



# THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

6091 E State Hwy 21  
Bryan, TX 77808  
www.asca.org

P: (979) 778-1082  
F: (979) 778-1898  
executive.secretary@asca.org

## ASCA Executive Secretary's Report July 2023

### Announcements

#### New Judges:

- Provisional Conformation Breeder Judge Jeff Rusho (Colorado)
- Apprentice Stockdog Judge Heather Borde-Oslie (Wisconsin)

The Board approved a change in ASCA's IRS designation from a 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(4) (BD.23.80).

The procedure for foreign registration applications was clarified in the Registry Rules (BD.23.77).

Foreign registry research will now be conducted by a volunteer from the membership instead of the Business Office (BD.23.78).

The Board approved three recommendations from the Rally Committee (RA.23.04, RA.23.05, RA.23.06).

### ASCA Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 6:30 pm Central.

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director Lynda Hardin, Incoming Director Jillian Ward, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** Incoming Director David Clayton.

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

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.** Gann welcomed the newly elected directors.

### Norms

This discussion was held in Executive Session. The Board took time to revisit their agreed upon norms with the newly appointed and elected directors.

**Moved to Open Session at 6:38 pm.** President Gann welcomed the members listening, introduced those present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

### ASCA's IRS Designation

**Cynthia Downing joined the Board for this discussion from 6:44 pm to 7:28 pm.**

The Board continued their discussion of the possible shift of ASCA's IRS designation from a 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(4), with Cynthia Downing present to clarify the benefits/consequences and answer any questions.

Downing provided a detailed overview of the proposed change. ASCA is classified as a 501(c)(7) nonprofit, a category usually meant for organizations like golf clubs or fraternal groups with physical facilities that are used by their members. The 501(c)(7) status comes with a restriction: no more than 35% of the total income can come from non-members. If this limit is surpassed, ASCA could risk losing its nonprofit status with the IRS.

The issue for ASCA is that its non-member income isn't limited to sponsorships but includes other sources such as advertising sales and event sponsorships. An earlier proposal to establish a for-profit corporation for

selling merchandise and obtaining sponsorships was considered, leveraging an IRS provision to not count these revenues towards the 35% limit.

However, after discussing this with the CPA firm, they suggested it might be more advantageous for ASCA to convert to a 501(c)(4) status, like the American Kennel Club (AKC). This category doesn't have a non-member income limit, thereby eliminating the 35% threshold concern. They estimated the application process to convert to a 501(c)(4) might cost around \$1k.

Converting ASCA to a 501(c)(4) would enable us to freely pursue sponsorships and merchandise sales. If approved, ASCA could sell merchandise through direct shipping with orders placed via ASCA's website, which will redirect to the manufacturer's site. This process will not impose any additional burden on ASCA staff. The idea is to generate significant income through these channels, which triggered the proposal to the Board. Downing expressed her willingness and enthusiasm to lead these efforts and has many ideas, such as partnering with dog joint supplement company, YuMove, and exploring opportunities in pet insurance and dog food industries.

Board members generally responded positively, expressing excitement and eagerness about new possibilities.

Sims asked questions about possible drawbacks to the conversion and our anticipated ability to secure sponsorships. Downing clarified that no substantial drawbacks are anticipated and reiterated her enthusiasm for leading the sponsorship and merchandise sales initiatives. She is optimistic about the many opportunities for ASCA to pursue.

Wesen asked about the state where the change would be implemented, and Downing clarified that it's a federal matter. Busquets questioned the potential challenges due to the difference in ASCA's model compared to AKC's, and Downing reassured her that it wouldn't pose significant problems. She thought that if we tailor our proposals to the potential sponsor's needs, we should be able to offer an enticing package for them.

Byrne appreciated no additional burden for the office with the proposed direct ship of merchandise sales, and Hardin was pleased that changing the IRS designation and direct ship merchandise was being pursued.

Ward showed curiosity about ASCA's original 501(c)(7) structure and voiced support for the change. She also expressed interest in participating in the sponsorship task force, mentioning existing relationships with potential marketing alliances. She asked about the potential timeline for deployment and if there would be any filing fees with the IRS.

Downing explained that the conversion process with the IRS might take about four months, during which time they could work on setting up the committee and preparing sponsorship proposals. She also clarified that potential filing fees would be nominal, if at all. She welcomed assistance from anyone on the Board and any knowledgeable members interested in helping.

Ward sought clarification for the Board on what a sponsorship might look like. Downing explained that the collaboration between YuMove and AKC serves as a good example. YuMove has provided AKC with a substantial monetary grant and in return, they get to feature a link on AKC's website where users can apply a promo code to purchase their products. They also have sponsored ambassadors who represent both AKC and YuMove at all major AKC events, and they use these events to display their banners and distribute sample products.

This type of arrangement can bring significant publicity and value to both parties. However, it's worth noting that such agreements may be taxable for ASCA. Specifically, ASCA might need to pay taxes on advertising income or on any tangible benefits it offers to a sponsor. Fortunately, this shouldn't pose a major issue as the current corporate tax rate is just 15%. Therefore, the taxable implications of such transactions are relatively small.

Another approach is a marketing alliance, which doesn't necessarily involve any exchange of cash. Instead, a particular product or goods the marketer wishes to promote are prominently displayed at ASCA events, and they may even be invited to big events like Nationals to distribute and promote their products.

Both of these strategies - sponsorships and marketing alliances - are avenues we want to explore. They can generate passive income, which could be highly beneficial for ASCA.

Downing also explained the vision for a separate sponsorship and partners page on the ASCA website, where users could be directed to sponsor websites to make purchases, with ASCA getting a percentage of the sales

originating from our referral. Ward was unsure of how this would work based on her understanding of the limitations of ASCA's website, but Busquets clarified that there were no problems with the ASCA website, just the portal. Gann saw no issue with building such a page on the website.

The Board is deeply grateful for Downing's efforts and enthusiasm and agreed to move forward with changing ASCA's IRS designation.

### **BD.23.80 Change ASCA's IRS Designation**

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

**Motioned by Creelman to proceed with changing ASCA's IRS designation from a 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(4) under the guidance of Cynthia Downing and ASCA's CPA. Seconded by Gerken.**

## **June 2023 Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Wesen presented the financial summary for June 2023. The beginning balance for January was \$78,285.61 and the ending balance was \$54,085.12, with no significant anomalies identified. There has been a slight downturn in membership dues, which could be attributed to members not getting reminders that their membership has lapsed. The IT Committee has been working to restore those reminders and hopefully we will see an improvement in that area soon.

Program income has remained strong, despite several line items underperforming. Wesen reminded everyone that we have not started seeing the benefits of some of the cuts made earlier in the year, such as suspending the printing of the Aussie Times. We will start to see those savings in the next few months.

The discussion further turned towards the issue of Finals Fees. The document on hand didn't reflect the actual amounts, but rather the funds stored in savings. Wesen reported that a club was charged Finals Fees for a Dock Jumping trial, and Byrne clarified that the fees were refunded to the club since there is not a Finals for Dock Jumping and clubs shouldn't be charged a Finals Fee.

Hardin raised a point about the accounts payable report, noting it seemed more of a payments list, rather than a representation of unpaid bills. Byrne assured the Board that all received bills have been paid in full and there were currently no outstanding bills.

Members can find the Treasurer's report and analysis in the member-only section of ASCA's website.

### **BD.23.81 June 2023 Treasurer's Report**

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

**Motioned by Sims to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by McCabe.**

## **Loan Remainder**

The Board revisited the topic of the remaining \$26k surplus from the Guaranty Bank loan, previously discussed in the June 15, 2023, meeting. Gann noted the necessity to decide on whether to hold the surplus in the Guaranty Bank account or reallocate it, considering the minimum required balance of \$10k.

McCabe suggested waiting until the conclusion of Nationals before utilizing part of the \$16k and recommended using any remaining funds to pay back the loan. Gerken proposed retaining the surplus as a precautionary fund. Sims and Creelman also agreed to maintain the funds until the expected savings from recent expense reductions materialize in the coming months. Wesen suggested holding the funds until the checking account balance exceeds \$100k.

McLellan noted that the loan can be paid off in 5 years with a monthly payment of \$2400. She sought clarification on whether undesignated or computer-dedicated donations were being used for this purpose. Gann confirmed that all donations towards the computer project were strictly used to pay off the loan.

McLellan proposed using donated funds for future computer costs and paying off the balance of the loan from ASCA's monthly income. Gann agreed, suggesting that McClellan, Ward, and Wesen could devise a strategy to redirect contributions accordingly.

Busquets echoed the sentiment of maintaining the surplus in the current account. Byrne emphasized the organization's improving financial status and the possibility of meeting the \$2400 monthly payments to settle the loan in 5 years. Ward urged transparency regarding the reallocation of donations and recommended exploring additional sponsorships. Hardin agreed with the overall consensus.

Gann brought up some impending expenditures, particularly those associated with the recent audit, the transition from Iron Mountain to a new storage facility, and the Board election. Expressing concern over the issue of some European members not receiving their ballots this year, Gann emphasized the need to resolve this matter before finalizing the payment to Election Trust. In response, McClellan assured him that she would pursue this issue with the General Manager at Election Trust.

## **System Liaison's Report**

System Liaison Wesen briefed the Board on the advancements in the computer system upgrade and broader technology projects. She reported that the IT Committee had not convened in the last two weeks. She mentioned a penetration project discussion and highlighted the committee's work on developing staging and testing areas for system integration. She praised the IT Committee's knowledge and resourcefulness and mentioned ongoing efforts to enhance the portal, such as restarting sending membership renewal reminders. She added that new directors could request inclusion in the IT Committee group for more detailed updates.

McCabe commended the committee for their impressive work.

Gann clarified that Zach Fuller from Silent Sector was leading the penetration test and offered his services free of charge, using the ASCA portal as a training tool for his employees. He also expressed anticipation and apprehension about the project's outcome. He stated that the project would not commence until Claire Thomas, the IT Committee's Chair, confirmed that a full system backup had been created. He underscored that there was no set timeline for this project due to it being a complimentary service.

## **European Liaison**

The Board discussed a proposal for appointing a European liaison for ASCA members and Affiliate Clubs in Europe and other countries outside North America. Gann introduced the topic, revealing that a member from Germany had suggested the idea. He appreciated the concept of having a single contact point for members outside of North America.

McCabe agreed, considering the idea to be valuable. She proposed creating an application process for the liaison position, similar to that for committees, which would be released to the membership.

The remaining Board members all voiced their support for the idea, recognizing the potential benefits for ASCA's European members and the need to flesh out the details of the position. Ward suggested defining a rotation term for the position to allow different individuals to serve over time.

Gann asked McCabe to take on the task of developing an application and establishing a process for the Board's consideration. McCabe accepted this task.

## **Foreign Registry**

As we're all aware, our Business Office is currently undergoing a period of transition. Byrne has been diligently working in her role to reassess and enhance the office's workflow.

A specific task that needs our attention involves conducting foreign registry research. This work is labor-intensive and requires a nuanced understanding of pedigrees. Due to its intricate and time-consuming nature, it demands a specific combination of expertise and dedication.

Recognizing these factors, Sims has proposed a motion to transfer the responsibility of foreign registry research from the office to a suitable volunteer. This strategy would not only ensure that someone well-versed in pedigrees carries out the task, but it would also enable us to further streamline our office workflows effectively.

### **BD.23.78 Foreign Registry Research**

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

**Motion by Sims to move the foreign registry research out of the office and have a volunteer from the membership take it over. Second by Creelman.**

Comments/Rationale: This research is very time consuming and, with the office being understaffed right now, it would be a huge help for them to have this handled by a volunteer outside of the office.

Affected: The ASCA Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### **June 2023 Email Business**

Due to the requirements of Washington State Law, all legal business of ASCA must be conducted via face-to-face meetings or telephone conference call meetings. To meet this requirement and continue to conduct business via email, each face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via email since the last face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

### **BD.23.82 June 2023 Email Business**

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

**Motioned by Byrne to ratify all business conducted over email in June 2023. Seconded by Creelman.**

**Moved to Executive Session at 8:17 pm.**

### **Unauthorized Signature Claim**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. The Board heard an update regarding a pending unauthorized signature claim.

### **Petition for 2023 Conformation Finals Entry**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. The Board denied a request to accept an entry for the Conformation Finals that was postmarked after the deadline.

### **BD.23.83 2023 Conformation Finals Entries**

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

**Motioned by Wesen to fill the Conformation Finals with entries postmarked by the July 15, 2023, deadline, and that if there are additional spots to fill after those have all been used, we can accept entries postmarked after the deadline. Seconded by Byrne.**

President Gann thanked all the Directors for their work this month and the members listening.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

## ASCA Board Motions

### Director Recommendations

#### BD.23.77 Proof of ASCA Lineage for Foreign Registration

**Motion carried** (8-1) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gerken, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: Gann. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Dissent from Director Gann:** I think this whole process needs to be reviewed, there are many Aussies in Europe that are trying to participate in ASCA but due to the present restriction they aren't being approved by our registry.

**Motion by Sims to change the wording in the procedures for the foreign registry. Second by Wesen.**

Current Wording:

#### 1.6.1 FOREIGN REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

A. Complete and submit the Foreign Registry Application. Include the following:

1. A photocopy of the applicant dog's ASCA DNA profile certificate
2. A photocopy of the applicant dog's registry-certified registration papers
3. The applicant dog's certified three-generation pedigree, including the registration numbers from that registry
4. Three photos: full body left side, full body right side, and full front view. Photos must be clear.

B. The dog's registered name with the foreign registry will remain the same. If the dog's registered name already exists in ASCA's Registry or if the kennel name is an active ASCA registered kennel name, the dog's registered name will be required to change to a unique name.

C. Fees for individual dog registration will be as follows:

1. Foreign Registry – Full Member Rate: \$100
2. Foreign Registry – Service Member Rate: \$200
3. Canadian Kennel Club – Full Member Rate: 0-12 months \$15, 1-2 years \$30, 2+ years \$50
4. Canadian Kennel Club – Service Member Rate: 0-12 months \$30, 1-2 years \$60, 2+ years \$100

D. All submitted material becomes the property of ASCA.

Fees will not be refunded or returned if the application is denied for any reason.

Dogs accepted into the Foreign Registry will be assigned a registry number with an "F" prefix.

Proposed Wording:

#### 1.6.1 FOREIGN REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

A. Complete and submit the Foreign Registry Application. Include the following:

1. A photocopy of the applicant dog's ASCA DNA profile certificate.
2. A photocopy of the applicant dog's registry-certified registration papers.
3. The applicant dog's certified three-generation pedigree, including the registration numbers from that registry.
4. Proof that 100% of the applicant dog's lineage goes back to ASCA. Examples: registration documents with ASCA numbers written in, screenshots of info from health databases or websites, etc.
- 4 5. Three photos: full body left side, full body right side, and full front view. Photos must be clear.

B. The dog's registered name with the foreign registry will remain the same. If the dog's registered name already exists in ASCA's Registry or if the kennel name is an active ASCA registered kennel name, the dog's registered name will be required to change to a unique name.

C. Fees for individual dog registration will be as follows:

1. Foreign Registry – Full Member Rate: \$100
2. Foreign Registry – Service Member Rate: \$200
3. Canadian Kennel Club – Full Member Rate: 0-12 months \$15, 1-2 years \$30, 2+ years \$50
4. Canadian Kennel Club – Service Member Rate: 0-12 months \$30, 1-2 years \$60, 2+ years \$100

D. All submitted material becomes the property of ASCA.

Fees will not be refunded or returned if the application is denied for any reason.

Dogs accepted into the Foreign Registry will be assigned a registry number with an “F” prefix.

Comments/Rationale: This requirement is in the rules but not listed in the procedures. This will make it more clear to owners, applying for registration, that the burden is on them to ensure that the application meets the requirements.

Affected: Owners of applicant dogs.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Committee Recommendations

### RALLY COMMITTEE

#### RA.23.04 Clarification of Gate Placement

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

**Motion by Liaison Sims to approve the following recommendation from the Rally Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: RC Motion 23.11 Clarification for gate placement

Motion by Diana Curl to propose clarification of entrance and exit gate placement be made. Second by Karen Black.

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

Current Wording:

#### 19.2.2 Map Basics

J. Separate entrance and exit gates.

Proposed Wording:

#### 19.2.2 Map Basics

J. Separate Entry and exit gates will be at least 15 feet apart to minimize congestion in the gate area and help ensure safety of the contestants.

Comments/Rationale from the Committee: The current wording is not specific as to how far apart the gates need to be. This additional wording would clarify this.

Affected: Judges will be affected as they will have a clear reference for how far the two gates need to be. Course reviewers will have a clearer guideline when reviewing course maps.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval. (This is not a rule change, it simply clarifies the current wording.)

#### RA.23.05 Clarification of Course Map Distribution

**Motion carried** (7-1-1) - Approved: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, McLellan, Sims. Disapproved: Wesen. Abstained: McCabe. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Liaison Sims to approve the following recommendation from the Rally Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: RC Motion 23.12 Clarification of Course Map distribution

Clarification in the distribution of course Maps, and Judges responsibility for copies

Motion by Diana Curl to update the wording in Section 2.22.1 as noted below, and add the requirements for Judges regarding course maps. Second by Leah Swatko.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 11. Disapproved: None. Abstained: 1. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

## **2.22 General Procedures**

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

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

Proposed Wording:

## **2.22 General Procedures**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

## **Chapter 18 Trial Guidelines**

### **Section 18.1 Judges**

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

Judges may choose bring copies of course maps, sign change lists/pull sheets and score sheets with them or can choose to provide electronic copies of course maps, sign change lists/pull sheets and score sheets to the



trial Secretary no more than 48 hours prior to the trial date to help the trial run smoothly and efficiently. Exceptions to the time frame requirement for sending electronically may need to be made for judges traveling out of the country to judge, and for events occurring during the ASCA National Specialty show, including Pre-Trials.

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

Comments/Rationale: The committee was asked by the Board to add a statement to the Judges course review letter regarding correct handling of the course maps. Discussion in committee felt further wording should be added to the rule book as well. I propose this wording be added to the rule book to address those concerns.

Affected: Judges - clarifies the minimum needs if not electronically sending their course maps ahead of time. Show Secretary - clarifies who is to have access to the course maps before the trial and when it is allowed.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### **RA.23.06 Stay Exercises**

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

**Motion by Liaison Sims to approve the following recommendation from the Rally Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: RC Motion 23.13 Stay Exercises

Update wording for Stay Exercises at all levels.

Motion by Karen Black to update the wording for stay exercises as described below. Second by Corinne Shanks.

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

Current Wording:

#### **1.18.4 TIES FOR HIT**

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

Proposed Wording:

#### **1.18.4 TIES FOR HIT**

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

Current Wording:

### **2.4 Judge's Directions**

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

Proposed Wording:

### **2.4 Judge's Directions**

The Judge's instructions should be given to each handler in a clear and understandable manner, and in such a way that the work of the dog is not disturbed. Prior to starting each run, the Judge shall check to be sure the

leash is properly placed for the ~~Sit Stay or Down~~ Stay exercise (if included), the timer is ready, and lastly, will ask the exhibitor "Are you ready?"

Current Wording:

### **2.16 Use of Leash**

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

Proposed Wording:

### **2.16 Use of Leash**

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

Current Wording:

### **2.23 Scoring and Minimum Penalties**

10-point deduction for each occurrence of the following:

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

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

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

Proposed Wording:

### **2.23 Scoring and Minimum Penalties**

10-point deduction for each occurrence of the following:

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

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

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

Current Wording:

## **3.5 Novice Exercises and Scores**

### **3.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

Proposed Wording:

## **3.5 Novice Exercises and Scores**

### **3.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

station and one ~~Sit Stay or Down~~ Stay station exercise. Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

Current Wording:

#### **4.5 Advanced Exercises and Scores**

##### **4.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

Proposed Wording:

#### **4.5 Advanced Exercises and Scores**

##### **4.5.2 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

Current Wording:

#### **5.5 Excellent Exercises and Scores**

##### **5.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

Proposed Wording:

#### **5.5 Excellent Exercises and Scores**

##### **5.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

Current Wording:

#### **6.5 Masters Exercises and Scores**

##### **6.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Rally Masters courses must have between sixteen and nineteen stations (Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of nine stationary exercises per class. Masters level courses must also have the Start/Heeling and Conduct station, the Sit/Stay or Down/Stay station, and a minimum of four Masters only and three Excellent (not eligible for Advanced or Novice) exercises, not including the jumps. Each sign will have a

10-point value except for Star stations that will have a 20-point value. The total number of points per course must equal 200. Any other Star stations will be determined by the Judge and marked with a Star designator.

Proposed Wording:

## **6.5 Masters Exercises and Scores**

### **6.5.4 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

Current Wording:

#### **19.3.3 STATIONARY EXERCISES**

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

Proposed Wording:

#### **19.3.3 STATIONARY EXERCISES**

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

Current Wording:

#### **19.3.4 STAY EXERCISES**

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

Proposed Wording:

#### **19.3.4 STAY EXERCISES**

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

Comments/Rationale: Currently the sections addressed in this motion say “sit stay or down stay.” In June 2023 we added a stand stay to Masters and it wasn’t noted in these sections. This motion brings consistency in the wording to all areas of the rulebook that reference stay exercises.

Affected: Judges - this brings clarity to the stay requirements or allowances at the different levels. Exhibitors - they will know what is required or allowed for stays at the different levels.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**Respectfully submitted by Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.**