generally a good practice to let the dog and handler travel an adequate distance away from the track before failing the performance. However, care must be taken so that the dog does not encounter another leg of the same track in an adjacent field. The timing for calling the dog and handler off the track is all important. There must be no question in either Judge's mind. For this reason, it is recommended that the Judges be in close proximity and communication with each other. This does not mean that there should be ongoing dialogue between the Judges; only that consultation should be easy.

Judges Qualifications

Tracking Judges must be familiar with the various conditions that exist when a dog is required to work a scent trail. Scent conditions, weather, terrain, ground cover, wind direction and age of scent, must be considered. A thorough knowledge of these factors is necessary. In addition, the TDX Judge must be experienced in advanced tracking and familiar with how types of obstacles and cross-tracks affect a dog's work.

TD/TDU Official Chart/map Information:

1. Thirty yards between the two starting flags.
2. At least thirty yards beyond the second starting flag to the first turn.
3. Legs must not be less than fifty yards in length.
4. The Tracklayer proceeds straight ahead for at least thirty yards after dropping the final article.
5. Indicate dog's path with a dash line (may use Red Marker).
6. Circle distances between turns.
7. Must have both right and left-handed turns with at least two right angle turns well out in the open.
8. Must show landmarks, telephone poles, rocks, trees and any other objects that are easily identifiable, may be used to identify turns as well.
9. Direction of the wind (if any) at the start flag.
10. The first article (at the starting flag) may or may not be picked up by the handler.

TDX Official Chart/map Information:

1. 180-degree arc possible for start at start flag.
2. Thirty yards straight approach to start flag for Tracklayer.
3. The handler and dog approach at less than ninety degrees to direction of the Tracklayer (first leg).
4. The first article at the starting flag may or may not be picked up by the handler.
5. There will be NO obstacle, cross-track or another article on the first leg.
6. No legs shall be less than fifty yards in length or come within fifty yards of another track.
7. There shall be at least five to seven turns and shall be both right turns and left turns. At least three of these turns shall be ninety -degree angles.
8. The remaining articles will be dropped along and, on the track, as indicated by the Judges and at least thirty yards from a turn, cross-track, or an obstacle.
9. Cross-tracks shall be at least fifty yards from a turn.
10. Indicate direction of the cross-track.
11. Other items the same as listed in TD/TDU Official Charts/Maps.

One Way to Plot a TDX Start:

1. Judges determined an arc of 180 degrees. It should be possible for the track to go in any direction in this arc.
2. Judges put in the starting flag.
3. Judges set the path of handler and dog's approach perpendicular to the arc.
4. Judges determine the direction of the track.
5. Judges make sure the Tracklayer approaches the starting flag straight along the direction of the track for at least thirty yards.

General Comments for all Official Charts/Maps:

1. Angles on the Judge's Chart/map should be approximately the same as the angles on the track.
2. The lengths of the legs should be approximately proportional to the legs of the track.
3. Keep copies of charts and field notes for at least six months. Judge's Chart/map should have sufficient details so that with the help of field notes the track can be reconstructed.
4. Use a pen to make the Judge's Chart/map.
5. Make sure copies are clear.

APPENDIX C: Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Tracking Judges

It is essential that all exhibitors have complete faith in the impartiality of the Judge. Judges shall be professional in their demeanor. They carry a tremendous responsibility. They function as a voice for ASCA and should represent the highest ideals in terms of honesty and integrity. A Judge's actions must be above reproach. The safety and concern of the dog and handler shall be of the foremost concern in the design of tracks. Judges should be ever mindful that ASCA Tracking Trials are staffed largely or entirely by unpaid volunteers, and shall treat Tracklayers, the Tracking Test Secretary, and other test personnel with courtesy and consideration.

Conduct: Although a Judge cannot control who enters under them, the Judge should advise potential exhibitors not to enter under them when they feel that there is a conflict of interest, to avoid improprieties or perceived improprieties.

Example: An employer, a relative, or a person living in the same household.

When officiating at a Tracking Trial:

1. A Judge shall not judge any dog that is co-owned or bred by the Judge.
2. A Judge shall not place themselves in positions on the track so as to indicate the correct direction of the track, nor place markers or articles so as to clearly indicate corners.
3. A Judge shall not run their dog in the Tracking Trial. If judging more than one Tracking Test, the Judge may not exhibit in that portion of the Test in which they are not judging.
4. A Judge should avoid casual remarks that may be misinterpreted as favoritism or criticism.
5. A Judge, or a member of their family, should never solicit or promote assignments on the Judge's behalf.

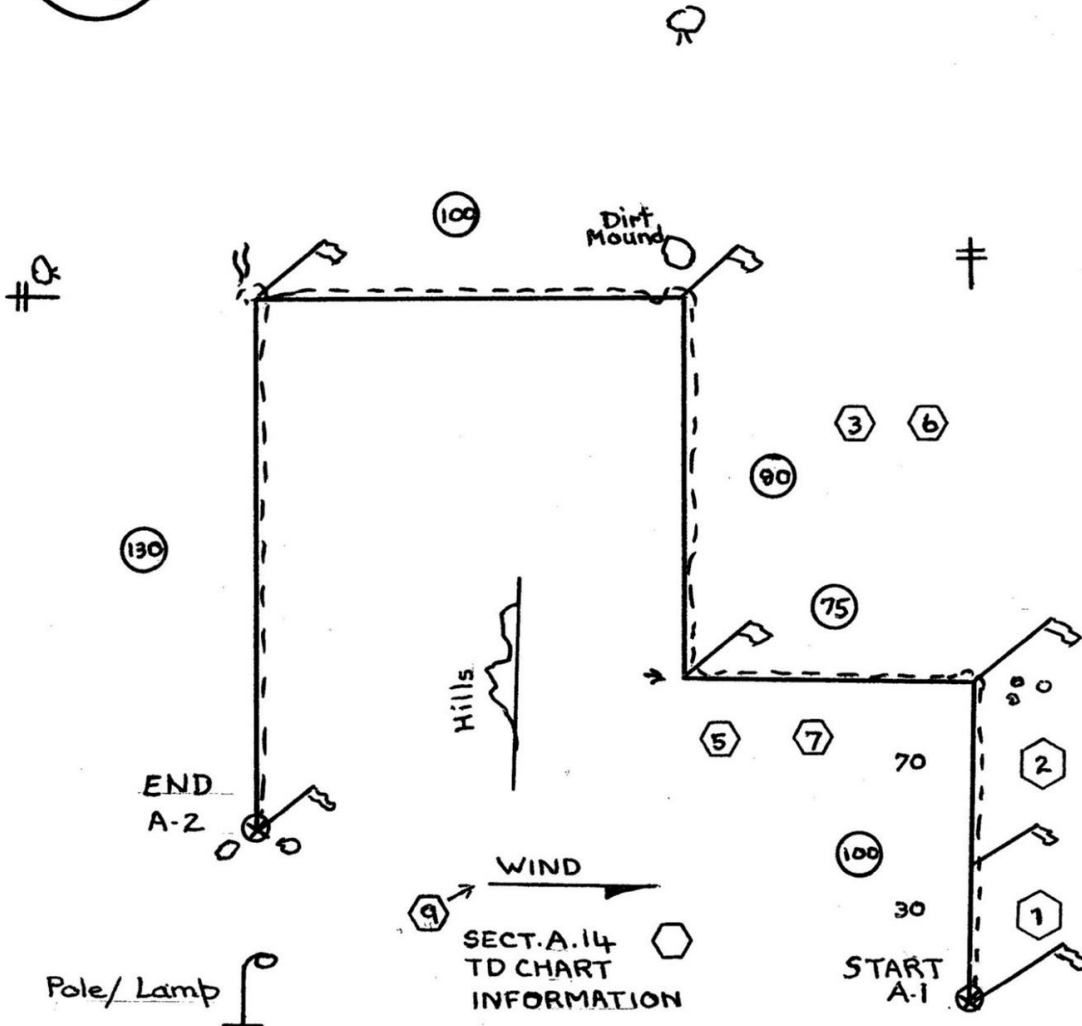
Failure to comply with this Guidelines/Code of Ethics subjects a Judge to possible disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA judging privileges. Judges will be notified if such an action is being considered, the reason it is being considered, and given the opportunity to reply.

APPENDIX D: Sample TD Chart/Map



Catalog # 102 **TD/TDX Track #** 2 **Total Yards** 485

Chart the track in a solid line — the dog's course in a broken line in area below. Tracks do not need to be to scale.



Passed or Failed Passed
 (If failed, state reason) _____
 Tracklayer Started 6:30 a.m.
 X-Tracklayer Started _____
 Dog's Starting Time 7:05 a.m.
 Dog's Finishing Time 7:13 a.m.
 Ground Conditions Low-Med. Green
 Weather Conditions Clear-Cool
 Wind Light-(1-3 mph)

Articles 1. Sock 2. Glove 3. _____ 4. _____
 Obstacles 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
 Breed / Sex Australian Shepherd - Dog
 Dog's Registration # X00000
 ASCA Sanction # / Date 0000/MM-DD-YR
 ASCA Affiliate Name Any Asc

I hereby certify that I have judged the above dog after having read the instructions on the cover of this book and followed them to the best of my ability.

 Judge's Signature

APPENDIX E: Sample TDU Chart/Map

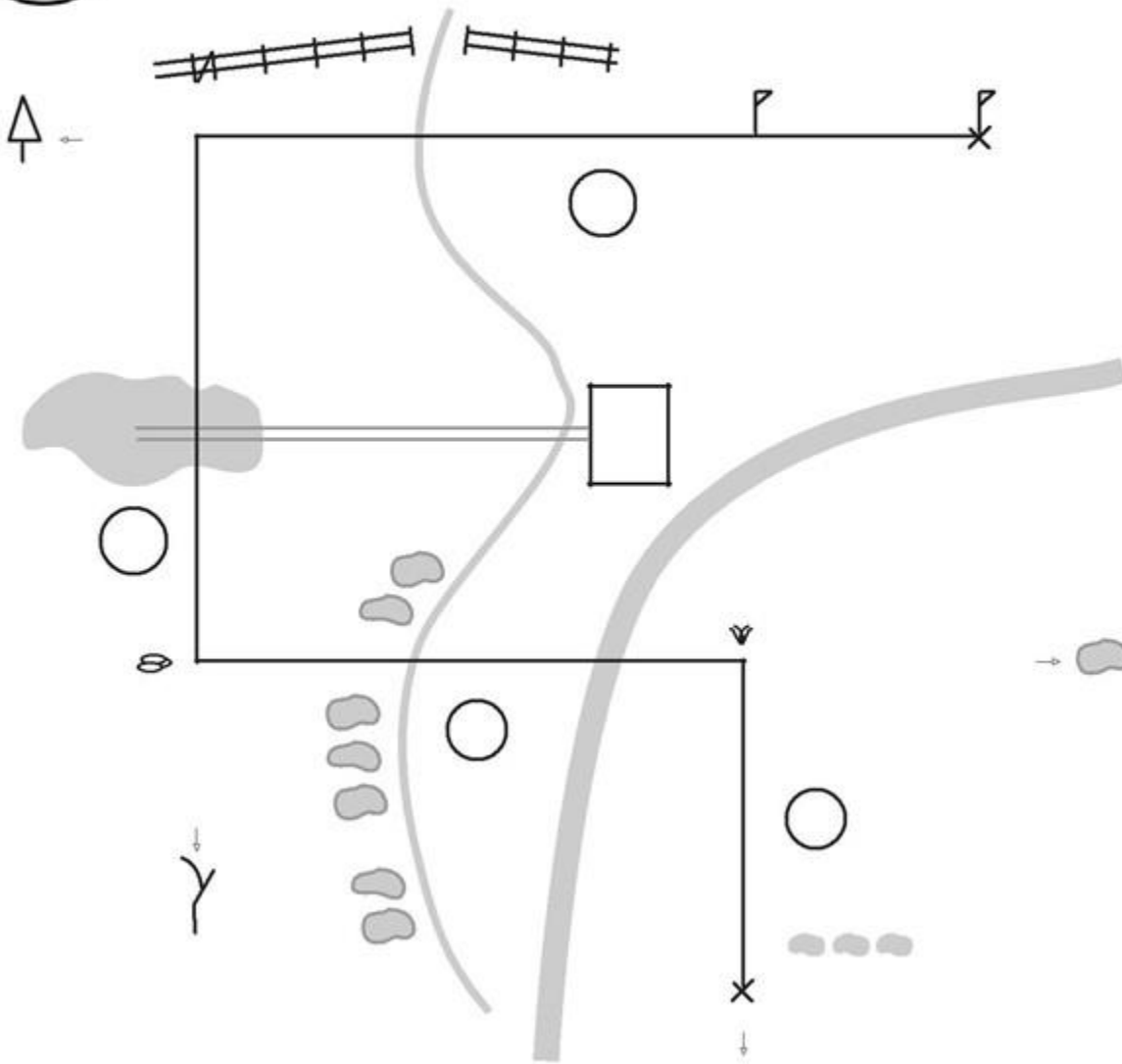


2

4

T U

3 5



Passed or Failed _____
 (If failed, state reason _____)
 Tracklayer Started X _____
 Tracklayer Started _____
 Dog's Starting Time _____
 Dog's Finishing Time _____
 Ground Conditions _____
 Weather Conditions _____
 Wind _____

Articles: 1. Sock 2. Glove 3. _____ 4. _____
 Obstacles: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Breed: _____
 Dog's Reg. #: _____ Sex: _____
 ASCA Affiliate Name: _____
 ASCA Sanction #: _____ Date: _____

I hereby certify I have judged the above dog after having read the instructions on the cover of this book and followed them to the best of my ability.

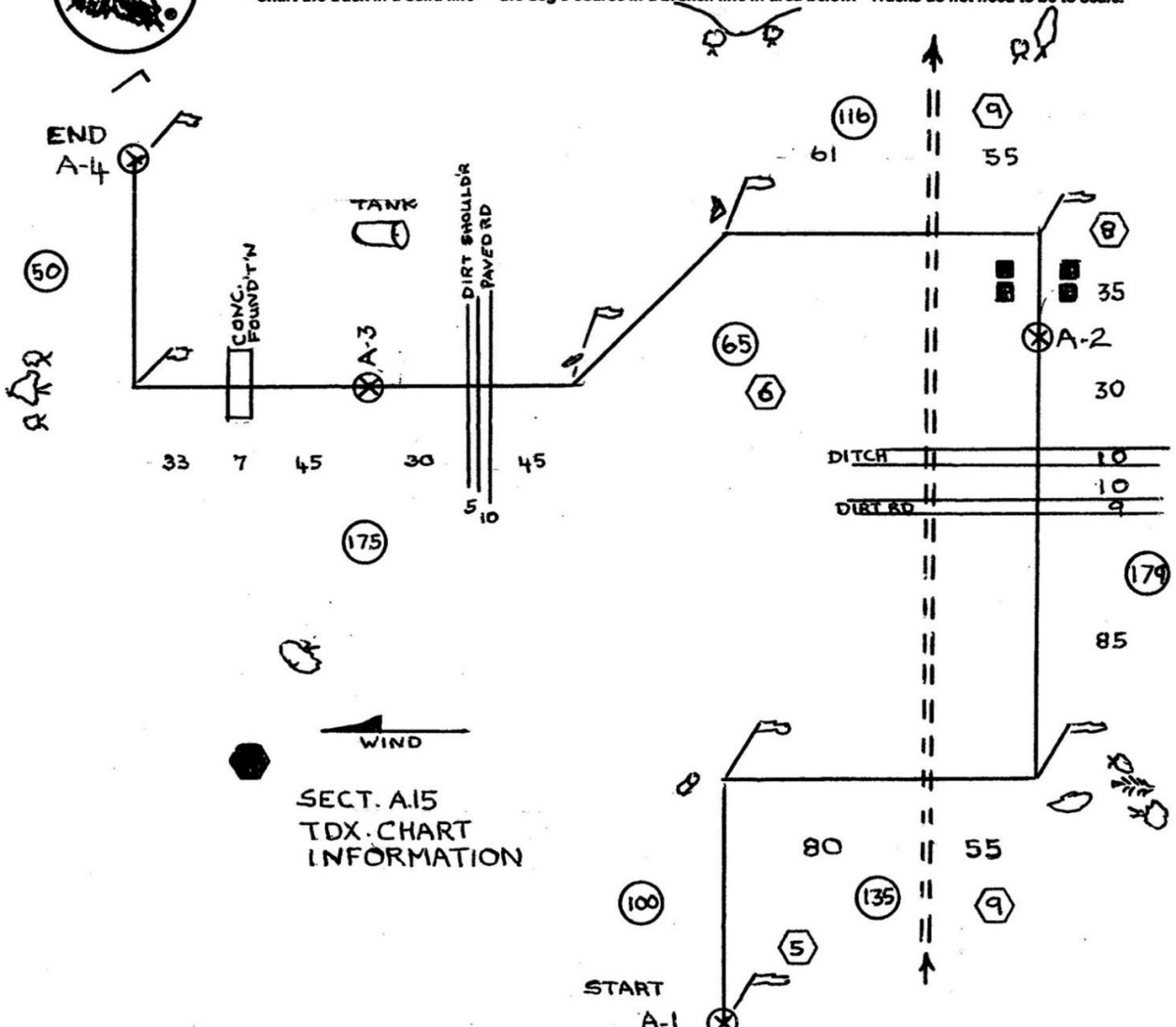
X Judge's Signature

APPENDIX F: Sample TDX Chart/Map



Catalog # 202 TD/TDX Track # 1 Total Yards 820

Chart the track in a solid line — the dog's course in a broken line in area below. Tracks do not need to be to scale.



SECT. A.15
TDX CHART
INFORMATION

Passed or Failed Passed
 (If failed, state reason) _____
 Tracklayer Started 6:30 a.m.
 X-Tracklayer Started 8:00 a.m.
 Dog's Starting Time 9:45 a.m.
 Dog's Finishing Time 10:10 a.m.
 Ground Conditions dry - short cover
 Weather Conditions clear - cool
 Wind slight - 2-3 mph

Articles 1. Bandana 2. Case 3. Sock 4. Glove
 Obstacles 1. Dirt Rd 2. Ditch 3. Paved Rd 4. Concrete DIRTSHldr FOUNDT'n
 Breed / Sex Australian Shepherd - Dog
 Dog's Registration # E00000
 ASCA Sanction # / Date 0000/MM-DD-YR
 ASCA Affiliate Name Any Asc

I hereby certify that I have judged the above dog after having read the instructions on the cover of this book and followed them to the best of my ability.

Judge's Signature _____