



# THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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## ASCA Executive Secretary's Report August 2023

### Announcements

#### New Judges:

- Cassie Parker (TX) – Provisional Rally Judge
- Valerie Yarber (VA) – Approved Conformation Judge
- Liz Bernstein (WA) – Provisional Scent Detection Judge
- Jackilyn Williams (OR) – Provisional Scent Detection Judge
- Mattias Svensson (Germany) – Provisional Scent Detection Judge
- Kathy Brown (FL) – Provisional Scent Detection Judge
- Curt Zieger (TN) – Provisional Scent Detection Judge
- Madison Wheeler Shepstone (Canada) – Provisional Scent Detection Judge
- Paula Stoops (TX) – Provisional Scent Detection Judge
- Sandra Tung (WA) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Joyce Smuda (PA) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Carol Bond (NY) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Madonna Gallant (OK) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- David Gallant (OK) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Hallie McMullen (ID) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Giovanna Imperia (TX) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Caroline Oldham (TX) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Stephanie Crawford (NY) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Kim Williams (NC) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Nina Brown (NC) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Aleks Woodroffe (AZ) – Full Scent Detection Judge
- Elizabeth Jernigan (FL) – Full Scent Detection Judge

Liz Busquets will be investigating all foreign registry inquiries until such time as the Business Office can resume this task, or another volunteer is needed.

#### Libby Long Memorial Obedience Award Recipients: Emily Jossi and Ava Fischer

**Junior Service Award Recipient:** Lennox Bogle

**2023 Nationals Update:** Trisha Herring will replace Peter Hellmeister as a 2023 Conformation Finals Judge.

The Board has requested ASCA's Counsel to develop a policy to protect youths at ASCA events.

The Board allowed a late entry into the 2023 ASCA Stockdog Finals due to a delay in postal services.

A motion to change the minimum number of livestock per run and number of times stock may be used in Stockdog Finals was made (EM.23.15) and withdrawn.

The Board approved 1 recommendation from the Agility Committee (AG.23.08) and 1 recommendation from the Obedience Committee (OB.23.03).

If any knowledgeable members would like to serve on the new Fundraising & Sponsorship Committee, they should contact the Executive Secretary for more information.

If you have a question you would like answered during the upcoming Annual Membership Meeting, please fill out the form here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/bpMa83i/membersinput>

## ASCA Board Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:30 pm Central.

**In attendance:** President Rick Gann, 1st Vice President Susan Byrne, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken (present at various points of the meeting), Director Dawna Sims, Director Jodie McLellan, Incoming Director David Clayton, Incoming Director Lynda Hardin, Incoming Director Jillian Ward, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** 2nd Vice President Liz Busquets.

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.** He welcomed the members listening, introduced those present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

# ASCA's New Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee

Cynthia Downing joined the Board for this discussion from 6:36 pm to 6:54 pm.

Creelman introduced ASCA's new Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee chaired by Cynthia Downing. The committee aims to seek corporate sponsorships rather than individual member sponsorships.

Downing highlighted her role as the leader of the committee, which has convened four times so far. They are currently working on developing a database of prospective sponsors and creating an informational brochure illustrating the advantages of supporting ASCA. The brochure will be professionally designed with assistance from Heidi Mobley. The goal is to offer a broad view of ASCA and its community, targeting specific industries, namely: joint supplements, insurance, dog food/treats, and a miscellaneous category. She explained that it's a matter of volume; the more potential sponsors we engage, the higher our likelihood of securing sponsorships. The committee's strategy involves extensive research and a story-driven approach emphasizing ASCA's strong community network.

**Committee Members:** Cynthia Downing, Andrea Bair, Helen Bauer, Denise Creelman, Brittany Greendeer, Susan Harris, John Harvey, Kelton Hatton, Gina Larson, Jeanne Mastick, Ann McCabe, Jean Roberts, and Jillian Ward. Additional enthusiastic members are being sought.

McCabe expressed eagerness to provide ideas and contribute to the committee. Ward announced that the committee is open to leads and urged members to propose potential sponsors.

Wesen applauded the committee's effort and inquired about the possibility of a groups.io account for Board members to observe. The Executive Secretary will create a group and will invite committee members and Board members that are interested.

The other directors conveyed appreciation towards the committee and expressed anticipation for future developments. Creelman encouraged members to recommend potential sponsors by contacting Downing or the Executive Secretary.

## July 2023 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wesen presented the financial summary for July 2023. Wesen noted that she was driving and currently unavailable to provide specific numbers. After the Assistant Office Manager's efforts in addressing the outstanding checks in QuickBooks, it is now reconciled with the bank statement, providing clarity on July's financial activities. A delay in inputting June trials due to prioritizing the May 31 merit and Finals has affected the financials, but a significant increase is expected next month. Notably, savings from not printing the Aussie Times will be evident in next month's report. The current bank balance exceeds 100k, exclusive of Finals fees in a separate account. Compared to last year, the financial situation has greatly improved. The information will be available on the website portal within a week. A double principle payment was made for the loan, and Wesen proposed a discussion on standardizing the loan payment amount.

McCabe appreciated that we are paying more than the minimum on the loan monthly. She acknowledged the impressive Finals fees exceeding 10k, which indicates a surge in show numbers.

Sims appreciated the update, noting the financial improvements resulting from the Board's changes.

Creelman was satisfied with the rising balance, anticipating further growth due to the Sponsorship Committee. She commended the membership for their Nationals sponsorships and expressed excitement for the upcoming event.

Byrne voiced her comfort and excitement about the increasing balances, highlighting her renewed confidence in ASCA's financial health compared to six months ago.

Clayton was content with the progress and underscored the importance of updating the membership about ASCA's recovery and current status.

Ward noted that she had emailed two questions to Wesen earlier and would await her email response.

Gann commented on his daily monitoring of the bank account and observed consistent positive growth. Addressing Clayton's earlier point, he mentioned plans to prepare a comprehensive report for the annual

membership meeting, and the Board will have the opportunity to contribute to this report. He stressed the importance of keeping the membership well-informed.

### BD.23.86 July 2023 Treasurer's Report

**Motion carried** (6-0-1) - Approved: Byrne, Creelman, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Sims. Disapproved: None. Abstained: Wesen. Absent: Busquets, Gerken.

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

Treasurer Wesen will coordinate with the Webmaster to publish the reports in the members-only section of the ASCA Website.

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting

Gann introduced the discussion making a point of the significance of the upcoming annual membership meeting at the Nationals in Bryan, Texas. He was hopeful for a strong attendance, emphasizing that the membership's voice is vital. He stressed that while the meeting will allow for questions and comments, there may be a need to manage time if the turnout is high. He reiterated the need for professionalism throughout the meeting and noted that security measures are in place, as they are every year. Gann mentioned an intent to provide a comprehensive report, covering the organization's journey from the previous year and updates on changes and issues. He suggested discussing the matter further as the Nationals approach.

McCabe supported Gann's views and brought up an outline for the membership meeting agenda already in the rules. She proposed using speaker cards for members to submit questions, to manage redundancy and maintain a written record. She volunteered to coordinate this effort.

Sims expressed anticipation for the Nationals and appreciation for the membership's contributions. She supported McCabe's idea for speaker cards to ensure all questions are addressed.

Creelman suggested having question forms available prior to the meeting, possibly at the ASCA booth, to gather questions in advance and ensure informed responses during the meeting.

Wesen said that she would like to provide completed October financials at the membership meeting but was uncertain if that would be possible due to the timing. She mentioned the forthcoming trends and audit from the new accountant will be available at the meeting and on the portal. Directors should let her know if there were any particular items they would like reported on during the meeting.

McLellan proposed having handouts covering changes over the last year, including an update on the computer system. She offered her assistance to Gann on this matter.

Byrne advocated for pre-submission of questions to streamline the meeting and potentially reduce redundancy. Regarding the financials, she mentioned the unlikely availability of October's financial data for the meeting. The data from September will need to suffice. She liked the idea of having a form for questions at the ASCA booth.

Clayton supported the idea of pre-submitted questions and suggested limiting questions to 3-5 minutes each to maximize participation. He mentioned leaving some time for Board rebuttals.

Ward brought up the possibility of a PowerPoint presentation to efficiently present information. She highlighted the visual impact of data and suggested improving how ASCA disseminates information. She proposed a proactive approach by informing members about the planned structure of the meeting in advance. The Executive Secretary can compose a message to the membership encouraging attendance and outlining the process for the meeting and what will be presented.

Hardin expressed optimism for the meeting and agreed with the idea of visual presentations to inform attendees. She suggested placing question cards in the Nationals welcome bags with instructions to turn them in at the ASCA booth.

Gann agreed with the proposal to gather questions in advance and suggested an online submission option for members unable to attend the Nationals. The Executive Secretary can then compile the questions and the Board can formulate responses in advance. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive financial report for

the meeting, ideally providing real-time data to the attendees. He noted that he would confirm with the 2023 Nationals Chair the feasibility of a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting.

Clayton supported a PowerPoint presentation, stating it could provide clarity, especially for financial data.

Gann concluded the discussion by emphasizing the importance of the upcoming meeting and indicating the need for continued planning through emails.

## System Liaison's Report

System Liaison Wesen provided the Board with an update on the Information Technology (IT) Committee's progress. The committee is actively seeking individuals with expertise in computer technology. If you're interested, please reach out to Claire Thomas. The committee is diligently working on improvements to the current system. Recent changes promise to benefit the Business Office, and these are currently being tested. They have been establishing stringent testing criteria. She pointed out that features such as sanctioning and QTracker registrations are currently available on the front end of the website. The committee's focus is to ensure all functionalities are seamless and efficient.

CA.23.13 Information Technology Committee Appointment – Mathis

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Creelman, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Busquets, Gerken.

**Motioned by Wesen to appoint Mark Mathis to the Information Technology Committee.**

## July 2023 Email Business

Due to the requirements of Washington State Law, all 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.23.87 July 2023 Email Business

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

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

President Gann thanked the members listening. **Moved to Executive Session at 7:34 pm.**

## Conformation Finals Entry Request

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 7:34 pm to 8:23 pm. The Board denied a request to enter the 2023 Altered Conformation Finals.

## 2023 Libby Long Memorial Obedience Award

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 8:23 pm to 8:27 pm. The Board selected the 2023 recipients of the Libby Long Memorial Obedience Award. Congratulations to Emily Jossi and Ava Fischer!

## 2023 Junior Service Award

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 8:27 pm to 8:30 pm. The Board selected the 2023 recipient of the Junior Service Award. Congratulations to Lennox Bogle!

## Follow Up on Unauthorized Signature Claim

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 8:30 pm to 8:55 pm. The Board allowed the registration of a dog with restrictions to the kennel names that may be used.

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

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.**

## ASCA Board Meeting Minutes – August 22, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 7:00 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 David Clayton, Incoming Director Lynda Hardin, Incoming Director Jillian Ward, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Gann called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.**

The purpose of this meeting was to address topics related to the Nationals and get new directors up to speed on some of the processes.

## Contracts and Budget for Nationals

The discussion focused on the timeline for the Nationals and the challenges it poses for contracts and budgeting. Several directors noted that contracts are often issued before budgets are approved, limiting financial flexibility. Proposals were made to include disclaimers in contracts stating they are non-binding until budget approval, and to issue letters of intent for better budget planning. The discussion also touched on the need for more flexible payment structures and transparent expense tracking. Overall, there was a consensus on the need for clearer procedures and more flexible contracting to manage financial commitments for the Nationals effectively.

The Board discussed the procedures for generating contracts and announcements for the Nationals, emphasizing the need for clearer language and financial planning. Directors commented on the approval process for budget and fee changes and the possibility of capping reimbursements. Clayton concluded by urging that the Nationals should be a revenue-generating event for ASCA, not just a break-even situation. The overall sentiment called for more flexible contracts and better financial planning.

## Nationals Ribbons Procurement and Multi-Year Contracts

The discussion centered on the proposal for a multi-year contract with Centaur for the Nationals ribbons. While Creelman advocated for Centaur's cost-effectiveness and planned to make a motion for a long-term contract, other Board members emphasized the need for obtaining multiple quotes for transparency and due diligence. Concerns were raised about defining terms for potential price increases and the relevance of old bids due to changing market conditions. The Board agreed on the need for timely decision-making, while acknowledging existing contracts for 2022 and 2023 provide some time for new bids. Overall, there was a call for transparency, due diligence, and clear financial planning in procurement processes.

# Evaluating Nationals Fees and Increasing Revenue

The discussion focused on the need to update Nationals entry fees, which have remained unchanged since the 2021 event. While there was consensus on considering a fee increase, caution was advised to ensure that increases do not discourage participation. Ideas for additional revenue included exploring new sponsorship opportunities and increased fees for late entries. Board members also discussed maintaining budget equality across programs and the need for precise evaluation of event income and expenses. Overall, there was agreement on the need for regular fee evaluations and revenue diversification, while keeping affordability and program equality in mind.

The Board discussed the higher costs of Nationals for ASCA compared to its affiliates, identifying labor reimbursements and livestock as major expenses. There was a call for the Board to assert more authority over the Nationals and for reconsidering a possible reimbursement cap and stock budget. The existing entry clerk fee of \$1.25 per entry was debated, leading to an approved increase to \$1.50 per entry and per cancelled entry. The idea of raising entry fees by \$1 was tabled for future discussion. The overall focus was on cutting costs while ensuring fair compensation and ongoing discussions were planned.

## BD.23.90 Increase Fees Paid to Nationals Entry Clerk

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

**Motioned by Wesen to raise the fee paid to the Nationals Entry Clerk to \$1.50 per entry including cancellations. Seconded by Sims.**

Affected: ASCA and the Nationals Entry Clerk.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

# Collaborating With Committees

Ward reiterated that the Board is not aiming to micromanage committees but noted that future financial indicators will necessitate team collaboration on financial decisions. She advocated for periodic reviews to improve management.

# Finals Invitations

Ward brought up the need to refine the Finals invitation verbiage as previously discussed by the Board, aiming for clarity in rule books. McCabe has been working on a proposal to this end that would see future Finals invitations sent and received via email. Ward suggested continuing this discussion via email.

# Action Items/Questions for the Nationals Advisory Committee

1. Incorporate the Nationals Timeline and Handbook into the governing regulations for the National Specialty event.
2. Add a disclaimer at the end of the contract indicating that the agreement remains non-binding until ratified by the Board following budget approval.
3. Extend a preliminary Letter of Intent to involved parties, serving as a placeholder until a formal contract can be issued subsequent to budget approval. This approach ensures commitment from committee members, judges, and support staff while circumventing premature contractual obligations.
4. Implement a policy that either prohibits judges from independently purchasing their own airline tickets or includes specific contractual language mandating that any self-purchased airline tickets must be refundable.

5. Establish clearly defined contractual terms with Centaur, specifically articulating what constitutes a "reasonable" percentage increase in rates beyond the initial year of service.
6. Creelman is tasked with collaborating with the Ribbon Chair for 2024 to solicit competing bids, which will be evaluated against Centaur's proposal before the Board proceeds with a long-term contract.
7. An annual review of the Finals entry fees occurs every year during the Board's Nationals meeting; the last time they were raised was in October 2020. The most recent adjustment to the Nationals entry fees was in 2021, the first year that ASCA hosted the Nationals. It is essential that the fees be re-evaluated prior to the release of the 2024 Nationals premium (topic for September Board meeting).
8. Ensure that ticket pricing for the Nationals Welcome Reception and Banquet is structured to fully offset the operational costs of these events.
9. Explore additional sponsorship opportunities beyond traditional classes, targeting potential contributions from individuals and businesses for events and amenities such as the Ice Cream Social, livestock feed, and beverage stations.
10. Implement a financial reimbursement reduction to Nationals committee members, especially if they have dogs entered in Nationals or Finals. Revise the announcement soliciting committee members to reflect this new policy.
11. Evaluate the feasibility of communal lodging arrangements for committee members, judges, and other personnel as a cost-saving measure.
12. Gerken will initiate a motion aimed at reducing the livestock utilized for the Stockdog Finals.
13. McCabe will disseminate her proposed amendments to the Finals entry language for consideration and action via email correspondence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

## ASCA Board Motions

### Director Recommendations

BD.23.84 Foreign Registry Research - Volunteer Appointment

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

**Motion by Gerken to appoint Liz Busquets as the volunteer to investigate all foreign registry inquiries until such time as the Business Office can resume this task, or another volunteer is needed. Second by Wesen.**

Comments/Rationale: This research requires familiarity and access to the business office, registration, and computer systems. This would be best served by a Board Director if available. Liz volunteered to fulfill this position.

Affected: Liz Busquets and the ASCA Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

BD.23.85 Youth Protection Policy

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

**Motion by Creelman to have ASCA's Counsel develop a policy to protect our youth at ASCA events. Second by Gerken.**

Comments/Rationale: ASCA needs to have a policy in place to eliminate youth safety problems.

Affected: ASCA exhibitors and event attendees.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## EM.23.14 Emergency Motion to Approve Replacement Judge for 2023 Conformation Finals

**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 Trisha Herring to replace Peter Hellmeister as a judge for the 2023 Conformation Finals.**

Comments/Rationale: Peter Hellmeister has had to withdraw as a 2023 Conformation Finals Judge. Geri Scheidt, the 2023 Nationals Conformation Chair, has asked Trisha Herring, who was on the alternate list, to fill this position.

Affected: Peter Hellmeister, Trisha Herring, the 2023 Nationals Committee, and exhibitors in the 2023 Conformation Finals.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Committee Recommendations

### Agility Committee

#### AG.23.08 Tire Specifications

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

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Bambi Ellis to approve an update to tire specifications. Second by Nicole Watts.

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

Current Wording:

### **APPENDIX A: Equipment Specifications**

Tire Jump - The tire jump may be either non-displaceable or displaceable. The inner diameter of the tire shall be 18 to 24 inches (45.7 to 61 cm) and the tire shall have the ability to be positioned to each of the ASCA jump heights. The jump height of the tire jump is measured from the ground to the lowest point of the inside of the tire opening. The tire shall not be so heavy as to cause injury to a dog because of its weight.

1. Non-displaceable tire - The tire jump shall consist of a circular object that resembles a tire suspended from a rectangular frame. The tire shall be construed of material with a 4 to 8 inches (10.2 to 20.3 cm) diameter. There must be at least 8 inches (20.3 cm) between the outside of the tire and the sides of the frame. The uprights of the frame shall be secured to the base and the base weighted or secured properly to the running surface to prevent tipping.

2. Displaceable tire - The tire is to be suspended such that if the tire is hit by a dog; the bottom, top or side portion(s) will displace or spread apart. The side supports shall only be wide enough to suspend the tire, but not wide enough to allow a dog to pass between the frame and the tire. The displaceable tire jump may be constructed in two ways:

a. The tire jump shall be comprised of a rectangular frame and a two-part circular tire. The bottom portion shall displace or spread apart but shall not present a hazard to the dog and will not cause the frame to turn over. The material used for the tire shall be comprised of a plywood/foam sandwich or similar lightweight material so that the tire will retain its circular shape and still be very lightweight and easily displaceable. The tire is to be suspended by a method that can be easily adjusted for all jump heights.

b. The tire jump shall be comprised of a framework similar to a non-winged jump and the tire part that will be two parts of a circle. The top portion of the tire shall be approximately 75 to 85 percent of the circle and the lower portion to be 15 to 25 percent. Each portion is to have a 1-to-1.25-inch (2.5 to 3.2 cm) piece of PVC or similar material running through as a suspension device placed in jump cups. The side upright framework from which the tire is suspended can be similar to a non-winged jump. The jump cups for the upper portion of the tire shall be located so the gap between the upper and lower sections of the tire is as small as possible



creating the visual appearance of a complete, circular, tire. There shall be no framework over the top of the tire and the tire shall be construed of lightweight materials.

Proposed Wording:

## **APPENDIX A: Equipment Specifications**

Tire Jump - The tire jump ~~may be either non-displaceable or~~ must be displaceable for the safety of the dog. The inner diameter of the tire shall be ~~18 to~~ 24 inches (~~45.7 to~~ 61 cm) with a  $\pm 1$  inch margin. ~~and~~ The tire jump ~~shall have the ability to be positioned to~~ must be able to be set at each of the ASCA jump heights. The tire jump shall rest on the ground for the dogs that jump 4 inches. The jump height of the tire jump is measured from the ground to the lowest point of the inside of the tire opening. The tire shall not be so heavy as to cause injury to a dog because of its weight.

~~1. Non-displaceable tire - The tire jump shall consist of a circular object that resembles a tire suspended from a rectangular frame. The tire shall be construed of material with a 4 to 8 inches (10.2 to 20.3 cm) diameter. There must be at least 8 inches (20.3 cm) between the outside of the tire and the sides of the frame. The uprights of the frame shall be secured to the base and the base weighted or secured properly to the running surface to prevent tipping.~~

2. Displaceable tire - The tire shall be constructed in a manner that the bottom or sides will separate if/when hit by a dog, but such pieces must remain suspended in the frame and shall be easily reset in its original circular form with minimal effort. The tire is to be constructed of two (2) 180-degree segments that are connected at the top and/or side of a frame to allow for independent movement of each segment. The tire must be connected to the frame at a minimum of two points. The frame must be tall enough to accommodate the tire at the five different ASCA jump heights and should adjust easily. The uprights of the frame shall be secured to the base and the base must be weighted or secured properly to the running surface. The frame shall not be constructed in a manner that would not permit a side entry of the frame in approaching the tire. The perimeter of the frame when viewed from the side shall not extend more than 9 inches (23 cm) on either side of the tire, except for footing supports to hold the frame safely erect. The tire is to be suspended such that if the tire is hit by a dog; the ~~bottom, top, or side~~ displaceable portion(s) will displace or spread apart. The side supports shall ~~only~~ be wide enough to suspend the tire, but not wide enough to allow a dog to pass between the frame and the tire at the support locations. ~~The displaceable tire jump may be constructed in two ways:~~

~~a. The tire jump shall be comprised of a rectangular frame and a two-part circular tire. The bottom portion~~ two halves of the tire shall displace or spread apart but shall not present a hazard to the dog and will not cause the frame to turn over. The two parts of the tire may or may not reset automatically once displaced. If they do not automatically reset, the tire jump will be returned to its normal circular position at the completion of the run, much like replacing a dropped jump bar. The material used for the tire shall be comprised of a ~~plywood/foam sandwich or similar lightweight~~ flexible material such as rubber or plastic to allow some give if hit by the dog. The material will be durable so that the tire will retain its circular shape ~~and still be very lightweight~~ and remain easily displaceable. ~~The tire is to be suspended by a method that can be easily adjusted for all jump heights.~~

~~b. The tire jump shall be comprised of a framework similar to a non-winged jump and the tire part that will be two parts of a circle. The top portion of the tire shall be approximately 75 to 85 percent of the circle and the lower portion to be 15 to 25 percent. Each portion is to have a 1-to-1.25-inch (2.5 to 3.2 cm) piece of PVC or similar material running through as a suspension device placed in jump cups. The side upright framework from which the tire is suspended can be similar to a non-winged jump. The jump cups for the upper portion of the tire shall be located so the gap between the upper and lower sections of the tire is as small as possible creating the visual appearance of a complete, circular, tire. There shall be no framework over the top of the tire and the tire shall be construed of lightweight materials.~~

Comments/Rationale from the Committee: The current tire jump specification describes a tire that splits horizontally and not vertically, which means that tires that split vertically are not approved under the current guidance. The proposed specification also allows for the "saloon" style tire jump which is believed to be safer than the tire jump suspended using more extensive framework.

Affected: ASCA Affiliate Clubs currently using a tire jump that splits vertically will now be compliant. Clubs that wish to purchase a tire jump now have additional options.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval, as it will allow clubs with vertically splitting tires to be compliant with the specifications.

## Obedience Committee

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

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

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

Committee Recommendation:

Motion by Hilary Hines to allow steward or assistant of handler's choice to assist ~~blind~~ handlers ~~with disabilities~~ in the obedience ring for individual and group exercises. Seconded by Betsy Coleman.

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

Current Wording:

### 2.14 Handicapped Handlers

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

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

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

Proposed Wording:

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

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

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

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

Comments/Rationale: This motion will allow a blind handler to have someone other than a steward assist them in the ring. The handler should be allowed to have someone who understands specific needs assist them.

Affected: Obedience Judges, Obedience Exhibitors, and Stewards or Assistants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.