



# THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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## ASCA Executive Secretary's Report February 2024

### Announcements

#### **New Judges:**

Magda Gilles (Germany) – Non-Regular Breeder  
Jan Wesen (Washington) – Non-Regular Breeder  
Ben Schwinn (Wisconsin) – Apprentice Agility  
Nate Bake (Oregon) – Provisional Stockdog  
Diane Goff (Tennessee) – Regular Scent Detection  
Monique Engemann (Wisconsin) – Regular Scent Detection  
Sally Nesbitt (California) – Regular Scent Detection  
Sarah Jane Petti (Canada) – Regular Scent Detection  
Kelly Ladoucer (Canada) – Regular Scent Detection  
Melody Fair (Oregon) – Regular Scent Detection  
Roy Fair (Oregon) – Regular Scent Detection  
Nathalie Lussier (New York) – Regular Scent Detection  
Paula Stoops (Texas) – Regular Scent Detection  
Liz Bernstein (Washington) – Regular Scent Detection

Christian Prein (Austria) was appointed to the European Liaison Panel.

The Scent Detection program was approved as an official ASCA Sanctioned Program.

The ASCA Scent Detection Rule Book was approved and will be published with the new round of program rules on June 1, 2024.

#### **Judges for the 2024 Nationals Scent Detection Trial:**

Donna Morgan Murray and Hallie McMullen  
Alternates: Elaine Booker and David Gallant

#### **Committee Recommendations:**

Agility (3 approved)  
Junior (2 approved)  
Obedience (1 approved)  
Rally (8 approved, 1 disapproved)  
Scent Detection (2 approved, 2 disapproved)  
Stockdog (4 approved)  
Tracking (23 approved)

The members of the 2025 Nationals Committee were approved and can be viewed here: <https://asca.org/asca-national-specialty-2025-committee-2/>

#### **Registry:**

An artificial insemination litter application was approved by the Board.

A change of sire for a litter was approved by the Board.  
A disqualification from the stockdog program was upheld.

A request for conflict resolution was resolved.

The Board voted to hire an independent computer programmer to provide specialized assistance to ASCA in coordination with the IT Committee.

#### **Changes to the 2024 National Specialty:**

Susan Harris will replace Charla Patterson as the Conformation and Parades Chairperson.

Jeannie Biggers will be the Stockdog Finals Course Director.

Anne Shope will replace Guenter Geisel as a Nationals Obedience Trial judge.

The Treasurer's report for January 2024 is available in the member portal.

The Board voted to open three brokerage accounts to be held at Vanguard to accrue interest income: ASCA Savings (\$22,500), ASCA AEMD Funds (\$25,000), ASCA Foundation (\$40,000).

ASCA is working on a process to accept various forms of payment, including credit cards, PayPal, Venmo, and bank transfers through QuickBooks online.

The financial audit schedule was moved from an annual to a biennial schedule.

A yearly operational audit for the organization was implemented beginning this year.

Changes to the Conflict Resolution Protocol, including a new process for requesting conflict resolution at the National Specialty, were approved.

## ASCA Board Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2024

The meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 pm Central.

**In attendance:** President Susan Byrne, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Dawna Sims, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jodie McLellan, Director David Clayton, Director Lynda Hardin, Director Jillian Ward, Director Jan Wesen, Counsel David Schleicher, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**President Byrne called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.** The meeting was held in Executive Session.

The Board approved a motion (7 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstained) to uphold a disqualification from the stockdog program.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.**

## ASCA Board Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2024

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm Central.

**In attendance:** President Susan Byrne, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Dawna Sims, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jodie McLellan, Director David Clayton, Director Jillian Ward, Director Jan Wesen, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** Director Lynda Hardin (resigned prior to the meeting).

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

**President Byrne called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.**

### Request for Conflict Resolution

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:05 pm to 6:09 pm. A conflict resolution request submitted by an ASCA member has been successfully resolved to the satisfaction of the member, eliminating the need for any further involvement from the Board of Directors.

### Reinstatement of Disqualified Dog

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:09 pm to 6:15 pm. The Board expressed their support for the owner of a disqualified dog to begin the process of seeking reinstatement.

### Hiring of Independent Computer Programmer

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:15 pm to 6:27 pm. The Board approved a motion (7 in favor, 1 against) to hire an independent computer programmer to work on fixes to ASCA's computer system.

### Vanguard Accounts

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:27 pm to 6:33 pm. The Board authorized the opening of accounts with Vanguard and the subsequent transfer of funds into these accounts.

#### BD.24.23 Opening of Brokerage Accounts at Vanguard

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

**Motion by McLellan to approve the opening of brokerage accounts held at Vanguard. Second by Ward.**

I move to open three separate brokerage accounts to be held at Vanguard. These accounts would be named: ASCA Savings, ASCA AEMD Funds, ASCA Foundation.

At this time, the accounts would be used to obtain income using a money market or CDs to obtain interest income that is currently not provided with our current bank.

At the writing of this motion, the current interest rate for the money market is 5.26% APR.

The accounts will be linked to our current bank accounts for easy access to the money.

Given the proposed investments, the cost of each account will be \$25.

Comments/Rationale: To obtain income via interest on our current savings.

Affected: The ASCA Business Office Manager, ASCA President, ASCA Treasurer.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### BD.24.24 Transfer of Funds to Vanguard

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

#### **Motion by McLellan to approve the transfer of funds to accounts held at Vanguard. Second by Ward.**

I move to transfer the following amounts from our current Chase accounts to Vanguard:

ASCA Savings - \$22,500

AEMD Savings - \$25,000

ASCA Foundation - \$40,000

At the writing of this motion, the remaining balances at Chase would be:

ASCA Savings - \$3,303.71

AEMD Savings - \$1,190.05

ASCA Foundation - \$817.91

Comments/Rationale: To obtain approval for the transfer of funds to Vanguard.

Affected: ASCA Business Office Manager, ASCA President, ASCA Treasurer.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### Bids for Office Repairs

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:33 pm to 7:06 pm. The Board deliberated on quotes for essential repairs at the Business Office, including the installation of a new HVAC system and replacement of ceiling tiles. The Office Manager has been assigned the responsibility to further investigate these requirements and develop a comprehensive proposal for the Board's review.

#### 2024 Nationals Premium

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 7:06 pm to 7:26 pm. The submission of the premium for the 2024 Nationals was significantly delayed and was not prepared for approval during this meeting. Consequently, a meeting was scheduled to discuss the premium in detail with the 2024 Nationals Chairperson.

#### BD.24.27 Committee Member and Judge Changes for 2024 Nationals

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

#### **Motion by Liaison Ward to approve the following changes for the 2024 Nationals.**

- Conformation and Parades Committee Chair from Charla Patterson to Susan Harris
- Stockdog Finals Chair from Carol Gerken to Jeannie Biggers
- Nationals Obedience judge from Guenter Geisel to Anne Shope

**Moved to Open Session at 7:26 pm.** President Byrne welcomed the members listening, introduced those present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

## January 2024 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McLellan presented the financial summary for January 2024. She noted the absence of the December 2023 report, explaining that the bookkeeper is currently integrating the final figures from the 2023 Nationals ledger for presentation at the next meeting. McLellan pointed out that the January report's format differs due to its generation from QuickBooks but reassured that all necessary information was included. She reported the latest account balances: checking at \$151,235; savings at \$25,803; AEMD at \$29,634; Foundation at \$40,817; and 2023 Nationals at \$29,417.

McLellan detailed the January financial activities, mentioning the incorporation of data from the bookkeeper and adjustments based on the budget approved during the 2023 Nationals meeting. She highlighted a positive influx from the affinity marketing program. However, she expressed a need to address budgetary oversights, specifically the omission of monthly IT expenses from the fall proposal.

McLellan proposed reallocating funds from the completed loan payment, originally earmarked at \$60,000, and the interest savings of \$8,400, to cover the IT shortfall. She outlined the anticipated \$100,000 annual expenditure for monthly IT costs, with an atypical \$12,000 for the current month due to new server costs and other one-off expenses, while standard monthly IT expenses are around \$8,100. McLellan concluded by stating there were no other irregular financial issues this month and expressed optimism for aligning the IT budgeting by the following month.

### BD.24.28 January 2024 Treasurer's Report

**Motion carried** (7-0-1) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, McCabe, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: McLellan. Absent: None.

**Motion by McLellan to approve the January 2024 Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Ward.**

## ASCA Operational Audit

Ward initiated a dialogue regarding the comprehensive operational audit currently underway at ASCA. She shared a link to the operational audit template, explaining that this is an internal review that the ASCA Board intends to conduct annually. She emphasized the importance of Board members reviewing the document and expressed a desire for the broader membership to gain an understanding of its key elements.

The audit encompasses several critical areas:

- Board governance
- Technology hardware and software
- Office infrastructure and equipment
- Legal compliance
- Financial compliance
- Personnel compliance

Ward addressed questions raised in member discussions regarding the proposal to shift the financial audit to a biennial schedule, clarifying that the operational audit's comprehensive nature will regularly address many aspects of the organization, thereby mitigating potential issues. She stressed that this inaugural audit is a dynamic document involving significant collaboration, aiming to reinforce ASCA's stability and transparency.

## Discussion:

- Byrne inquired about the procedure for tracking progress within the audit. Ward explained the color-coding system for indicating unresolved issues (blue) and actions in progress or completed (yellow). This system also facilitates collaborative note-taking and visibility among Board members, enhancing accountability and proactive management.
- Clayton raised concerns from members about the proposal to switch to biennial financial audits, questioning the adequacy of the operational audit in maintaining organizational integrity. Ward differentiated between the external financial audit, focusing solely on fiscal matters, and the comprehensive operational audit. She argued that the annual operational review, combined with the new internal bookkeeping practices, allows for a more spaced-out financial audit schedule. She advocated for open dialogue to educate the membership on these processes.
- Byrne addressed past financial mismanagement concerns, highlighting improvements in internal controls, such as segregating financial duties and increasing oversight, which bolster the case for a biennial financial audit schedule.

Ward encouraged all Board members, regardless of their direct involvement, to participate in the audit process, welcoming any contributions to ensure a thorough and transparent review aimed at preemptive problem-solving and long-term planning for ASCA's operational health.

## PayPal

Ward and the Office Manager have been working together to advance our payment processing capabilities. The good news is that QuickBooks online can accept various forms of payment, including credit cards, PayPal, Venmo, and bank transfers. As expected with any external payment service, there are associated fees. A notable advantage is that this allows for PayPal payments without the necessity of a PayPal account, offering a more streamlined payment option for our members. This development is particularly beneficial for our international community.

The next step involves consulting with ASCA's attorney to address the implications of merchant fees, a topic the Board plans to discuss further in the future. Currently, we can receive PayPal payments, but we're refining the system to ensure a seamless experience before officially rolling it out to the membership.

## System Liaison's Report

System Liaison Clayton noted that there has been limited activity from the IT Committee recently. The most significant development is the recruitment of a new programmer, marking a pivotal step forward. Clayton confirmed that the new hire would facilitate clearer identification of existing issues and strategies for resolution.

## January 2024 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.23.29 January 2024 Email Business

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen.

Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None.

**Motioned by Sims to ratify all business conducted over email in January 2024. Seconded by Wesen.**

**President Byrne thanked all the Directors for their work this month and the members listening. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.**

# ASCA Board Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2024

The meeting was held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 pm Central.

**In attendance:** President Susan Byrne, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Dawna Sims, Secretary Ann McCabe, Treasurer Jodie McLellan, Director David Clayton, Director Jillian Ward, Director Jan Wesen, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Absent:** None.

**President Byrne called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.** The meeting was held in Executive Session.

## 2024 Nationals Gala Event

Denise Creelman and Leslie Creelman-Sosa joined the Board from 7:01 pm to 7:35 pm to discuss a proposed gala event at the 2024 Nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska. Before going into the main agenda, Creelman-Sosa inquired whether the extended entry period introduced for this event is a one-time arrangement or if it will become standard practice for future events. Bryne clarified that the extension applies only to the 2024 Nationals, and the Board has not yet considered making this a permanent change.

The discussion then shifted to the main topic, where Creelman and Creelman-Sosa presented the concept of a gala designed to celebrate the top winners from various Finals—agility, conformation, obedience, rally, and stock. The idea is to hold the awards for each program as usual, following the conclusion of each respective Finals, followed by a collective event where top winners are acknowledged together.

The Board discussed the proposal, expressing overall support but raising concerns about timing, equal celebration for all programs, and logistical aspects. It was resolved that the Affiliate Meeting would be moved to 5 pm so the gala could be held afterwards at 7 pm.

## Scent Detection Committee

The discussion focused on the Scent Detection Committee and the program set to launch on June 1, 2024. The Board evaluated the committee's current motions, identifying those suitable for approval and others requiring additional review. The consensus was on the crucial role of a new liaison to bridge effective communication between the Board and the committee, ensuring clear guidance and direction.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.**

## ASCA Board Motions

### Director Recommendations

#### Fixed Schedule (Email)

**BD.24.17 Approval of the Scent Detection Program as an Official ASCA Sanctioned Program**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Hardin to approve the Scent Detection program as an official ASCA Sanctioned Program. Second by McCabe.**

Comments/Rationale: The initiation of the Scent Detection program has been approved by the Scent Detection Committee (SC.24.03) and all procedures and paperwork are in place to execute the program beginning June 1, 2024.

Affected: All Scent Detection exhibitors will be able to compete. ASCA Affiliate Clubs will be able to hold ASCA Sanctioned Scent Detection Trials. The Business Office has approved the sanctioning procedure. The

Webmaster will upload all documents to the Rules & Forms page on the ASCA website. The Business Office and the Webmaster have agreed to work with the Scent Detection Committee to record results and issue titles. The Scent Detection Committee will record and keep track of trial results.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### BD.24.18 Approval of the ASCA Scent Detection Rule Book

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

#### **Motion by Hardin to approve the ASCA Scent Detection Rule Book. Second by McCabe.**

Comments/Rationale: The Scent Detection Rule Book has been posted on the ASCA website for feedback. The Scent Detection Committee has revised the rule book to clarify a few items (Motions SC.24.01 and SC.24.02). A Board approved rule book must be used when ASCA Sanctioned Scent Detection trials start on June 1, 2024.

Affected: ASCA Scent Detection competitors, judges, and clubs will have a rule book to refer to when training, competing, or holding Scent Detection trials.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Attachment: [Scent Detection Rules February 2024.pdf](#)

#### BD.24.19 Approval of the 2024 Nationals Scent Detection Judges

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

#### **Motion by Hardin to approve the following Scent Detection judges for the 2024 National Specialty. Second by McCabe.**

Donna Morgan Murray  
Hallie McMullen  
Alternates: Elaine Booker and David Gallant

Note: These judges were the first four names randomly drawn from the list of all ASCA Approved Regular Scent Detection judges.

Comments/Rationale: The 2024 Nationals are approximately 8 months away. All other judges have been hired and the premium needs to be finalized for the exhibitors.

Affected: Scent Detection exhibitors at Nationals. The Nationals Scent Detection Chairperson. The Nationals Travel Chairperson.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### BD.24.20 Conflict Resolutions at the National Specialty

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

#### **Motion by McCabe to approve the following changes to the Conflict Resolution Protocol. Second by McLellan.**

Current Wording:

**First Decide Who Should Receive Your Request:**

## **Affiliate Club**

It is the duty of the Affiliate Club to deal initially with conflicts that occur during or in connection with its events. The Affiliate Club should receive these requests for conflict resolution:

- Conflicts, complaints, or disputes arising from violation(s) of rules at ASCA-sanctioned events sponsored by an Affiliate, including violations of ASCA bylaws, ASCA program rule books, ASCA policy, or ASCA codes of conduct.
- Conflicts, complaints, or disputes arising from Affiliate bylaws or rules.
- Conflicts arising from the improper actions by a Judge which are correctable at the time of the event (not the decision of the Judge).

Proposed Wording:

### **First Decide Who Should Receive Your Request:**

#### **Affiliate Club**

It is the duty of the Affiliate Club to deal initially with conflicts that occur during or in connection with its events. The Affiliate Club should receive these requests for conflict resolution:

- Conflicts, complaints, or disputes arising from violation(s) of rules at ASCA-sanctioned events sponsored by an Affiliate, including violations of ASCA bylaws, ASCA program rule books, ASCA policy, or ASCA codes of conduct.
- Conflicts, complaints, or disputes arising from Affiliate bylaws or rules.
- Conflicts arising from the improper actions by a Judge which are correctable at the time of the event (not the decision of the Judge). If replacing the Judge becomes necessary, a formal hearing with proper documentation must be conducted.

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

New section to follow Process for Requesting Conflict Resolution at the National Specialty:

### **Process for Requesting Conflict Resolution at the National Specialty:**

Any request for conflict resolution submitted during the National Specialty must be filed on an official Conflict Resolution Form and must be immediately sent to the Nationals Chairperson. Upon receipt, the Nationals Chairperson will forward the Conflict Resolution Form and all accompanying material to the Nationals Board Liaison, the ASCA Executive Secretary, and the ASCA President. All documentation will then be forwarded to the entire Board of Directors. Requests must be delivered within twenty-four hours of the discovery of the conflict or the event which incited the conflict. This is crucial as delays could impact ongoing events.

In the event complaints without a Conflict Resolution Form are received by any member of the Nationals Committee and those complaints are resolved, the complaint and the resolution must be sent to the Nationals Chairperson and the ASCA Executive Secretary. The ASCA Executive Secretary will forward the information to the Board of Directors.

The Nationals Chair will implement the following Conflict Resolution procedure:

1. A hearing body with a minimum of three members will be chosen by the Nationals Chair. Ideally, the body should include the Nationals or Finals program chair when the conflict involves a particular program. No party to the conflict or their immediate family may be a member of the hearing body.
2. The complaint is delivered to the hearing body to conduct the hearing immediately. Any necessary inquiry will be pursued by the hearing officials.
3. When deciding a case of a conflict involving multiple parties, all parties will be notified of the request and are to be given copies of the form. All parties will be allowed to state their case and all parties should be questioned by the hearing body. If any of the parties are off premises, a phone conference will be arranged. The hearing body will make a good faith effort to obtain factual information concerning the conflict, including obtaining information from people that witnessed the incident other than the person(s) filing the request for resolution or the person(s) involved in the conflict. This provision does not assume or admit that the hearing body is bound by any state or U.S. Constitutional requirement of due process.



4. After all the parties have been heard and the investigation is complete, the hearing body will deliberate and reach a decision. Investigations should be complete within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the request for conflict resolution.
5. All parties involved in the conflict will receive the decision in writing immediately following the hearing. A copy of this decision and a summary of the investigation will be sent to the Executive Secretary to share with the Board.
6. The decision of the hearing body will be final and binding unless a written notice of the member's intention to appeal the decision is received by the Executive Secretary within forty-eight hours of the date of the notification of the decision.

If the decision of the hearing body is appealed, the following procedure will be followed:

1. When deciding a case of a conflict involving multiple parties, the Executive Secretary will notify all parties of the request and are to be given copies of the form. All parties will be allowed to state their case, and all parties should be questioned by the Board. If any of the parties are off premises, a phone conference will be arranged. The Board will make a good faith effort to obtain factual information concerning the conflict, including obtaining information from people that witnessed the incident other than the person(s) filing the request for resolution or the person(s) involved in the conflict. This provision does not assume or admit that ASCA is bound by any state or U.S. Constitutional requirement of due process.
2. If the conflict involves a Board Member or the immediate family of a Board Member, that Board Member will state their case and be questioned by the rest of the Board but they must recuse themselves from the remainder of the investigation and the decision making process.
3. When necessary, the Board may impose immediate temporary measures to remain in effect pending its decision.
4. After all the parties have been heard and the investigation is complete, the Board will deliberate and reach a decision. Investigations should be complete within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the request for conflict resolution.
5. The Executive Secretary will provide all parties involved in the conflict with the decision in writing immediately following the hearing.
6. There is no appeal from a Board decision.

The Board reserves the right to waive or amend these rules in extraordinary situations, where in its judgment, it concludes that there is good cause for doing so and documents a summary of its basis for that finding.

Current Wording:

**Timelines for Conflict Resolution:**

An Affiliate and the Board of Directors may summarily rule against any party who fails to comply with these timelines.

**WHAT**

Filing of Request for Conflict Resolution

Notification of Named Parties

Investigation by Affiliate-Level Hearing Body

Decision by Affiliate-Level Hearing Body

Appeal to ASCA Board of Directors

Investigation by Board of Directors  
Response from Accused Party

**WHEN**

Immediately for situations requiring emergency action at the Affiliate level; all other requests must be filed within forty-eight hours of the incident requiring resolution, to the Affiliate (up to five days with extenuating circumstances) and within five days to the Board, whichever should receive the request

Immediately in the case of emergency requests for conflict resolution; before the investigation of the conflict begins

Completed immediately for emergency situations; completed within twenty-one days of receipt of Conflict Resolution Form for all others

Completed as soon as possible and provided in writing to all parties involved in the conflict

Within seven days of the date of the letter notifying said member of the disciplinary action taken against them

Completed within twenty-one days of being assigned

Within fourteen days of their receipt of the Conflict Resolution Form

Decision by Board of Directors

At the first Board meeting following the twenty-one-day investigation

Proposed Wording:

**Timelines for Conflict Resolution:**

An Affiliate and the Board of Directors may summarily rule against any party who fails to comply with these timelines.

**WHAT**

Filing of Request for Conflict Resolution

Notification of Named Parties

Investigation by Affiliate-Level Hearing Body

Decision by Affiliate-Level Hearing Body

Appeal to ASCA Board of Directors

Investigation by Board of Directors  
Response from Accused Party  
Decision by Board of Directors

Conflict Resolution at the National Specialty

**WHEN**

Immediately for situations requiring emergency action at the Affiliate level; all other requests must be filed within forty-eight hours of the incident requiring resolution, to the Affiliate (up to five days with extenuating circumstances) and within five days to the Board, whichever should receive the request

Immediately in the case of emergency requests for conflict resolution; before the investigation of the conflict begins

Completed immediately for emergency situations; completed within twenty-one days of receipt of Conflict Resolution Form for all others

Completed as soon as possible and provided in writing to all parties involved in the conflict

Within seven days of the date of the letter notifying said member of the disciplinary action taken against them

Completed within twenty-one days of being assigned

Within fourteen days of their receipt of the Conflict Resolution Form  
At the first Board meeting following the twenty-one-day investigation

Requires urgent adjudication, if possible, at the event

Comments/Rationale: Conflicts that arise at the National Specialty demand immediate attention. This process ensures the complaint is handled in the most efficient way and all parties affected, including the Board, are notified.

Affected: The Board of Directors, the National Specialty Chairperson, The National Specialty Liaison to the Board, Nationals exhibitors.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

**BD.24.22 Move Provisional Scent Detection Judges to Regular Scent Detection Judges**

**Motion carried** (4-3) - Approved: Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Ward. Disapproved: Byrne, Sims, Wesen. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director Byrne:** Each judge should be voted on individually. Not all have the same credentials.
- **Dissent from Director Wesen:** These organizations don't all match ASCA requirements of a judge.
- **Comment from Director McCabe:** According to the current Scent Detection rules, these judges are qualified to be regular judges and need to be listed as such.

**Motion by Hardin to re-designate the following judges to Regular Scent Detection judges. They are all scent judges in other organizations. The organization is listed after their name. Second by McCabe.**

1. Kelly Ladoucer – CKC/UKC
2. Melody Fair - AKC
3. Roy Fair - AKC
4. Nathalie Lussier – AKC/CPE
5. Paula Stoops – NACSW/USCSS

6. Diane Goff - AKC
7. Liz Bernstein - USCSS
8. Monique Engemann - CPE
9. Sally Nesbitt - AKC
10. Sarah Jane Petti - CKC

Comments/Rationale: According to the current Scent Detection rules, all of these judges should be Regular Scent Detection judges.

Please refer to the following from the ASCA Scent Detection rulebook with the pertinent highlighted parts:

11.1 Requirements to become an ASCA Scent Detection Judge

11.1.1 Completed Application (see the ASCA website)

11.1.2 Must be 21 years of age.

11.1.3 Must be in good standing with the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) but do not have to be a member of ASCA.

11.1.4 Have full mobility and be physically able to perform all duties of a judge.

11.2 Applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Judging Experiences

Current Judges of the following organizations may apply for judges' status in the ASCA Scent Detection Program by submitting a Judges Application Form (see the ASCA website) to the ASCA Business Office.

11.2.1 National Association of Canine Scent Work Judges or Certifying Official (NACSW)

11.2.2 American Kennel Club Scent Work Judges (AKC)

11.2.3 Canadian Kennel Club Scent Work Judges (CKC)

11.2.4 United Kennel Club Full License Nosework judge (UKC)

11.2.5 Canine Performance Events Canine Scent Search Judges (CPE)

11.2.6 US Canine Scent Sports Judges (USCSS)

11.2.7 Equivalent Scent Detection Judges in other countries

11.4 Scent Detection Judge Application Process

11.4.1 Applicants who wish to apply to become an ASCA Scent Detection Judge should fill out the Application Form (see the ASCA website) and send it to the ASCA Business Office.

11.4.2 The Applications Form will be forwarded to the Scent Detection Committee for review.

11.4.3 Applicants need to pass the Scent Detection Judges written, open book test 100%.

11.4.4 All applicants will need to be approved by ASCA Scent Detection Committee, then ASCA Business Office, and the ASCA Board of Directors to become an ASCA Scent Detection judge.

11.4.7 Applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Judging Experiences (as described in 11.2) are immediately a Regular Status judge after passing the judge's written test and eligible to judge any ASCA Scent Detection class.

All of the judges listed above have completed these steps. The Scent Detection committee has been not applying these rules correctly. They claim judges in other organizations must have been a judge for some amount of time to have enough experience. Nothing about an amount of experience is stated in the rulebook. The rules only say current judges.

The committee claims that the phrase "may apply" in section 11.2 means that they may be provisional judges or regular judges depending on how the committee votes. That phrase only states that judges in other organizations have the option to apply to be ASCA Scent Detection judges if they want to. The committee also claims that sections 11.4.2 and 11.4.4 give them the authority to decide what type of Scent Detection judge they will be approved to be. That is not stated anywhere in the rules and therefore not allowed.

In addition, the committee interprets this from chapter 11, "NOTE: Judging an ASCA Scent Detection Trial is a privilege, not a right. Approval to judge Scent Sport Trials for other organizations is not a guarantee of approval to judge ASCA Scent Detection Trials.", as permission for them to designate whether judges will be provisional or regular judges. That is not what is stated here. These judges have already been approved to judge ASCA Scent Detection trials.

The committee has refused to apply the rules the way they are stated in the rulebook. The chair has explicitly stated she will not bring these judges forward to the board to be approved as regular judges. They are not following ASCA rules.

The only way to make sure all ASCA rules are applied fairly is for these judges to be approved by the Board bypassing the committee.

It should also be noted that Judith Peterson wrote to the Executive Secretary, who forwarded it to the Committee, asking why she was a provisional judge and not a regular judge as she is an AKC scent judge. It seems she interpreted the rules as I have outlined above. The Chair then stated the committee reevaluated her application and agreed to move her to regular status.

Affected: These ASCA Provisional Scent Detection judges will become ASCA Regular Scent Detection judges. They will be able to judge any ASCA Scent Detection level at any ASCA Scent Detection event. The ASCA Business Office will change these judges' designations to Regular Scent Detection Judges. The Executive Secretary will inform these judges of their updated status. These judges will be listed on the website as Regular Scent Detection judges. ASCA affiliates will have a larger pool of judges to judge their Scent Detection trials.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### BD.24.25 Move to Biennial Audit Schedule & Implement Operational Audit (Revised 2/10/2024)

**Motion carried** (5-2) - Approved: Byrne, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward. Disapproved: Clayton, Wesen. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director Clayton:** I believe this is a good idea but until ASCA is in a better position financially believe an annual audit is more beneficial to catch potential issues.
- **Dissent from Director Wesen:** I believe we need to have annual audit from an outside source.

#### **Motion by McLellan to move the current financial audit schedule from annual to biennial schedule and to implement a yearly operational audit. Second by Ward**

After the completion of the 2023 fiscal audit, I move to change the audit to a biennial schedule in which the next audit would be conducted for the 2025 fiscal year. In addition, a yearly operational audit will be implemented and conducted by the BOD. The operational audit will be conducted at the end of the fiscal year and reported at the Spring Board Meeting.

Current Wording: Policy Book

#### **19.7 Yearly Audit**

Starting with Fiscal Year 2013, ASCA will have a full audit of our finances done yearly by a licensed accounting firm/CPA. The audit will start no later than June of the following year. Bound copies of the audit, including the management letter, governance letter, and any addendums will be provided to each Board member at the completion of the audit or at the ASCA National Specialty. A copy of the audit will be brought to the National Specialty for members to review.

Proposed Wording: Policy Book

#### **19.7 Yearly Audit**

~~Starting with Fiscal Year 2013,~~ ASCA will have a full audit of our finances done ~~yearly~~ biennially (specifically in odd-numbered years) conducted by a licensed accounting firm/~~CPA~~ or a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). These audits will start no later than June of the ~~following~~ odd-numbered years to review the finances of the preceding fiscal year. Bound copies of the audit, including the management letter, governance letter, and any addendums will be provided to each Board member at the completion of the audit or at the ASCA National Specialty. A copy of the audit will be brought to the National Specialty for members to review.

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording: Policy Book

### **8.1 Annual Operational Audit Policy**

A yearly operational audit will be implemented and overseen by the Board of Directors. This audit will be conducted at the conclusion of each fiscal year. The findings and reports generated from the operational audit will be presented and discussed at the Spring Board Meeting. This policy ensures ongoing evaluation and accountability of our operational procedures and performance.

Comments/Rationale: Moving the fiscal audit to a biennial schedule will save ASCA \$5,000 during the year in which an audit is not conducted. The operational audit has no cost, but will help ensure the Board maintains operational awareness.

Affected: ASCA, ASCA Board of Directors.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### **Random Schedule (Email)**

#### **BD.24.15 Litter Registration Application – Osceola x Bandit**

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

**Motion by McCabe to approve the litter application submitted by Roger Stevens whelped 11/15/23 and register the litter. Second by Hardin.**

Comments/Rationale: The collection occurred before 1990. The records for this are no longer available. The attending veterinarian attested that the contents of the vial belonged to Pincie Creek Osceola. All other forms and information were correctly submitted to the office.

Affected: ASCA Business Office, Roger Stevens.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### **BD.24.26 Change of Sire for Litter 111252**

**Motion carried** (8-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen.  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Wesen to approve the change of sire on litter 111252 whelped on 3/15/2021 (one puppy) after the \$50 fee is paid to the Business Office. Second by McCabe.**

Comments/Rationale: We have the verification of the sire with Paw Print Genetics.

Affected: ASCA Business Office, Sheila McPhetridge.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### **Committee Appointment**

#### **CA.24.04 European Advisory Panel Appointment – Christian Prein (Austria)**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to appoint Christian Prein to the European Advisory Panel.**

Comments/Rationale: The panel does not have any current representation from Austria.

Affected: European Advisory Panel members, Christian Prein.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Judge Applications

### JA.24.02 February Judge Applicants

For Magda Giles, Ben Schwinn, and Nate Bake:

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

For Jan Wesen:

**Motion carried** (6-0-1) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward. Disapproved: None. Abstained: Wesen. Non-voting: Gann.

### **Motion by President Byrne to approve the following list of judge applicants.**

Magda Gilles (Germany) – Non-Regular Breeder  
Jan Wesen (Washington) – Non-Regular Breeder  
Ben Schwinn (Wisconsin) – Apprentice Agility  
Nate Bake (Oregon) – Provisional Stockdog

Comments/Rationale: These judges have met the requirements of the program they are applying to judge for and have the recommendation of the program's committee, when appropriate. When called to a vote Directors may approve the entire list, may approve some and disapprove some, not vote, or abstain by so stating in a vote sent to the Executive Secretary. The "not vote" or "abstain" options can apply to the entire list or specified individuals.

Affected: The judge applicants, the ASCA Business Office, the ASCA Webmaster, ASCA Affiliates, and exhibitors in ASCA programs.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Committee Recommendations

### Agility Committee

#### AG.24.01 Revision of Handling Faults

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion 02-2024 to Revise Chapter 9.1 Handling Faults.

Motion by Bambi Ellis. Seconded by Sandra Katzen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 7. Disapproved: 3. Abstained: 1. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

### **Chapter 9. Faults**

#### **9.1 Handling Faults**

The handler can use verbal or visual commands to assist the dog throughout the course. All commands must be given in a sportsmanlike manner. Any commands not given in a spirit of good sportsmanship shall be faulted. The judge shall assess the faults to be equivalent to the degree of the offense, from a five-fault penalty to elimination. Displays of anger, foul language or excessive harshness shall always be faulted. Any handler eliminated from the ring for poor sportsmanship shall be excused from the remainder of the trial and a written

report shall be sent to the ASCA Business Office. If the judge feels any handler has treated a dog in an inhumane manner, the handler shall be removed from the Agility grounds and a report shall be submitted to the ASCA Business Office. Dogs shall be assessed five faults for assistance per occurrence in the Regular and Jumpers Classes. For the Gamblers class, 'points' for an obstacle will not be awarded for the 'faulted' obstacle.

Faults shall include, although not limited to, the following:

1. Delay of Start: If, in the judge's opinion, there is an excessive delay in starting a run after being given the signal to begin OR if there is an excessive delay in entering the ring, the judge may assess a Delay of Start fault. (Note: For gamblers class, five points will be deducted from the dog's opening point total.)
2. The handler is touching the dog while on course.
3. The handler is touching an obstacle while on course.
4. The handler is conspicuously leading the dog through the course by appearing to have food as a lure for the dog.
5. The handler is physically assisting the dog at the start line. The dog must be free to cross the start line on their own. If the handler pushes or shoves the dog forward to assist the start, it shall be faulted.
6. Spectators influencing the dog's performance. Dogs shall be faulted if the handler loses their direction and is assisted back on course by the spectators. Judges may also fault the dog's performance if they believe the crowd artificially stimulated the dog to improve the dog's course run. However, cheering will not be faulted if it is done in a sportsmanlike manner for all participants.
7. The handler is intentionally blocking the judges' view.
8. The handler is physically body blocking the dog to remove any choice for the dog to perform an obstacle on command, but instead forcing a path for the dog.
9. Dog nipping at handler.

Dogs shall be eliminated for the following occurrences:

1. Aggression on the course towards any person or dog. See ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules.
2. Fouling the course area before, during or after their run.
3. Leaving the course area.
4. Being out of control, as viewed by the judge. The judge may choose to eliminate a dog for being out of control at any time that the judge feels that the dog is not trained to a level to perform the obstacles in a safe manner, thereby endangering the dog, the handler or any other person or dog at the event.
5. Exiting the ring while NOT on leash and NOT under the handler's control. (See Section 11.2 regarding tugging while exiting ring.)
6. Exceeding the maximum course time.
7. Training in the ring, during their run. However, the dog and handler will not be excused for training in the ring, provided that no harsh words or measures are employed by the handler. Gentle training in the ring is encouraged, in the interest of safety and motivation, if done within the Maximum Course Time (MCT). Exhibitors will be asked to leave the ring once the MCT has been reached. At the discretion of the Host Club and limited to one-ring trials, toys may be brought into the arena for training purposes. These toys may not involve food or treats of any kind, may not make noise, or may not leave parts behind. All handlers declaring toys will mark the gate sheet with a "T" at the run check-in. They will be able to run in their regular place on the gate sheet or at the end of jump height, this decision will be up to the Club and must be published in the premium. Upon entering the ring, handlers must declare to the judge that they have a toy. They will be immediately eliminated whether or not the toy is used and will have the Maximum Course Time (MCT) for training in the ring. If handlers bring a toy in the ring without declaring it, they will be asked to leave immediately and will not be able to use a toy for the remainder of the trial. If they use a toy again after being told that they cannot use it again in the trial, they will be excused from that trial.
8. Running with a collar. Judges shall eliminate a dog for running with a collar. The judge should instruct the handler to exit the ring immediately or that they may remove the collar and continue the run up to the Maximum Course Time (MCT).
9. Food, treats, or toys shall not be used outside the ring within ten feet of the agility trial arena at any time. Handlers may, however, continue to train in the ring with declared toys for the Maximum Course Time (MCT) for training in the ring. The following are additional instructions about using toys in the ring:
  - a. Handlers using toys for training in the ring must keep the toy concealed until the previous dog has left the ring and the handler and dog are in the ring. If the toy cannot be concealed, the

handler must stay ten feet back from the ring until the previous dog has left the ring. The handler cannot use the toy until they are in the ring.

- b. Handlers may tug or toss the toy but not further than 15 feet (4.57 m). If the dog does not return with the toy but runs around the ring past the Maximum Course Time, they cannot use the toy again for that day.
  - c. If the toy leaves the ring, the handler cannot use a toy again for the rest of the trial. If the dog leaves the ring to get the toy that has left the arena and starts a fight, the dog who left the ring will be excused from the trial per the ASCA Dog Aggression Rules.
10. Dog repeatedly (three times or more) nipping at handler or making contact with clothing or handler.
  11. The handler is intentionally touching the dog (to aid in or reward the dog's performance) while on course.
  12. The handler is exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior in the agility ring, such as verbally abusing the judge or ring crew, or verbally or physically abusing the dog.

#### Proposed Wording:

### **Chapter 9. Faults**

#### **9.1 Handling Faults**

The handler can use verbal or visual commands to assist the dog throughout the course. All commands must be given in a sportsmanlike manner. ~~Any commands not given in a spirit of good sportsmanship shall be faulted. The judge shall assess the~~ Faults ~~to~~ must be equivalent to the degree of the offense, from a five-fault penalty to elimination. Displays of anger, foul language or excessive harshness ~~shall~~ must always be faulted. Teams will be assessed five faults per occurrence. Commands not given in a spirit of good sportsmanship must be faulted. Any handler eliminated from the ring for poor sportsmanship ~~shall~~ must be excused from the remainder of the trial and a written report ~~shall~~ must be sent to the ASCA Business Office by the judge. If the judge feels any handler has treated a dog in an inhumane manner, the handler ~~shall~~ must be removed from the Agility grounds and a report ~~shall~~ must be submitted by the judge to the ASCA Business Office. ~~Dogs shall be assessed five faults for assistance per occurrence in the Regular and Jumpers Classes. For the Gamblers class, 'points' for an obstacle will not be awarded for the 'faulted' obstacle.~~

Faults identified below that occur during the Gamble class must be deducted from the opening point total.

Faults ~~shall~~ will include, although are not limited to, the following:

1. Delay of Start: If, in the judge's opinion, there is an excessive delay in starting a run after being given the signal to begin ~~OR~~ or if there is an excessive delay in entering the ring, the judge may assess a Delay of Start fault of five points. ~~(Note: For gamblers class, five points will be deducted from the dog's opening point total.)~~
2. The handler ~~is touching~~ purposely touches the dog while on course. Teams will be assessed five faults for assistance per occurrence.
3. The handler ~~is touching~~ purposely touches an obstacle while on course. Incidental contact with an obstacle, e.g. accidentally brushing up against the wing of a jump or the edge of a tunnel, will not be faulted.
- ~~4. The handler is conspicuously leading the dog through the course by appearing to have food as a lure for the dog.~~
5. The handler is physically assisting the dog at the start line. The dog must be free to cross the start line on their own. If the handler pushes or shoves the dog forward to assist the start, it ~~shall~~ must be faulted.
6. Spectators influencing the dog's performance. Dogs ~~shall~~ must be faulted if the handler loses their direction and is assisted back on course by the spectators. Judges may also fault the dog's performance if they believe the crowd artificially stimulated the dog to improve the dog's course run. However, cheering will not be faulted if it is done in a sportsmanlike manner for all participants.
- ~~7. The handler is intentionally blocking the judges' view.~~
- ~~8. The handler is physically body blocking the dog to remove any choice for the dog to perform an obstacle on command, but instead forcing a path for the dog.~~
9. Each instance of a ~~D~~ dog nipping ~~at~~ the handler.

Dogs ~~shall~~ must be eliminated for the following occurrences:

1. Aggression on the course towards any person or dog. See ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules: <https://asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Dog-Aggression-Rules-v2023.pdf>



2. Fouling the **course-area** agility ring before, during or after their run.
- ~~3. Leaving the course-area.~~
4. Being out of control, as viewed by the judge. The judge may choose to eliminate a dog for being out of control at any time that the judge feels that the dog is not trained to a level to perform the obstacles in a safe manner, thereby endangering the dog, the handler or any other person or dog at the event.
5. Exiting the agility ring while **NOT** not on leash and **NOT** not under the handler's control. (See Section 11.2 regarding tugging while exiting ring.)
6. Exceeding the **m**Maximum **e**Course **t**Time (MCT).
7. Training in the agility ring, during their run. However, the dog and handler will not be excused for training in the ring, provided that no harsh words or measures are employed by the handler. Gentle training in the ring is encouraged, in the interest of safety and motivation, if done within the Maximum Course Time (MCT). Exhibitors will be asked to leave the ring once the MCT has been reached.
8. At the discretion of the **Host** Affiliate Club and limited to one-ring trials, toys may be brought into the **arena** agility ring for training purposes. These toys may not involve food or treats of any kind, may not make noise, ~~or~~ and may not leave parts behind. ~~All handlers declaring toys will mark the gate sheet with a "T" at the run check-in. They~~ Teams will ~~be able to~~ run in their regular place on the gate sheet or at the end of jump height. ~~This decision will be up to the Affiliate Club and must be published in the premium. Upon entering the agility ring, handlers must declare to the judge that they have a toy. They team will be immediately eliminated, whether or not the toy is used, and will have the Maximum Course Time (MCT) for training in the agility ring. If handlers bring a toy in the agility ring without declaring it, they will be asked to leave immediately and will not be able to use a toy for the remainder of the trial~~ the judge will remind the exhibitor of the rule to declare the toy. If the handler neglects to declare the toy on future runs and/or if they use a toy again after being told that they cannot ~~use it again in the trial~~, they will be excused from that trial and a report filed by the Judge. The following are additional instructions about using toys in the ring:
  - a. Handlers using toys for training in the agility ring cannot use the toy until they are in the ring and must keep the toy "quiet" (i.e. in hand, in pocket, tucked in clothes) until the previous dog has left the ring.
  - b. Handlers may carry, tug, or toss the toy.
9. Running with a collar. Judges **shall** must eliminate a dog for running **with** while wearing a collar. The judge **should** must instruct the handler to exit the agility ring immediately or ~~that~~ they may remove the collar and continue the run up to ~~the Maximum Course Time (MCT)~~.
10. Food, treats, or toys **shall** are not to be used ~~outside the ring~~ within ten feet of the agility ~~trial-arena~~ ring's perimeter ~~at any time~~. See number 7 above for training in the agility ring with toys. ~~Handlers may, however, continue to train in the ring with declared toys for the Maximum Course Time (MCT) for training in the ring. The following are additional instructions about using toys in the ring:~~
  - ~~a. Handlers using toys for training in the ring must keep the toy concealed until the previous dog has left the ring and the handler and dog are in the ring. If the toy cannot be concealed, the handler must stay ten feet back from the ring until the previous dog has left the ring. The handler cannot use the toy until they are in the ring.~~
  - ~~b. Handlers may tug or toss the toy but not further than 15 feet (4.57 m). If the dog does not return with the toy but runs around the ring past the Maximum Course Time, they cannot use the toy again for that day.~~
  - ~~c. If the toy leaves the ring, the handler cannot use a toy again for the rest of the trial. If the dog leaves the ring to get the toy that has left the arena and starts a fight, the dog who left the ring will be excused from the trial per the ASCA Dog Aggression Rules.~~
11. Dog ~~repeatedly (three times or more)~~ nipping **at** the handler or ~~making contact with~~ the handler's clothing, five faults per occurrence must be recorded ~~or handler~~.
12. The handler is intentionally touching the dog (to aid in or reward the dog's performance) while on course.
13. The handler is exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior in the agility ring, such as verbally abusing the judge or ring crew, or verbally **and/or** physically abusing the dog.

Comments/Rationale: The rule allowing five faults for delay of start in Gamblers doesn't specify that other five-point faults for other handler errors may be called during the Gamblers class if witnessed in between the performance of obstacles or in between the opening and closing period.

The rules for using toys while training were spread out in two sections. Condensing them into one section will help judges quickly locate the guidelines.

Affected: Judges, Competitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### AG.24.02 Clarification of Apprentice Judge Procedures

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion to clarify the applicants' requirements and publishing for becoming an Apprentice Judge.

Motion by Jan Niblock to approve this motion because there is a need to have a clear path for the Applicant Judge, Business Office, and Agility Committee about how and when documents should be submitted, when the publishing needs to happen and how approvals should be handled. Seconded by Michael Kurdzo.

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

Current Wording:

#### **APPENDIX C: ASCA Agility Judging Program Apprentice Agility Judge Application Requirements**

##### **Application**

The applicant must fill out the ASCA Apprentice Agility Judge Application, include the required documentation, and send (mail, email, fax) it to the ASCA Business Office.

1. Once the application has been determined to be complete and accurate, the application submitted to the Business Office will be forwarded to the Agility Committee for review and consideration.
2. At the time of this submission, the Business Office will include the proposed issue of the Aussie Times in which the name of the Applicant will appear. The Business Office will provide the Judge Applicant's name to the Webmaster by the twenty-fifth of the current month for publication on the first of the next month on the ASCA Website and in the AussEnews.

##### **Courses for Review**

The applicant must submit a full set of courses for review with their application (two regular, one jumpers and one gamblers course for each level). The Course Reviewer shall be randomly selected by the Business Office. The courses must comply with the Course Design Guidelines found in Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Chapter 7, and the Judge's Addendum in ASCA Agility Rulebook as well as follows ASCA's philosophy for flowing courses. The Apprentice shall receive feedback from the course reviewer and shall modify the courses if needed and resubmit for final approval.

##### **Submission to the Board of Directors**

After all requirements have been met (application, open book test, course review and forty-five-day comment period) the Agility Committee will make a motion to approve or reject the applicant. The result of the motion will be sent to the ASCA Business Office and the ASCA Agility Board Liaison. The motion will then be considered by the ASCA Board of Directors for a final decision. The ASCA Executive Secretary will notify the applicant and the ASCA Business Office of the ASCA Board of Directors' decision. If approved, the Business Office will then assign a judge's number and notify the new judge.

Proposed Wording:

#### **APPENDIX C: ASCA Agility Judging Program Apprentice Agility Judge Application Requirements**

## Application

The applicant must fill out the ASCA Apprentice Agility Judge Application, include the required documentation, pass the judge's test, design their courses in CRCD format then email ~~and send (mail, email, fax)~~ it to the ASCA Business Office.

1. Once the application, required documentation, and judge's test has been determined to be complete ~~and accurate, the application submitted to~~ by the Business Office that application package will be forwarded to the Agility Committee for review and consideration.
2. ~~At the time of this submission,~~ When the Agility Committee has determined that the application package is complete and requisite paperwork is verified, they will notify the Business Office ~~will include the proposed issue of the Aussie Times in which the name of the Applicant will appear.~~ At that time, ~~T~~the Business Office will provide the Judge Applicant's name to the Webmaster by the twenty-fifth of the current month for publication on the first of the next month on the ASCA Website and in the AussEnews.

## Courses for Review

The applicant must submit a full set of courses for review with their application (two regular, one jumpers and one gamblers course for each level) to the Business Office in CRCD format. The Course Reviewer ~~shall~~ will be randomly selected by the Business Office. The courses must comply with the Course Design Guidelines found in Chapter 5, Chapter 6, ~~and~~ Chapter 7, and the Judge's Addendum in ASCA Agility Rulebook. The courses must ~~as well as~~ follow ASCA's philosophy for flowing courses. The Apprentice ~~shall~~ will receive feedback from the eCourse ~~r~~Reviewer and ~~shall~~ must modify the courses if needed and resubmit for final approval. Once the Course Reviewer has approved the courses, he/she will notify the Business Office and send the approved courses to be forwarded on to the Committee to be kept with the rest of the Applicant's package.

## Submission to the Board of Directors

After all requirements have been met (application, open book test, course review and forty-five-day comment period) the Agility Committee will make a motion to approve or reject the applicant. The result of the motion will be sent to the ASCA ~~Business Office~~ Executive Secretary and the ASCA Agility Board Liaison. The motion will then be considered by the ASCA Board of Directors for a final decision. The ASCA Executive Secretary will notify the applicant and the ASCA Business Office of the ASCA Board of Directors' decision ~~and the ASCA Agility Board Liaison will notify the Agility Committee.~~ If approved, the Business Office will then assign a judge's number and notify the new judge.

Comments/Rationale: This motion is needed because there were different ways to interpret the process between the Business Office and the Agility Committee. This motion puts together what is needed to be sent to Agility Committee and when that should be sent. It also helps to make clear when the applicant is to be published for comments in the AussEnews for comments.

Affected: This motion affects the Business Office, the Agility Committee and Applicant Agility Judges.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### AG.24.03 Participation in Trials

**Motion carried** (4-2-1) - Approved: Byrne, McCabe, Sims, Wesen. Disapproved: McLellan, Ward. Abstained: Clayton. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director McLellan:** I do not believe there should be an exception as all other venues do not allow participation.

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

Committee Recommendation: PARTICIPATION IN TRIALS motion 05-2024

Motion by Christian Prein. Seconded by Sandra Katzen.

Currently family members must be judged by another judge and are excluded from earning High awards. This also includes the Nationals. In Agility there is no personal note that there is a need for another judge. Faults can be seen clearly and we should trust the integrity of our judges. Also a family member does not have any chances for a HIT award even if there are more judges available there. This part should be removed. That all runs are to be done at the end does not make any sense either. In reality we saw that this costs more time. Running in order or at the beginning saves much more time, especially as the judges themselves are not running. To avoid discussion at nationals and finals, another available judge or emergency judge should judge those runs.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 8. Disapproved: 4. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

- **Dissent from Committee Member Heather Tyler:** I am not in favor of allowing dogs of immediate family members, co-owned dogs, etc. to compete under the judge of record for any High in Trial, Finals placements or MVA awards. I would be willing to compromise and allow family members, co-owners etc. be allowed to run under that judge, just not be eligible for placements, awards etc. I don't feel that this is fair to other competitors. No other ASCA venues allow this to happen.

Current Wording:

### **1.3.5 PARTICIPATION IN TRIALS**

Participation is a privilege afforded by the Host Club(s) and may be extended or withdrawn by the Host Club's Trial Committee based on suitable cause only. Refusal of entries shall be reported to the ASCA Business Office. A dog that is owned or co-owned by the judge or a member of the judge's immediate family may show in a class in which that judge is judging. If, however, another judge is available and agrees to replace the judge for those runs then that judge will judge those runs. If no other judge is available, the order of who could judge the judge's owned or co-owned dogs or its immediate family runs should be the same as specified for Emergency Judges.

These runs must be at the end of each class. The dogs owned or co-owned by the judge or handled by immediate family shall not be eligible for any prizes or awards (including any 'series', 'year-end', High in Trial or any High Combined or weekend awards for the trial).

Qualifying points should count toward titles, Finals, Merit and HOF.

As used in this rulebook, immediate family means spouse, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, or any combination of the preceding by marriage, i.e., stepchildren or parents-in-law, or person residing in the same household.

No entry shall be accepted from a dog or handler disqualified from the ASCA agility program; a dog or handler disqualified from all ASCA programs; or a person not in good standing with ASCA.

### **11.3 Emergency Judge**

...

The Emergency Judge will abide by the restrictions listed in Section 1.3.5. The judge and/or any dogs owned or handled by the judge will not be eligible for any High in Trial awards for any days while judging, or any High Combined or weekend awards for the trial they are judging. The Emergency Judge must abide by all rules in the ASCA Agility Rulebook.

...

Proposed Wording:

### **1.3.5 PARTICIPATION IN TRIALS**

Participation is a privilege afforded by the **Host Affiliate** Club(s) and may be extended or withdrawn by the **Host Affiliate** Club's Trial Committee based on suitable cause only. Refusal of entries **shall** **must** be reported to the ASCA Business Office **by the Trial Secretary**. A dog that is owned or co-owned by the judge or a member of the judge's immediate family may show in a class in which that judge is judging. ~~If, however, another judge is available and agrees to replace the judge for those runs then that judge will judge those runs. If no other judge is available, the order of who could judge the judge's owned or co-owned dogs or its immediate family runs should be the same as specified for Emergency Judges.~~ **For Nationals and Finals, if however, another judge is**

available and agrees to replace the judge for those runs then that judge will judge those runs. If no other judge is available, the order of who could judge the judge's owned or co-owned dogs or its immediate family runs should be the same as specified for Emergency Judges.

~~These runs must be at the end of each class. The dogs owned or co-owned by the judge or handled by immediate family shall not be eligible for any prizes or awards (including any 'series', 'year-end', High in Trial or any High Combined or weekend awards for the trial).~~

Qualifying points ~~should~~ are counted regularly toward titles, Finals, Merit, and HOF.

As used in this rulebook, immediate family means spouse, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, or any combination of the preceding by marriage, i.e., stepchildren or parents-in-law, or person residing in the same household.

No entry shall be accepted from a dog or handler disqualified from the ASCA agility program; a dog or handler disqualified from all ASCA programs; or a person not in good standing with ASCA.

### 11.3 Emergency Judge

...

The Emergency Judge will abide by the restrictions listed in Section 1.3.5. The judge and/or any dogs owned or handled by the judge will ~~not~~ be eligible for any High in Trial awards for any days while judging, or any High Combined or weekend awards for the trial they are judging. The Emergency Judge must abide by all rules in the ASCA Agility Rulebook.

...

Comments/Rationale: The reason for this motion is that Agility is different from other programs. There is no personal choice from the judge to give points. Failures are clear and visible.

Affected: Judges and Judges owned dogs and family members.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## Junior Committee

### JR.24.03 Year End Awards for Juniors

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Junior Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Nicole Fisher. Second by China Lewis.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 4. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

#### **Chapter 7. Year End Awards**

All Region and overall winners shall receive a prize, to be awarded at the Nationals.

All the first-place juniors (of each age group), also the overall winners for each division (Handling, Obedience, Rally, Agility, and Working), and the All-Around Junior (if any) shall receive a prize, also to be awarded at the National's Banquet. All juniors who achieve a level of the 500 Club Program will be recognized and receive their awards at the National Specialty. Scheduling to be at the National Specialty Committee's discretion, but preferably upon the completion of the Junior Finals competition.

Proposed Wording:

#### **Chapter 7. Year End Awards**

~~All Region and~~ The Top Overall High Score Winners ~~shall~~ will receive ~~a prize~~ an award, ~~to be awarded at the Nationals. All the first-place juniors (of each age group), also the~~ Top Overall High Score Winners for each division (Junior Handling, Obedience, Rally, ~~Agility, and~~ Junior Working Handler, Open Working Handler, Top Junior Agility Finals Qualifier), and the All-Around Junior (if any) ~~shall~~ will receive a prize, ~~also~~ to be awarded at the Nationals Banquet. All juniors who achieve a level of the 500 Club Program will be recognized and receive their awards at the National Specialty. Scheduling to be at the National Specialty Committee's discretion, but preferably upon the completion of the Junior Finals competition.

Comments/Rationale: To clarify and align with the ASCA Policy Book.

Affected: Juniors.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### JR.24.04 Region Awards for Juniors

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Junior Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Nicole Fisher. Second by China Lewis.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 4. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

#### **Chapter 6. Region Awards**

Awards will be given to the highest pointed junior in each age division in each region. An award will also be given to the highest pointed junior of each age group for Handling, Obedience, Rally, and Working and for the Top Junior overall in Handling, Obedience, Rally, and Working (all age groups).

Proposed Wording:

#### **Chapter 6: Region Awards**

~~Awards~~ Certificates will be ~~given~~ awarded to the highest pointed junior in each age division ~~in each~~ and region for Handling, Obedience, Rally, and Working. ~~An award will also be given to the highest pointed junior of each age group for Handling, Obedience, Rally, and Working and for the Top Junior overall in Handling, Obedience, Rally, and Working (all age groups).~~

Comments/Rationale: To clarify and align with the ASCA Policy Book.

Affected: Juniors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## Nationals Advisory Committee

#### NA.24.01 2025 Nationals Committee Members

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Gann to approve the following recommendation from the Nationals Advisory Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Accept [Slate of 2025 Nationals Committee](#).

Motion by Renee Watson to accept the slate of Committee members as noted in the attached spreadsheet. Seconded by Laura Gibson.

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

Comments/Rationale: The attached slate of committee members have agreed to serve in the positions noted. The NAC approves and presents them for the ASCA Board of Directors for approval.

Affected: 2025 Nationals Committee Chair, Nationals Advisory Committee, members of the 2025 Nationals Committee.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Obedience Committee

### OB.24.01 Emergency Judge at Nationals and/or Finals

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: Emergency Judge at Nationals and/or Finals.

Motion by Betsy Coleman to describe the procedure to hire a judge at the nationals or finals in the event the judge originally hired is absent or incapable of judging. Seconded by Beth MacLehose.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 4.

Current Wording:

#### **Chapter 15. Nationals and Finals Obedience Judges Selection Procedure**

Finals and Nationals Judges Eligibility: The ASCA Business Office will email a questionnaire to all of the ASCA Obedience judges who are qualified to judge through Utility and are current on their continuing education requirement as candidates for judging either Nationals or Finals at least twenty months prior to the Nationals/Finals, requesting a reply/response to the Obedience Chairperson(s) within fifteen days.

After receiving responses from judges, the Obedience Chairperson(s) will review the questionnaires.

1. Judges who are not in good standing with ASCA will not be considered.
2. Judges who have judged any of the previous three ASCA Obedience Finals should not be considered to judge finals again (but could judge Nationals).
3. Judges who have judged any of the previous three ASCA Obedience Nationals should not be considered to judge Nationals again (but could judge Finals).
4. Judges who have not judged an ASCA trial in the past two years should not be considered.

Once the list of interested judges who meet the criteria in #2 is created, the Nationals and Finals Chairperson(s) will provide the ASCA Obedience Committee with the results of a random draw of qualified judges (two Finals judges, two Nationals judges, and two Alternates). The ASCA Obedience Committee will then either approve these choices or request substitutions based on valid reasons. The Obedience Chairperson(s) will then submit the four judges to the ASCA Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed judge's slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate will be returned to the Nationals Obedience Chairperson(s) no later than thirty days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Obedience judges slate, the judge's names will be posted within seven days to the ASCA Website on the "National Specialty Information" page and the judge information must be submitted to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May-June issue.

Proposed Wording:

#### **Chapter 15. Nationals and Finals Obedience Judges Selection Procedure**

Finals and Nationals Judges Eligibility: The ASCA Business Office will email a questionnaire to all of the ASCA Obedience judges who are qualified to judge through Utility and are current on their continuing education requirement as candidates for judging either Nationals or Finals at least twenty months prior to the Nationals/Finals, requesting a reply/response to the Obedience Chairperson(s) within fifteen days.

After receiving responses from judges, the Obedience Chairperson(s) will review the questionnaires.

1. Judges who are not in good standing with ASCA will not be considered.
2. Judges who have judged any of the previous three ASCA Obedience Finals should not be considered to judge finals again (but could judge Nationals).
3. Judges who have judged any of the previous three ASCA Obedience Nationals should not be considered to judge Nationals again (but could judge Finals).
4. Judges who have not judged an ASCA trial in the past two years should not be considered.

Once the list of interested judges who meet the criteria in #2 is created, the Nationals and Finals Chairperson(s) will provide the ASCA Obedience Committee with the results of a random draw of qualified judges (two Finals judges, two Nationals judges, and two Alternates). The ASCA Obedience Committee will then either approve these choices or request substitutions based on valid reasons. The Obedience Chairperson(s) will then submit the four judges to the ASCA Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed judge's slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate will be returned to the Nationals Obedience Chairperson(s) no later than thirty days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Obedience judges slate, the judge's names will be posted within seven days to the ASCA Website on the "National Specialty Information" page and the judge information must be submitted to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May-June issue.

### **15.1 Emergency Judge Selection Procedure at Nationals and Finals**

If prior to the obedience Finals and/or Nationals the judge hired is absent or incapable of judging, the Obedience Chairperson and Nationals/Finals Chairperson shall first ask another obedience judge in attendance that meets Chapter 15 Nationals and Finals Obedience Judges Selection Procedure to substitute judge. If no such obedience judge is present or willing to be the substitute judge, the officials listed above should hire the most experienced judge even if they have judged finals/nationals within the past three years. A notice announcing the substitution must be posted at ringside. The Substitute Judge form must be completed including an explanation of how the choice was made. The Substitute Judge may compete in any ASCA sanctioned competition held prior to or following the trial for which they are hired as a substitute judge, excluding same day events. Competitors may request and receive a refund of entry fees if they choose not to show under the emergency nationals judge (Section 1.32, Emergency Judge), however, no refund will be given should an exhibitor choose not to show under an emergency finals judge.

Comments/Rationale: Chapter 15. Nationals and Finals Obedience Judges Selection Procedure specifically states Judges who have judged any of the previous three ASCA Obedience finals or nationals should not be considered to judge finals or nationals again, however, in an emergency judge situation at finals or nationals this rule will not be applicable if no such judge is available.

Affected: Exhibitors and judges are affected by this rule.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Rally Committee

### RA.24.01 Clarification of Finals Scoring & Placements

**Motion carried** (4-3) - Approved: Byrne, McCabe, McLellan, Ward. Disapproved: Clayton, Sims, Wesen. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director Sims:** I feel this rule is conflicting since it states all scores will be used, including non-qualifying.
- **Dissent from Director Wesen:** People work all year to be in finals all scores should count.



- **Comment from Director McCabe:** While I appreciate the committee's action in response to a complaint, this motion still includes the phrase, "including non-qualifying", which was the issue in the first place. I find this change contradictory but I do not disagree with the clarifying sentence.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC 23.22 - Clarification of Finals Scoring & Placements

Motion by Corinne Shanks to clarify the calculation of scores for Rally Finals, as well as determination of placements. Second by Karen Black.

The purpose of this motion is to add a clarification of a Non-Qualifying Score (NQ) for a run in Rally Finals.

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

- **Dissent from Committee Member Leah Swatko:** "14.6 Judging H. The points lost will be added for each dog for the two runs, or four runs in the case of Super Dog, to determine the placements. All scores will be used. If an exercise receives an NQ, points will be deducted equal to the full value of the exercise. Scores from all remaining exercises will be used." Rally Finals scoring can be scored to reflect each teams success and deduction of points for a station. The rules for finals could disallow repeats of any station to level the field.

Current Wording:

**13.6.6 DETERMINING PLACEMENTS**

The scores and time will be added for each dog for the four runs to determine the placements. All scores will be used, including non-qualifying. The time will be used to break any tie scores, with the dog and handler team with least amount of time receiving the higher placement.

Proposed Wording:

**13.6.6 DETERMINING PLACEMENTS**

The scores and times will be added for each dog for the four runs to determine the placements. All scores will be used, including non-qualifying. The combined time will be used to break any tie scores, with the dog and handler team with least amount of time receiving the higher placement. An NQ (non-qualifying) run shall have a score of 0 entered in the finals placement calculations.

Comments/Rationale: A non-qualifying score shall continue to have a score of 0 entered in the Finals placement calculations.

Affected: Finals participants will have a clear understanding of the scoring of an NQ (non-qualifying) run. The Rally Trial Secretary will have a clear understanding of the 0 score that shall be entered into the Finals placement calculations.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**RA.24.02 Grid Line Requirements for all Course Maps**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC 23.23 - Grid Line Requirements for all Course Maps

Motion by Corinne Shanks to add the following requirements to all course maps: 1) perimeter boundaries to indicate full size of the ring and 2) either grid lines throughout the map or indicators on the perimeter boundary to indicate 10- foot sections.

The purpose of this motion is to require judges to show the outside boundary of their course, and to include appropriate 10 x 10 grid marks on the course to better show appropriate sign placement on the course. This will enable the course reviewers clear measurements in which to evaluate sign placement/spacing and follow the mandatory distancing requirements set in 19.4.5, as well as giving the course builders a clearer guideline when setting the course.

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

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

### **19.3.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

J. All course maps must show the outside perimeter of the ring, as well as 10 x 10 grid lines within the map, dividing the course map into equally proportioned sections. Lines that clearly indicate 10 x 10 ft grid markings only on the outside perimeter of the ring will also be accepted. Lines may be solid or broken.

Comments/Rationale: When courses are designed with no indication of the outside perimeter, and inside grid lines, it is nearly impossible to determine whether there is sufficient space allowed for proper execution of each exercise. Without this information, review of the course is very difficult and courses have been reported difficult to set because space does not allow correct execution of elements once the course is set. The markings shall be 10x10 ft grid lines.

Affected: Judges will be required to show the outside perimeter of the ring as well as equally spaced grids within the map itself or on the perimeter on all course maps.

Judges and Course Reviewers will have a better understanding of appropriate sign placement on the course map.

Course setters at trials will have much better indication of proper sign placement when setting the course. Exhibitors will have a clearer understanding of spacing when reviewing and walking the course.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### **RA.24.03 Clarification of 10- and 20-Point Deductions**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC 24.04 Clarification of Section 2.23 10- and 20-point deductions.

Motion by Diana Curl to approve the proposed changes to Chapter 2, 2.23, 10-point deduction and 20-point deductions to allow consistency between sections and to clarify point # 4. Seconded by Lori Anglemyer.

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

- **Dissent from Committee Member Karen Black:** This change for #4 in both the 10 and 20 point deduction areas makes it more confusing. The word "left" should not appear in the #4 ,either 10 or 20 points sections. #4 refers to when a jump is not at the correct jump height and is not available for a dog to take on a second jump exercise on a Masters course when a single jump is used for 2 different jump exercises. It could also pertain to a course in Excellent or Masters in the unlikely event that a handler or dog knocks the jump out of position doing an exercise other than the jump but gets too close and knocks the jump out of position. #5 pertains to the first jump exercise when it is knocked or displaced and the team receives no credit for it. The word "left" is correct in the #5 wording as the team did not leave the jump up. It is not correct in #4 examples. #4 sections should both read, "Jump station worth 10 points (or 20 points in the 20-points off section) not at initial height or length." It isn't that they attempted the second jump and didn't leave it up, it is that when they needed to take the second jump exercise it wasn't available for them to take because it wasn't knocked off on the first attempt and thus is not at the initial height or length for the second exercise.

If it is at initial height or length for the second jump exercise and the dog knocks it over on the second exercise, then #5 applies.

Current Wording:

**2.23 Scoring and Minimum Penalties**

10-point deduction for each occurrence of the following:

1. Incorrectly Performed station (IP) with a ten-point value.
2. Physical guidance, such as placing the dog in position with the hands (Exception: sign #101 in Novice) or straightening the dog with knees or feet for stations with a ten-point value.
3. A handler error large enough to interfere with the completion of an exercise valued at ten points.
4. Jump station worth 10 points not at initial height or length.
5. Jump worth ten points not left at initial height or length after Jump Station is attempted.
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:

1. Incorrectly Performed station (IP) designated as a Star station.
2. Physical guidance, such as placing the dog in position with the hands (Exception: sign #101 in Novice) or straightening the dog with knees or feet for stations with a twenty-point value.
3. A handler error large enough to interfere with the completion of an exercise valued at twenty points.
4. Jump station worth 20 points not left at initial height or length (IP).
5. Jump worth 20 points not left in initial height or length after Jump Station is attempted (IP).
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:

1. Incorrectly Performed station (IP) with a ten-point value.
2. Physical guidance, such as placing the dog in position with the hands (Exception: sign #101 in Novice) or straightening the dog with knees or feet for stations with a ten-point value.
3. A handler error large enough to interfere with the completion of an exercise valued at ten points.
4. Jump station worth 10 points not left at initial height or length (IP). A 10-point IP is scored when a jump exercise is not available for the dog to take at the initial height or length. An example of when this can happen is on a Master's course that uses the same jump for two different jump exercises and the jump was knocked over or displaced when the dog took the jump on the first jump exercise.
5. Jump station worth ten points not left at initial height or length after Jump Station is attempted (IP).
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:

1. Incorrectly Performed station (IP) designated as a Star station.
2. Physical guidance, such as placing the dog in position with the hands (Exception: sign #101 in Novice) or straightening the dog with knees or feet for stations with a twenty- point value.
3. A handler error large enough to interfere with the completion of an exercise valued at 20 points.
4. Jump station worth 20 points not left at initial height or length (IP). A 20-point IP is scored when a jump exercise is not available for the dog to take at the initial height or length. An example of when this can happen is on a Master's course that uses the same jump for two different jump exercises and the jump was knocked over or displaced when the dog took the jump on the first jump exercise.
5. Jump station worth 20 points not left at initial height or length after Jump Station is attempted- (IP).
6. Failure to complete the ~~Sit/Stay or Down/~~Stay exercise (IP) when starred, no retries allowed.

Comments/Rationale: These wording changes are proposed to make points 4 and 5 consistent in sections 10-point deductions and 20-point deductions, and to clarify point #4 as referring to use of a second jump in Masters courses.

Affected: Exhibitors and Judges will have a more clear understanding of sections 10- point deductions and 20- point deductions of the rule book.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### RA.24.04 Virtual Rally

**Motion failed** (3-4) - Approved: Byrne, McCabe, McLellan. Disapproved: Clayton, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director McCabe:** I disagree with some aspects of this motion but feel we need to give it a try and see what happens. It can be a great opportunity for many ASCA members.
- **Dissent from Director McLellan:** I would like to reevaluate after a year.
- **Comment from Director Clayton:** Locally by allowing virtual titles would significantly impact our in person rally entries. Currently there is no reason for people not to complete in person.
- **Comment from Director Sims:** I believe this has the potential to be detrimental to affiliate clubs, greatly reducing their entries.
- **Comment from Director Wesen:** I believe this would hurt our affiliates.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC Motion 24.01 Virtual Rally

Motion by Karen Black to add Virtual Rally to the ASCA Rally Program. Virtual Rally will give exhibitors opportunities to submit videos for up to five courses at Novice, Advanced and Excellent levels for the purpose of achieving qualifying scores toward RN, RNX, RA, RAX, RE and REX titles from A and B classes.

Quarterly, a Virtual Rally trial will be conducted for exhibitors to compete for placements, bragging rights and scores toward titles in Novice, Advanced and Excellent.

Virtual runs cannot be used to qualify for Rally Finals.

All Masters classes, REM classes, RTCH points and titles contributing to HOF/SVCH/and other special ASCA program titles must be completed at regular in-person sanctioned trials.

Seconded by Corinne Shanks.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 7. Disapproved: 4. Abstained: 1. Non-Voting: None.

- **Dissent from Committee Member Diana Curl:** Here are a few of my concerns if this motion were to go into the rule book as written.  
I think the "purpose" is a good thought "to allow for a place to start young dogs to give them course experience before entering regular in-person trials". I believe a Virtual option for the ASCA Rally Program has some merit as I have a couple of student dogs that may not ever trial due to the "Trial environment". To reward the owners for their hard work and allow them to earn a title would be of benefit to them. However, they can do that now with AKC. I do not understand why we need to follow AKC programming. It may make some extra money for ASCA, which would be awesome, but if we loose clubs, and in person trials because of virtual. Well then ASCA will actually loose money. Having said that- I strongly DISAGREE with the motion as it is currently written. I Disagree that it should include Excellent level or any X titles. Currently Rally Judge requirements include earning Excellent titles. I do not feel Virtual Excellent titles are even close when compared to In person Excellent titles and should not be allow when applying to become a Rally judge. Offer Novice and Advanced for the trial time frame and go from there.  
The original discussion was to do a trial period and the group was good with that. This motion ignored that and proposes to just make it a part of the program without regard to what effect it may have on the affiliate.  
I see no reason to offer quarterly trials, and have them available online at all times.  
I am VERY concerned that my club will not be able to afford to have trials. If even 1/4 of our Novice or Advanced people( those levels are half our entry) were to go virtual. And even worse if we loose any of our Excellent people, we would loose enough money to not make it practical to continue holding trials. The poll of the ASCA affiliates completed last year when Virtual was re-introduced, had 24 affiliate responses.9 were in favor with 16 Not in favor. Most were concerned about loss of revenue. There

continues to be posts in the Rally News group with the same concerns.

I strongly DISAGREE that a virtual leg and an "in person " leg are the same, and do not feel they should be allowed to count toward anything but the base title. The Merit list will be affected by allowing the virtual leg to count as a in person leg. From the last Virtual Program, of 199 entries ,118 were scored 195 or above. And 31 were scored 190-194. Virtual runs are NOT the same as In person runs. Why not take 5 points off the score at the judging process, this gives them a base title, no X legs, and No effect to the merit list. If they want an X leg, let them put in the same amount of effort that an In person exhibitor has to do to earn it, and earn that spot on the merit list.

If Excellent were to be included in Virtual Rally, I would DISAGREE with allowing "creative options" to be used for jumps and also allowing a reduced ring size. If the run is to be equal to an in person run then they should follow the same rules. I DISAGREE not allowing the broad jump. If Excellent legs are to be earned and count as an in person legs, they need to face as close to the same course challenges the In person exhibitors do.

It is my hope the Board will consider the whole picture, and vote against allowing this motion to move forward as written.

- **Comment from Committee Member Leah Swatko:** I reluctantly agree. Comments, I think this idea has merit just not confident that there will not be negative fallout. I wish this program had been set up with a gradual roll out so that the effects that might be experienced by small Affiliates with few entries in Rally could be monitored and documented. I hope that a reevaluation will be sop in a year to document the good or bad aspects of this program.

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

### **Chapter 16 Virtual Rally**

The Virtual Rally titling program is designed to allow exhibitors and their dogs to compete in ASCA Rally during times when trials are few and far between, and for exhibitors living in areas where there may not be regular in-person ASCA Rally trials. Virtual Rally can also be used to supplement regular in-person trials and aid exhibitors in reaching goals in a more timely manner and can also offer a great place to start young dogs to give them course experience before entering regular in-person trials.

There are two opportunities for exhibitors who choose to compete in Virtual Rally.

1. Online Virtual Rally available year-round at Novice/Advanced/Excellent levels for base titles and X titles (RN, RNX, RA, RAX, RE, REX) using the five courses for each level which will be posted each year.
2. Quarterly online Virtual Rally trials (see section 16.9).

Rally Masters titles, REM titles, and RTCH points at all levels must be earned at regular in-person trials.

Titles for HOF(sire/dam/kennel), HOFX(sire/dam/kennel), VCH, SVCH, PCH. SPCH must be earned at regular in-person rally trials.

Qualifying for Rally Finals cannot be accomplished through virtual rally trials.

### **16.1 Rules for Virtual Rally**

All ASCA Rally rules apply except as otherwise stated in these rules for Virtual Rally.

In virtual rally, exhibitors set up a pre-designed ASCA rally course, video their performance and submit the video link to ASCA. ASCA will forward the video link to an approved ASCA Rally Judge for review and scoring. The exhibitor will be sent the results of their performance and scores will be available on the website.

Virtual Rally options are allowed at the Novice, Advanced and Excellent levels for base titles and X titles. A and B classes are available. RN, RNX, RA, RAX, RE, and REX can be achieved through virtual rally qualifying scores, regular in-person trial qualifying scores or a combination of virtual rally qualifying scores and regular in-person trial qualifying scores. For instance, a dog may achieve the RN title with two (2) virtual rally +qualifying scores and one (1) regular in-person trial qualifying score at the novice level. Each qualifying score counts toward the title in the class and level entered.

## **16.2 Who Can Enter Virtual Rally**

Any dog six-months of age or older with an ASCA individual registration, LEP number or an ASCA QTracking number (Non-ASCA registered Aussies and Other Breeds) is eligible to enter virtual rally. QT information can be found at: <https://asca.org/qt-registration-application>. Any dog eligible to compete in a regular in-person rally trial, pursuant to ASCA Dog Show Rules and Regulations, is eligible to enter virtual rally.

## **16.3 Virtual Rally Classes and Levels**

Novice, Advanced and Excellent levels are available in virtual rally. Exhibitors will designate A or B class they are entering based on their eligibility. Exhibitors may only enter the level and class they are eligible to enter. For instance, an exhibitor must complete the RN title before entering the Advanced level.

Moving from class to class in Virtual Rally follows the same rules already in the Rally Rulebook for moving up. You may move up when you receive notification of three qualifying scores by two different judges at the level you are entered. Those scores may come from regular in-person trials or virtual rally entries.

## **16.4 Ring Area and Conditions**

### **16.4.1 Ring Requirements**

A standard size ring for ASCA Rally is 40 feet by 50 feet. For the purposes of Virtual Rally, the ring size can be slightly reduced as long as there is room for all exercises to be performed correctly and sufficient space can be given to each exercise to ensure safety and flow requirements are met. Inability to successfully perform exercises due to a reduced ring size will result in handler errors up to and possibly including a non-qualifying score.

### **16.4.2 Ring Conditions**

The ring may be set up in a yard, park, training building or anywhere that is relatively flat and free of trees or buildings that would obstruct the view from the designated camera position. Per section 1.30.2, grass rings should be a clean level surface with grass no taller than two inches. Dirt rings should not have mud puddles. It is important for judges to be able to see all aspects of the performances including elbows down for down positions and if the snow or grass is too tall and impedes the judge's ability to witness those details, handler errors can be assessed, up to and including an NQ if the run simply cannot be viewed enough to score.

No bait, treats, toys, or other rewards for the dog are allowed on the course or within 10 feet of the ring area.

## **16.5 Equipment**

A full set of ring equipment as described in Chapter 1.15 is not necessary for Virtual Rally.

Exhibitors may use sign holders for the signs or lay signs on the ground. No matter how the exhibitor displays the signs, all signs must be visible on the video for judges to be able to see their location and the performance of the exercise in relation to the sign.

Cones like the ones described in Chapter 1.15 can be substituted with milk jugs, buckets or other similarly sized items.

For jump exercises, exhibitors may choose to use 1) an obedience style high jump, 2) an obedience style bar jump, 3) an agility jump or 4) other creative options of buckets and bars, etc. in the location of the jump exercise. No broad jumps will be used in Virtual Rally. As with all aspects of rally, safety is of the utmost importance and consideration must be given to the area where jumps are placed. If an exhibitor is setting up a course on a hard surface, mats or other non-slip materials may be used for take-off and landing zones of the jump exercise. A 10-foot take off zone and 10-foot landing zone for any jump exercise is required. Dogs may jump a higher jump height than is required for the measurement at the withers but may not jump a lower jump height. Rally does not have veteran jump heights.

Exhibitors will need access to a phone, a tablet, a video camera or other video recording device for recording runs to be submitted for scoring. Exhibitors may find a tripod would be a very useful item but it is not required.

Exhibitors will need to create a free YouTube account to use for submitting videos to be judged.

### **16.6 Sign Placement and Location of Performance**

The signs are to be placed to the right of the handler's path except for a change of direction sign, which will be placed directly in the path of the team. Exercises are performed in numerical order and either directly in front, (change of direction), at the sign, (change of pace), or near and to the left of the signs. Signs including more than two elements are to be readable to the handler during the performance of the station.

### **16.7 Scoring**

Performance and scoring of virtual runs are the same as regular in-person rally trials except as otherwise explained in 16.4.2. All courses are valued at 200 points and points are deducted per ASCA Rally Rules.

See Section 2.23 of the Rally Rulebook for Scoring and Minimum Penalties.

### **16.8 Entering Virtual Rally for Base Titles and X Titles**

Please read 16.8.1 and 16.8.2 thoroughly before setting up a course and entering a virtual rally. If you have any questions as you go through the process of entering and showing in Virtual Rally, please email the Virtual Title Clerk at [virtual@asca.org](mailto:virtual@asca.org).

#### **16.8.1 General Information for Virtual Rally**

1. For each level, there are five pre-designed course maps published on the Course Page. All courses will have 16-19 stations with enough starred stations for each course to equal 200 points. The exhibitor will set up one of the courses, video the run, upload the video to their personal YouTube account, set the required YouTube viewing options, and submit the video link with the entry form and fee to ASCA. For each dog, every entry form you submit, must use a different course map. You may submit videos for up to 3 different courses for the level you are eligible. A maximum of 5 qualifying scores (1 for each course) can be earned at a level in Virtual Rally to contribute to titles.
2. Each course map has a required camera location identified on the map. You may either use a stationary camera or a second person to videotape your performance. You may want to video a walk through and replay it to make sure all exercise performances will be visible on the video. Videos must include the team approaching the ring area and setting up at the Start/Heeling and conduct sign and must continue with no break in the video until after the team completes the course, including the stay exercise and leaves the ring area with the dog remaining under control.
3. The video should be filmed at eye level in normal/landscape(horizontal) mode. Do NOT video in "selfie" mode. The video must be clear, not blurry. The minimum required resolution is 720p HD. The video must be continuous with no pauses or edits. The video must show the team entering the ring area and setting up for the first exercise, starting approximately at least 3-5 seconds before the first exercise begins. It must continue, uninterrupted, until the team exits the ring area under control, ending approximately 10 seconds after the final exercise is finished. The video must contain audio. Background noise is to be expected but do not add music or narration. The judge must be able to hear what is going on in the ring. Set the camera in landscape/normal mode. If the handler or dog are not in full view for the entire video, judges will not award a qualifying score.
4. Your dog must wear a properly fitted collar with nothing hanging from it. For Rally Novice a six-foot leash is required. The leash may be fabric or leather, it must be clipped to the dog's collar, and nothing may be attached to it. Specialized training collars or harnesses are not allowed.
5. Remember, handlers may NOT carry (in hand, mouth, or pocket) food, toys, or any training aids during the videotaping. You attest to this when you submit the entry!
6. Any aggressive behavior by the dog, at any point during the video, will result in a non-qualifying score.
7. Create a YouTube video: You must have a Google Account to create and manage your personal YouTube Channel. If you don't have a Google Account, you can create one on YouTube. Sign into YouTube and continue below.
8. How to upload and share a video: Once you are logged in, CLICK the "create a video button" at the top of the screen, right of the search bar (it looks like a video camera). In the drop-down menu, CLICK "upload video", once the video is uploaded, it will then take a few minutes to "process." Be certain to CLICK "PUBLIC or UNLISTED" to choose the level of visibility then CLICK "PUBLISH."

9. To enter the link into the entry form, click on the video, CLICK "SHARE." Another screen will pop up, CLICK "COPY", go to the entry form to paste the link into the link field.
10. REVIEW your videos to make sure each one meets the requirements listed on the FAQ page.

### **16.8.2 Virtual Rally Entry Form**

To complete an entry form, follow the instructions here and on the form.

1. Access the online entry form on the ASCA website and complete it according to the instructions.
2. Use the appropriate letters with the dog's registration number, no spaces and no hyphens.
3. Click the course map or ring layout that corresponds with the video.
4. "Share" and "Copy", then paste the YouTube generated link to the entry form.
5. Pay for the entry via credit card that is part of the entry form. BEFORE you click "Submit" recheck to make sure all the information on the entry form is correct and "auto-fill" didn't add anything you didn't mean to add. Once the entry form is received, the video link will be assigned to a judge for review. ASCA will notify exhibitors of their score. All eligible qualifying scores will be recorded on the dog's ASCA record and applied toward the rally level title you are working toward. There will be no class placements.

### **16.9 Quarterly Virtual Rally Trials**

Quarterly Virtual Rally Trials: In January, April, July and October of each year, ASCA will host a Virtual Rally Trial. Exhibitors will be able to enter any level (Novice/Advanced/Excellent) and any class (A/B/C) in which they are eligible to compete.

Three courses for each level will be uploaded to the website for that specific, individual virtual Rally trial at the beginning of the Virtual Rally Trial period. Exhibitors will submit runs for all three courses to be eligible for placements (1st through 4th) in the trial. The combined scores of all three runs will be used to determine placements. All runs must be received during the trial month to be eligible for placements.

No refunds will be given for courses submitted after the trial period.

Scores and placements will be posted by the 15th of the month following the trial month. Scores earned at Virtual Rally Trials will count toward ASCA titles.

All virtual rally rules for rings, ring conditions and equipment also apply to Virtual Rally Trials. All ASCA rules will apply to which class you are eligible to enter.

Exhibitors will follow the guidelines in 16.8.1 and 16.8.2 for submitting video links for Virtual Rally Trials.

Current Wording:

#### **1.11 Qualifying Score**

##### **1.11.1 RANGE FOR QUALIFYING SCORES**

Qualifying scores in ASCA Rally range from 170-200 points. A qualifying score in ASCA Rally may be earned in a single regular class at an ASCA Specialty or sanctioned Rally Trial. For a qualifying score to count toward a title, the dog must be entered in the correct class at the time entries close for the Rally trial entered.

Proposed Wording:

#### **1.11 Qualifying Score**

##### **1.11.1 RANGE FOR QUALIFYING SCORES**

Qualifying scores in ASCA Rally range from 170-200 points. A qualifying score in ASCA Rally may be earned in a single regular class at an ASCA Specialty, ~~or~~ a sanctioned Rally Trial, via virtual rally run submission or at a quarterly Virtual Rally Trial. For a qualifying score to count toward a title, the dog must be entered in the correct class at the time entries close for the Rally ~~trial~~ opportunity entered.

Comments/Rationale: Many registries offer virtual rally as part of their regular titling programs all the way through the Excellent level. One organization is set up exclusively for virtual rally competitions and titling. To remain current with the sport we need to add virtual to the ASCA Rally program. ASCA membership has requested we add Virtual to our program. This will benefit exhibitors, affiliates, and ASCA as a whole by



increasing opportunities and finances for all involved. And this will create a revenue source for ASCA that is not currently available.

Affected: Exhibitors are affected as they will have opportunities to participate in ASCA Rally in both in-person and virtually.

Affiliates are affected as there may be a shift in the number of runs they have at certain levels if some of their typical lower level exhibitors take advantage of virtual opportunities; those exhibitors will be ready to enter higher levels of classes sooner than they would if they were just entering lower levels at local trials. Their number of runs at the higher levels and C classes may increase. Double entries at local in-person trials will increase for affiliates because exhibitors will get to that point quicker.

Judges who participate in judging virtual rally will be affected as they will need to review runs and send feedback to the virtual entry clerk in a timely fashion.

Entry Clerk will be affected as they will have to receive entries, send video links to judges, receive feedback from judges and record scores.

Business Office will need to sanction virtual rally once a year in order for scores to be recorded.

ASCA as a whole will benefit by adding virtual rally in many ways including fulfilling the request of exhibitors and adding a stream of income not currently available. ASCA also benefits by keeping ASCA Rally current and competitive with other registries.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### RA.24.05 Clarification of Masters Level Signs

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC 24.06 19.4.3 TURNS Clarification of Masters level signs.

Motion by Diana Curl to approve the proposed changes to section 19.4.3 in order to correctly identify those signs that can be used to change the team's path on the course at the Masters level. Seconded by Lori Anglemyer.

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

- **Comment from Committee Member Karen Black:** While I am not against this motion, I feel like a better way for this and the other levels to be written would be to simply say masters level signs that change the team's path and then list the signs instead of listing series of. Umbers. Same thing can be done for the other sections of turns as well. By using the level names, as new exercises are added, the headings do not have to be changed. Any time we can reduce the number of things that have to be updated with changes, the better as it reduces the chances of missing updates down the road.

Current Wording:

#### **19.4.3 TURNS**

B. The following signs can be used to change the team's path on the course:

Signs 400-426

403 Halt Pivot Left Halt x 3

404 270 Left Halt

405 Halt Pivot Right Halt x 3

406 270 Right Halt

407 Left About Halt

408 Moving Stand Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call to Heel

409 Moving Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call to Front, Finish, Halt

411 Serpentine Down & Back with Distractions

415 Offset Recall Right Over Jump Finish, Halt

416 Offset Recall Left Over Jump, Finish Halt

423 Cloverleaf Left with Distraction

424 Cloverleaf Right with Distraction  
425 Right Turn, Back 3 Steps  
426 Left Turn, Back 3 Steps

Proposed Wording:

**19.4.3 TURNS**

B. The following signs can be used to change the team's path on the course:

Signs ~~400-426~~ 403-409,411,415,416, 423-426  
403 Halt Pivot Left Halt x 3  
404 270 Left Halt  
405 Halt Pivot Right Halt x 3  
406 270 Right Halt  
407 Left About Halt  
408 Moving Stand Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call to Heel  
409 Moving Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call to Front, Finish, Halt  
411 Serpentine Down & Back with Distractions  
415 Offset Recall Right Over Jump Finish, Halt  
416 Offset Recall Left Over Jump, Finish Halt  
423 Cloverleaf Left with Distraction  
424 Cloverleaf Right with Distraction  
425 Right Turn, Back 3 Steps  
426 Left Turn, Back 3 Steps

Comments/Rationale: The changes are to correctly identify those Masters level signs which can be used to change the team's path on the course.

Affected: Exhibitors are affected by the ability to correctly identify signs that change their path at the Masters level. Judges will have a more accurate listing of signs that can be used to change a teams path at the Masters level.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**RA.24.06 Clarification of 19.2.2 L. Map Basics**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC 24.05 Clarification of 19.2.2 L. Map Basics.

Motion by Diana Curl to approve the proposed changes to section 19.2.2 Map Basics item L. to more clearly identify what is required on the exercise list of a course map, and to now allow additional signs to be added to the program without having to require a rule book change with those additions. Seconded by Lori Anglemyer.

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

Current Wording:

L. List that includes:

1. Station # to match that on course.
2. Class (i.e., M, E, A, N) for all level specific exercises, based on the lowest class in which they can be used.
  - i. Signs 1-30 can be used on all levels, no class designation on the list.
  - ii. Signs 100-107 are novice only so N would be listed under Class on the list.
  - iii. Signs 120-125 can be used for Novice and Advanced, no class designation on the list.
  - iv. Signs 200-235 are for Advanced, Excellent, and Masters, so would be marked A on the list.

- v. Signs 300-331 are for Excellent, and Masters, so would be marked as E on the list. Sign 316 is not designated as E on the list.
  - vi. Signs 400-428 are for Masters only, so would be marked as M on the list.
3. Stationary (S or blank).
  4. Exercise Name.
  5. Stars, where needed.
  6. Sign Number to match that on course.
  7. "Finish" with no number, before the Stay exercise, when applicable.

Proposed Wording:

L. Exercise List that includes:

1. Station ~~# to match that on course~~ numbers with sign descriptions and numbers that match icons on the map.
2. Star indicators that match starred sign locations on the course map.
3. ~~Class (i.e., M, E, A, N) for all level specific exercises, based on the lowest class in which they can be used.~~ Level Indicators for exercises required at each level.
  - i. ~~Signs 1-30 can be used on all levels, no class designation on the list.~~ All Levels: Signs that are available for all levels, do not require the class level designation on the list.
  - ii. ~~Signs 100-107 are novice only so N would be listed under Class on the list.~~ Novice Level: Signs available with numbers in the 100s designated for Novice only require an "N" as the level indicator on the Novice exercise list.
  - iii. ~~Signs 120-125 can be used for Novice and Advanced, no class designation on the list.~~ Advanced Level: Signs available at the Advanced level with numbers in the 200s require an "A" level indicator on the advanced exercise list.
  - iv. ~~Signs 200-235 are for Advanced, Excellent, and Masters, so would be marked A on the list.~~ Excellent Level: Signs available at the Excellent level with numbers in the 300s; with the exception of #316, as the jump is not counted as an Excellent exercise; require an "E" level indicator and available Advanced level signs with numbers in the 200's require an "A" level indicator on the Excellent exercise list.
  - v. ~~Signs 300-331 are for Excellent, and Masters, so would be marked as E on the list. Sign 316 is not designated as E on the list.~~ Masters Level: Signs available for Masters with numbers in the 400s require an "M" as the level indicator and Excellent signs with numbers in the 300s; with the exception of #316, as the jump is not counted as an Excellent exercise; require an "E" level indicator in the Masters exercise list. Advanced signs with numbers in the 200s that are available are not designated as "A" on the Masters course list as they are not required signs on a Masters level course.
  - vi. ~~Signs 400-428 are for Masters only, so would be marked as M on the list.~~
4. Stationary (S or left blank in column).
5. ~~Exercise Name.~~
6. ~~Stars, where needed.~~
7. ~~Sign Number to match that on course.~~
8. "Finish" with no number, after the last station or before the Stay exercise, when applicable a Stay exercise is used.

Comments/Rationale: To clarify the current map requirements and allow room for additional signs when/if added at a later date.

Affected: Judges are affected as there is a clearer way of creating the exercise list on their maps. The Rally rule book will now allow for expansion without numerous Rule Book changes being required if/when new signs are added.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## RA.24.07 Clarification in Sign Descriptions

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC 24.07 Clarification in sign descriptions.

Motion by Diana Curl to approve the proposed changes to sign descriptions. These include corrections to the bold and underlined parts that identify the Primary part of the exercise and re-formatting of some exercises to provide consistency within similar signs. Seconded by Corinne Shanks.

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

Current Wording:

**24 Down Stay:** Immediately after passing the "Finish" sign, the team proceeds to this sign. **The dog is placed in down.** The **handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. In Novice, the handler shall walk forward to the end of the 6-foot leash, turn to face the dog, pause, and then return around the dog** to heel position. The dog must **remain in a down.** When the Judge says, "Exercise Finished" the handler releases the dog and exits the ring. In Advanced, Excellent and Masters, the **handler proceeds to the leash** placed along the side of the ring where the exit gate is located, **retrieves it, and returns around behind the dog** to heel position. The dog must **remain in a down.** After the Judge says, "Exercise Finished", the handler attaches the lead to the dog's collar and exits the ring. In Advanced, the leash shall be 10 feet away, in Excellent, the leash shall be 15 feet away, and in Masters, the leash shall be 20 feet away

Proposed Wording:

**24 Down Stay:** Immediately after passing the "Finish" sign, the team proceeds to this sign. **The dog is placed in down.** The handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. In Novice, **the handler shall walk forward to the end of the 6-foot leash, turn to face the dog, pause, and then return around the dog** to heel position. The dog must **remain in a down.** When the Judge says, "Exercise Finished" the handler releases the dog and exits the ring. In Advanced, Excellent and Masters, the **handler proceeds to the leash** placed along the side of the ring where the exit gate is located, **retrieves it, and returns around behind the dog** to heel position. The dog must **remain in a down.** After the Judge says, "Exercise Finished", the handler attaches the lead to the dog's collar and exits the ring. In Advanced, the leash shall be 10 feet away, in Excellent, the leash shall be 15 feet away, and in Masters, the leash shall be 20 feet away

Current Wording:

**105 Call Dog Front, Return Left:** **Team stops heeling forward** as handler steps backward and **calls dog to front position, dog sits facing handler. Handler returns** back to **left, stops in heel position, pauses.** Team heels forward moving in the opposite direction they were traveling.

Proposed Wording:

**105 Call Dog Front, Return Left:** **Team stops heeling forward** as handler steps backward and **calls dog to front position, dog sits facing handler. Handler returns back to left, stops in heel position, pauses.** Team heels forward moving in the opposite direction they were traveling.

Current Wording:

**200 Halt, Stand, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Return:** **Handler stops, dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place in heel position. **Handler walks at least three steps, turns, faces dog and pauses. Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position while dog remains standing. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**200 Halt, Stand, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Return:** ~~**Handler stops**~~ **Team halts and, dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place in heel position. **Handler walks at least three steps forward,**

**turns, faces dog and pauses. Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position while dog remains standing. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**202** Halt, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call Front, Finish, Halt: **Handler stops, dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stays** in place **while handler continues at least three steps forward. Handler turns and faces dog,** at handler's command and/or signal, **dog comes directly to front position and sits. Dog finishes and sits** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**202** Halt, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call Front, Finish, Halt: **Handler stops Team halts and, dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stays** in place in heel position. **while h**Handler continues at least three steps forward., **Handler** turns, **and** faces dog, **and pauses.** **a**At handler's command and/or signal, **dog comes directly to front position and sits. Dog finishes and sits** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**321** Moving Down, Walk 3 Steps, Call to Heel: At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs and stays** in place while **handler continues at least three steps forward. Without hesitation, handler commands and/or signals the dog to resume** heel position.

Proposed Wording:

**321** Moving Down, Walk 3 Steps, Call to Heel: At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs and stays** in place **while handler continues at least three steps forward. Without hesitation, handler commands and/or signals the dog to resume** heel position.

Current Wording:

**327** Halt, Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call Front, Finish, Halt: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place **while handler continues at least three steps forward. Handler turns and faces dog.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog comes directly to front position and sits. Dog finishes and sits** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**327** Halt, Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Call Front, Finish, Halt: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place. **while h**Handler walks **continues** at least three steps forward., **Handler** turns, **and** faces dog, **and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog comes directly to front position and sits. Dog finishes and sits** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**417** Halt, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Stand Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stays** in place **while the handler continues at least 3 steps forward. Handler turns and faces dog .** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place. **Handler returns around the dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**417** Halt, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Stand Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stays** in place. **while the h**Handler walks **continues** at least 3 steps forward., **Handler** turns, **and** faces dog, **and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place. **Handler returns around the dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**418** Halt, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Down Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stays** in place while **handler continues at least three steps forward. Handler turns and faces dog .** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place. **Handler returns around the dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**418** Halt, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Down Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stays** in place. **while h Handler walks continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns, and faces dog, and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place. **Handler returns around the dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**419** Halt, Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face dog, Stand Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place while **handler continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns and faces dog.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**419** Halt, Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face dog, Stand Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place. **while h Handler walks continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns, and faces dog, and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**420** Halt, Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Sit Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place while **handler continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns and faces dog and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog sits** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**420** Halt, Down, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Sit Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place. **while h Handler walks continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns, and faces dog, and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog sits** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**421** Halt, Stand, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Sit Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place while **handler continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns and faces dog.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog sits** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Proposed Wording:

**421** Halt, Stand, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Sit Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place. **while h Handler walks continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns, and faces dog, and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog sits** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**422** Halt, Stand, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Down Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place while **handler continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns and faces dog.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward

Proposed Wording:

**422** Halt, Stand, Walk 3 Steps, Face Dog, Down Dog, Return: **Team halts and dog sits.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog stands** in place. **while h Handler walks continues at least three steps forward.** **Handler turns, and faces dog, and pauses.** At handler's command and/or signal, **dog downs** in place. **Handler returns around dog and pauses** in heel position. Team heels forward.

Current Wording:

**426** Left Turn, Back 3 Steps: Team heels forward and **makes a 90-degree turn to the left and without hesitation team takes at least three steps back.** Dog remains in heel position. Team heels forward.

### Proposed Wording:

426 Left Turn, Back 3 Steps: Team ~~heels forward and~~ makes a **90-degree turn to the left** in heel position. Immediately after completing the turn **and without hesitation, team takes at least three handler steps back**, ~~D~~dog ~~remains in~~ maintains heel position. Team heels forward.

Comments/Rationale: Wording changes are proposed to be more consistent within similar exercises. There were some typographical errors that required changing as well.

Affected: Exhibitors and Judges are affected by having more consistency in wording between similar exercises.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### RA.24.08 Allowing Additional C Class Entries

**Motion carried** (6-0-1) - Approved: Byrne, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: Clayton. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion number RC 24.08 Allowing additional C class entries.

Subject: Allow the addition of entries in Rally C at Lower levels when entrants are competing in A or B classes at a higher level at the same Rally Trial.

Motion by Leah Swatko to approve the addition of Rally C entries in trials where an entrant has also entered a higher level or levels. Seconded by Lori Anglemeyer.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 9. Disapproved: None. Abstained: 3. Non-Voting: None.

- **Comment from Committee Member Corrine Shanks**: While some will benefit from entering three classes at each trial, it will limit the number of dogs that can enter. Those new to the entry process will not secure a run if they don't know to enter the first day. How many times will a new person try to get in a local trial, only to be informed it is full? Who will fill the runs when current dogs retire if there are never novice runs available? If the trial fills with first day entries, how does the trial secretary decide who gets in and who is on the wait list when entries are all mailed the same day? If virtual is available, the novice person still has an opportunity to get started. Without virtual they will be told to try again at the trial in 6 months. ASCA has an opportunity to significantly increase our presence in dog sports by adding virtual AND allowing additional C class entries. But without both, ASCA is saying we don't need new people or increased opportunities, we only want to help those already trialing. I am abstaining on this motion. Without virtual, this motion will hurt the ASCA rally program. My vote will be to approve if the Board approves virtual, as everyone can benefit from the combined program changes.
- **Comment from Committee Member Diana Curl**: There were concerns brought up during the discussion of this motion. A couple of members felt this would cause people to not get into trials because their trials fill. Most did not share that concern and when looking back into a survey from last year, it was not the norm for trials to fill, In fact, quite the opposite. True, it may affect those clubs lucky enough to fill, but I do believe it will do more good for the majority of clubs that do not fill.
- **Comment from Committee Member Karen Black**: One of the reasons we try hard to have representation from all seven regions of ASCA is to have information on how each motion will affect each region. In the area I represent, the greatest majority of affiliates have large rally trials that fill and have waitlists. Adopting the additional C class will hurt the exhibitors in our area and the trials will fill faster and leave exhibitors out of the trials. If this happens to people multiple weekends during the competition year, they will not be able to complete the titles they are working on. While I am not necessarily opposed to the availability of additional C classes, in areas that have trials that fill we need other options for people to title so they can continue to support ASCA and keep moving toward their goals for their dogs. If Virtual Rally passes, that would give exhibitors who get left out of in-person trials, a way to work on their titles and support ASCA. Ideally for affiliates, exhibitors and ASCA we need the Board to pass both the Virtual program and the additional C class motions. To sum it up, I am in favor

of the additional C motion IF virtual passes the Board, but I am against it if virtual does not pass as it will negatively impact many of the exhibitors in my region. Thus, I am abstaining on this motion.

Current Wording:

**3.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING/HIT AWARDS**

A dog can continue to be shown in Rally Novice C indefinitely. Dogs may not compete in Rally Novice C and any other regular class in one Trial. Dogs in the Novice C class are not eligible for HIT awards.

**4.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING, HIT AWARDS**

A dog may continue to be shown in Rally Advanced C indefinitely. Dogs may not compete in Rally Advanced C and any other regular class in one Trial. Dogs in the Advanced C class are not eligible for HIT awards.

**5.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING; HIT AWARDS**

A dog may continue to be shown in Rally Excellent C indefinitely. Dogs may not compete in Rally Excellent C and any other regular class in one Trial. Scores in the Rally Excellent C class are not eligible for the REM or REMX titles. Dogs in the Excellent C class are not eligible for HIT awards.

**6.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING; HIT AWARDS**

A dog may continue to be shown in Rally Masters C indefinitely. Dogs may not compete in Rally Masters C and any other class in one Trial. Scores in the Rally Masters C class are not eligible for the REM or REMX title. Dogs in the Masters C class are not eligible for HIT awards.

Proposed Wording:

**3.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING; HIT AWARDS**

A dog can continue to be shown in Rally Novice C indefinitely. ~~Dogs may not compete in Rally Novice C and any other regular class in one Trial.~~ A Novice C entry may be used as an additional entry for dogs entered in an Advanced A or B, Excellent A or B, Masters A or B class or Excellent B and Masters B combined classes. Dogs in the Novice C class are not eligible for HIT awards. Dogs may not be entered in two C classes in the same trial. Additional C entries are not allowed at the National Rally Trial or at National Pre-trials.

**4.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING; HIT AWARDS**

A dog may continue to be shown in Rally Advanced C indefinitely. ~~Dogs may not compete in Rally Advanced C and any other regular class in one Trial.~~ An Advanced C entry may be used as an additional entry for dogs entered in an Excellent A or B, Masters A or B class or Excellent B and Masters B combined classes. Dogs in the Advanced C class are not eligible for HIT awards. Dogs may not be entered in two C classes in the same trial. Additional C entries are not allowed at the ASCA National Rally Trial or at National Pre-trials.

**5.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING; HIT AWARDS**

A dog may continue to be shown in Rally Excellent C indefinitely. ~~Dogs may not compete in Rally Excellent C and any other regular class in one Trial.~~ An Excellent C entry may be used as an additional entry for dogs entered in a Masters A or B class. Scores in the Rally Excellent C class are not eligible for the REM or REMX titles. Dogs in the Excellent C class are not eligible for HIT awards. Dogs may not be entered in two C classes in the same trial. Additional C entries are not allowed at the ASCA National Rally Trial or at National Pre-trials.

**6.4.3 INDEFINITE SHOWING; HIT AWARDS**

A dog may continue to be shown in Rally Masters C indefinitely. Dogs may not compete in Rally Masters C and any other class in one Trial. Scores in the Rally Masters C class are not eligible for the REM or REMX title. Dogs in the Masters C class are not eligible for HIT awards.

**6.4.4 ADDITIONAL C ENTRY AT ASCA SANCTIONED TRIALS**

Additional C entries will be available at all ASCA sanctioned rally trials except the ASCA National Rally Trial and National Pre-trials.

Comments/Rationale: The reason for this motion; to promote entries in C classes. Allow exhibitors to maximize their expenses and complete C titles and/or attain X legs that were needed at lower levels. Increase entries at trials. Especially at those trials where numbers have been falling. To reduce the financial hardship many



Affiliates are facing due to lower entries. The decline of entries at many trails over the past few years due in part to the Pandemic. Exhibitors focusing on other organizations, and other entry options.

Affected: Those that will be affected: Affiliates who hold Rally Trials may have larger entries. Rally competitors will have more opportunities to complete titles. The Webmaster, the Business office, Computer program and tally of C scores.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**RA.24.09 Spacing of Exercises**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: RC 24.09 19.4.5 Spacing of exercises.

Motion by Diana Curl to approve the proposed changes to section 19.4.5 to add wording to include mobility aids, to add clarification in spacing for signs requiring more than 10 feet to execute, and to add wording to include the signs added June 2023. Seconded by Lori Anglemyer.

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

Current Wording:

**19.4.5 SPACING OF EXERCISES**

- A. Careful consideration must be given to how much space an exercise requires for correct performance. Some stations require much more than others. For instance, the Halt station takes up very little space compared to the Halt, 1-2-3. The following chart is provided to offer suggestions for space needed for some of the exercises. These are not hard and fast numbers. The amount of space it takes for a sign depends a lot on the exhibitor and the size of the dog. It is up to the Judge to set a course that ensures there is enough space to perform the selected exercises.

<b>Sign Name</b>	<b>Approximate Space Required</b>
Halt, 1-2-3	15 feet
Call Dog Front, 1-2-3 Backwards	15 feet
Serpentine exercises without distractions	22-28 feet
Serpentine exercises with distractions	28-34 feet
Offset Serpentine	8-12 feet long, 5 feet wide
Spiral Right; Spiral Left	19-23 feet
Spiral exercises with a Distraction	19-23 feet
Off Set Figure 8	12-14 feet
Off Set Figure 8 with Distractions	12-14 feet long, 10-12 feet wide
Cloverleaf	13 feet long x 18 feet wide
Any station that requires the handler to walk away from their dog 3 steps	7-10 feet
Standard Bar Jump or High Jump	22 feet
Broad Jump	25 feet
Offset Jump, from Halt, Leave Dog sign to #415 or #416	24 feet
Moving Stand or Down, walk 3 call to heel	15 feet

Proposed Wording:

**19.4.5 SPACING OF EXERCISES**

- A. Careful consideration must be given to how much space an exercise requires for correct performance. Most exercises should receive at least 10 feet for the execution of the exercise unless otherwise noted in the chart below. Some stations require much more than others. For instance, the Halt station takes up very little space compared to the Halt, 1-2-3. The following chart ~~is provided to offer suggestions for~~

shows the approximate ring space needed for ~~some of the~~ exercises requiring more than 10 feet of space. ~~These are not hard and fast numbers.~~ The amount of space it takes for a sign depends a lot on the exhibitor, the use of mobility aids if necessary, and the size of the dog. It is up to the Judge to set a course that ensures there is enough space to perform the selected exercises.

Sign Name	Approximate Ring Space Required
Halt, 1-2-3	At least 15 feet
Call Dog Front, 1-2-3 Backwards	At least 15 feet
Serpentine exercises without distractions	<del>22-28</del> 26-32 feet long; 8-10 ft wide
Serpentine exercises with distractions	<del>28-34</del> 32-38 feet long; 8-10 ft wide
Offset Serpentes	<del>8-12</del> 18 feet long, <del>5</del> 12-15 feet wide
Spiral Right; Spiral Left	19-23 feet long; 8-10 feet wide
Spiral exercises with a Distraction	19-23 feet long, 8-10 feet wide
Off Set Figure 8	12-14 feet
Off Set Figure 8 with Distractions	12-14 feet long, 10-12 feet wide
Cloverleaf; Cloverleaf with Distraction	<del>13</del> 14-15 feet long x <del>16</del> -18 feet wide
Any station that requires the handler to walk away from their dog 3 steps	<del>7-10</del> At least 15 feet
Standard Bar Jump or High Jump	At least 22 feet
Broad Jump	At least 25 feet
Offset Jump, from Halt, Leave Dog sign to #415 or #416	At least 24 feet
Moving Stand or Down, <del>w</del> Walk 3 Steps, <del>e</del> Call to <del>H</del> Heel	At least 15 feet
Back 3 Steps	At least 12 feet
Right Turn, Back 3 Steps; Left Turn, Back 3 Steps	At least 15 feet

Comments/Rationale: Wording/ chart changes are proposed to provide a clearer understanding of the spacing required to execute some of the exercises that require more than 10 feet to complete. Wording was also added to include mobility aids.

Affected: Exhibitors are affected by being provided with the room to execute these exercises safely. Judges are affected by giving more guidance while they develop courses. Course reviewers are affected as they will now have guidelines to follow when reviewing course maps.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

Attachment: [2024 Rally Cloverleaf & Serpentine Diagrams.pdf](#); [2024 Rally Spiral & Offset Diagrams.pdf](#)

## Scent Detection Committee

### SC.24.04 Removal of USCSS from List of Qualifying Credentials for Judge Applicants

**Motion carried** (4-2-1) - Approved: Byrne, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: McCabe, McLellan. Abstained: Clayton. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director McCabe:** This motion singles out one organization. The rationale is that this organization does not have judging experience as a requirement to become a judge. That is not true. And, if they choose to use this rationale, a number of other organizations need to be excluded as well. You cannot use an argument to only exclude the organization you want to. It needs to be applied universally.
- **Comment from Director Wesen:** Would like the committee to look closely at all organization that they have skills to judge ASCA.

## **Motion by Liaison Hardin to approve the following recommendation from the Scent Detection Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion# 24-01 Revision of 11.2 The removal of United States Canine Scent Sports (USCSS) from the list of qualifying credentials for Judges applicants.

Motion by Deborah Divich to propose a change in our current policy regarding the acceptance of United States Canine Scent Sports (USCSS) judge status as a qualifying credential for applicants seeking to become judges in the ASCA Scent Detection program. Seconded by Marilyn Conner.

Propose the removal of 11.2.6 The United States Canine Scent Sports (USCSS) from the list of qualifying credentials for Judges applicants in 11.2 Applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Judging Experiences. It has become evident that the criteria for achieving USCSS Judge status does not align with the standards and expectations set by ASCA for Scent Detection Judges. The primary concerns are listed in the comments and rational.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 10. Disapproved: 2. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

- **Dissent from Committee Member Liz Bernstein:** I vote no, it has been made very clear that committee members have not thoroughly reviewed the requirements for the programs listed. Segregating one program, but allowing others shows a bias, which limits the judge's pool and causes limitations for affiliate clubs.
- **Dissent from Committee Member Sandy Thompson:** I feel as with our old and new rules we are stating that just because they are a judge in other organizations that DOES NOT mean they are automatically granted a judging position at the Regular status.
- **Comment from Committee Member Jacki Williams:** The rationale for this motion speaks for itself. Many of the committee members have reviewed the judging requirements for the other venues included in the motion. The committee is working diligently to assure that when the program launches, the highest caliber of judges are available to the affiliates. From the competitors point of view, the judges make the program. Program improvement is always the goal. All of the other venues require judges that are experienced in designing search areas and setting level appropriate hides that are not unreasonably difficult. Judges for USCSS do not design search areas, do not set hides, do not determine the zones around the hides where yes/no can be called successfully, and are not authorized to touch, adjust, or move the hides. If an applicant is highlighting only USCSS as experience, it is appropriate for provisional judge. By itself, it is not appropriate for regular judge status.

### Current Wording:

#### **11.2 Applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Judging Experiences**

Current Judges of the following organizations may apply for judges' status in the ASCA Scent Detection Program by submitting a Judges Application Form (see the ASCA website) to the ASCA Business Office.

11.2.1 National Association of Canine Scent Work Judges or Certifying Official (NACSW)

11.2.2 American Kennel Club Scent Work Judges (AKC)

11.2.3 Canadian Kennel Club Scent Work Judges (CKC)

11.2.4 United Kennel Club Full License Nosework judge (UKC)

11.2.5 Canine Performance Events Canine Scent Search Judges (CPE)

11.2.6 US Canine Scent Sports Judges (USCSS)

11.2.7 Equivalent Scent Detection Judges in other countries

### Proposed Wording:

#### **11.2 Applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Judging Experiences**

Current Judges of the following organizations may apply for judges' status in the ASCA Scent Detection Program by submitting a Judges Application Form (see the ASCA website) to the ASCA Business Office.

11.2.1 National Association of Canine Scent Work Judges or Certifying Official (NACSW)

11.2.2 American Kennel Club Scent Work Judges (AKC)

11.2.3 Canadian Kennel Club Scent Work Judges (CKC)

11.2.4 United Kennel Club Full License Nosework judge (UKC)

11.2.5 Canine Performance Events Canine Scent Search Judges (CPE)

### 11.2.6 Equivalent Scent Detection Judges in other countries

Comments/Rationale: Upon thorough review, it has become evident that the criteria for achieving USCSS Judge status do not align with the standards and expectations set by ASCA for Scent Detection Judges. The primary concerns are as follows:

1. **Lack of Practical Judging Experience:** The USCSS Judge status is granted based on the completion of a theoretical test and payment of associated fees, without a requisite for actual judging experience. This lack of practical experience could potentially compromise the quality and integrity of judgments made during ASCA Scent Detection events.
2. **Limited Engagement with Competition Elements:** USCSS judges are not involved in the critical aspects of scent detection trials, such as setting or handling the hides. Their role is confined to giving a binary response (yes/no) to whether competitors have located the hides and subsequently scoring these attempts. This limited engagement raises concerns about their depth of understanding and ability to effectively judge ASCA events, where a more comprehensive knowledge and hands-on experience with all aspects of scent detection are essential.
3. **Considering these points, it is recommended that the USCSS Judge status be removed from the list of acceptable judge qualifications for ASCA Scent Detection Judge applications.** This change aims to maintain the high standards and credibility of our scent detection program, ensuring that all judges possess the necessary experience and skills to effectively oversee competitions.

To implement this change, the following steps are proposed:

1. Update the ASCA Scent Detection Judge application form to exclude USCSS Judge status as a qualifying credential.
2. Communicate this policy change to all relevant parties, including current and prospective judges, through appropriate channels.
3. Provide guidance and support for individuals affected by this change, offering alternative pathways to meet the qualifications required for ASCA Scent Detection Judges
4. Grandfather individuals who have already been approved by the ASCA BOD and keep them at the status they were approved at.

Affected: Executive Secretary for updating the rules, Webmaster for posting of revised rules and revised Judges application. Future Judges applicants and the Scent Detection Committee.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### SC.24.05 Selection of Nationals and Finals Judges

**Motion failed** (2-4-1) - Approved: Byrne, Sims. Disapproved: Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Wesen. Abstained: Ward. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Comment from Director McCabe:** This motion has many details that need to be explained more. There is no letter included with the motion. There are no details on how the selection will be done by both people together. There are also terms and steps that are incorrect and not in line with the National Specialty rulebook.
- **Comment from Director Wesen:** This needs to be random draw by the BO.

**Motion by Liaison Hardin to approve the following recommendation from the Scent Detection Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion Number 24-03 Addition of section 11.5 Nationals and Finals Judges.

Motion by Deborah Divich to revise portions of the Rule Book for the Scent Detection program with the addition of sections 11.5 Selection Process for Finals and Nationals Judges, 11.6 Approval Process of Nationals and Finals Judges, and 11.7 Requirements for the selection of Nationals and Finals Judges. Seconded by Sandra Tung.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 11. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 2.

- **Comment from Committee Member Sandra Tung:** The Nationals specialty rules says the program committee will come up with a procedure and process for Nationals and Specialty judges' selection and this motion is doing exactly that. This addition to the rulebook clearly spells out the process for such an endeavor with all relevant parties involved (the scent detection committee and nationals chair) as a joint effort to make sure we have a transparent and unbiased process.
- **Comment from Committee Member Marilyn Conner:** The motion addresses the need for a clear procedure on Nationals Judges selection. Good job!
- **Comment from Committee Member Kristie Klein:** This motion clearly states the process for Nationals judges selection and inclusion in the rulebook makes the process straightforward and impartial.
- **Comment from Committee Member Jacki Williams:** This motion identifies a clear and impartial path for selection of Nationals judges. The joint effort spelled out in the rules will allow transparency of the process.

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

## **11.5 Selection Process for Finals and Nationals Judges**

### **11.5.1**

Once the Nationals location and dates have been determined, the Business Office will send a letter to all Regular Scent Detection judges to determine interest and availability to judge at the specialty. Judges must return their letters of interest to judge, by email, to the ASCA Business Office by the appointed deadline. Those judges that fail to email a return letter of interest to the Business Office by the deadline will not be considered in the selection process. Provisional judges are not eligible to judge Nationals or Finals.

### **11.5.2**

The Scent Detection Chairperson (or a designated representative) and the Scent Detection Nationals Chairperson will review the letters of interest emailed to the business office and perform a random draw of all qualified judges who satisfy the requirements as listed in Section 11.5.4 and confirm their availability to judge the ASCA Scent Detection Finals and Nationals. If the Scent Detection Chair or the Scent Detection Nationals Chair submits a letter of interest to judge, the selection of judges will reside with the ASCA Business Office and the chair of the Scent Detection Judges group. The random draw must be performed with two (2) representatives present. The draw shall not go forward with only one (1) representative present.

## **11.6 Approval Process of Nationals and Finals Judges**

### **11.6.1**

The Nationals Scent Detection Selection Committee will provide the ASCA Scent Detection Committee with the results of the random draw of qualified judges. The ASCA Scent Detection Committee will then either approve by majority vote these choices or request substitutions based on valid reasons. The top four judges - two judges and two alternate judges will then be forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval. In the event that an additional alternate is needed the selection committee will make that selection from the letters of interest submitted.

## **11.7 Requirements for the selection of Nationals and Finals Judges**

### **11.7.1**

The judges for the ASCA Scent Detection Finals and Nationals will be considered if they meet 3 of the following 4 requirements:

1. Have judged a minimum of 150 teams over the previous twelve (12) months from the date of their National's judge letter of interest.
2. Have judged a minimum of three (3) trial weekends over the previous 12 months from the letter of interest. European and Canadian judges must have judged two (2) trial weekends. If a crisis has been declared by the ASCA Board of Directors, this requirement will be waived.
3. Has not judged a Scent Detection Nationals in the previous two (2) years.
4. Has been actively participating in ASCA Scent Detection trials as an exhibitor for at least twelve trial days over the last 3 years and competed as an exhibitor at the Excellent level.

### 11.7.2

Should none of the available judges meet the requirements listed above, candidates with the greatest number of requirements will be reviewed and included in the random draw.

### 11.7.3

Judges will not be considered if they have any pending or previous disciplinary actions with ASCA in the previous 12 months.

Comments/Rationale: This motion is made to add the selection process and requirements for Finals and Nationals Judges to the rule book.

Affected: The Scent Detection Committee, Regular judges, ASCA Business Office and Webmaster with the reposting of the revised rules.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## SC.24.06 Progression of Provisional Judges

**Motion failed** (2-4-1) - Approved: Byrne, Sims. Disapproved: Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Wesen. Abstained: Ward. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Comment from Director McCabe:** This motion outlines unreasonable requirements to move from a provisional judge to a regular judge. They must judge at least 800 runs and have 32 evaluations before they can judge all levels and elements. In addition, the progression is not clearly defined and the way this motion is written judges could have two different level designations which is not possible to track in the current ASCA system and would make it almost impossible for affiliate clubs to know what judges they can hire.
- **Comment from Director Wesen:** This is too restrictive for the beginning of a program.

### Motion by Liaison Hardin to approve the following recommendation from the Scent Detection Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Motion Number 24-05 Provisional Judges progression.

Motion by Deborah Divich to revise and amend the portions of the Rule Book Sections 11.5 through 11.7 for the Scent Detection program regarding the progression of Provisional Judges to Regular Status. Seconded by Sandra Tung.

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

- **Dissent from Committee Member Liz Bernstein:** I vote no, there are multiple aspects that do not fit within ASCA, including the requirement to judge 800 dogs to progress. The hardest program in ASCA, Stock, only requires 150 and Agility requires 200. It was also previously confirmed with The ASCA Business Office manager that the programming system cannot accommodate multiple judge statuses within a sport program. If this feature becomes available in the future after the 200+ items currently in the queue, it will require excess funds the committee will need to provide as it is an unnecessary feature within ASCA. This confirmation was ignored and kept within the wording. It has also been pointed out there is limited storage within the io group and any document reviews need to be conducted by reviewers assigned by the ASCA Business Office, not the program committee to prevent bias.
- **Comment from Committee Member Sandra Tung:** I will address some of the concerns below. The requirements for ASCA Scent Detection provisional judge to judge a minimum of 50 dogs for each level (Novice, Open, Advanced, and Excellent) and element (Interiors, Exteriors, Containers, and Vehicles) is a reasonable to have broad experiences across all 4 elements offered at each level. It can be accomplished with judging a trial with decent entries over a 2–3-day period for each level. ASCA Scent Detection program has its unique needs and requirements than the other ASCA programs. Each program committee decides what is a reasonable amount of judging/mentoring needed for judges' progression. Proposed changes to 11.4.6 says: Within 15 days following the close of each of the Provisional Judge's assignment(s) the applicant should submit copies of the Co-Judge reviews, drawings or de-brief photos

and documentation of number of dogs judged to the ASCA Scent Detection Committee at ASCAScentDetection@... Once all requirements for their current judging level have been met the ASCA Scent Detection Committee will notify the applicant that they can start judging at the next judging level.

The Scent Detection committee is just holding the copies of required documentation (co-judge reviews, drawings or debrief photos and documentations of number of dogs) the provisional judge submit until all requirements for their current judging level have been met. Whether a provisional judge will proceed to judge at the next judging level depends on mainly the number of dogs judged, the co-judge reviews and getting majority vote from the Scent Detection committee. The hide summary drawing or photos are just a supporting document. Hide placements are sole responsibility of a judge. The hide summary or debrief pictures are created after an event has been held. This is not a pre-approval of course maps like other ASCA programs.

Proposed 11.4.6.1 specifies that ASCA Business Office is only involved after a provisional judge has completed the evaluations for ALL levels (Novice, Open, Advanced, Excellent) and elements (Interiors, Exteriors, Containers, Vehicles) to petition to move to Regular Status.

There is ZERO burden or other resources needed from any individuals while the provisional judge is still at provisional judge status. Everything within the provisional judges progression is handled by the Scent Detection committee only as it clearly spells out in 11.4.6.1.

- **Comment from Committee Member Marilyn Conner:** This clarifies a clear path for a provisional judge to move to regular status. We must have very experienced judges to make our program a success. Moving Provisional judges, without any judging experience, will lead to unhappy competitors and bad reviews for the program. Provisional judges need a regular judge present to guide and monitor hide placement and rules.
- **Comment from Committee Member Jacki Williams:** I waited to vote until I had time to gather my thoughts on the important points to comment on in my support of this motion. When I was done, I realized that my points were so similar to what Sandra Tung has already stated, that there was no reason to point it all out again. So, I will just state that I fully agree with, and support, everything that Sandra Tung has already stated. This is a sound process that the committee has worked long and hard on to put into place what we feel is the best process to support the best judges possible as we go forward with this program. Scent Detection is not the same type of sport that the other programs are, and the judges are not "just judges" and require a slightly different process. Scent Detection judges are required to not only judge, but have extensive knowledge and experience designing searches, placing hides, and most importantly, understanding odor and odor movement. This process is not outside of what will compliment ASCA.
- **Comment from Committee Member Kristie Kline:** The quality of our judging pool is the key to the success of this program. Having underqualified judges will be a detriment to ASCA in a number of ways. This motion ensures that Provisional judges will have the experience necessary to make our program a success. Scent Detection judges are in a unique position in relation to other ASCA program judges as they are dealing with an aspect (odor/scent) that is invisible and extremely influenced by the environment. Knowledge in this field is gained by experience and this motion is instrumental in making sure Provisional judges have that experience before being accepted to Regular judge status.

#### Current Wording:

##### **11.4.5**

When approved, applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Experiences (as described in 11.3) will become Provisional Judges for a minimum of two assignments per level.

#### Proposed Wording:

##### **11.4.5**

When approved, applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Experiences (as described in 11.3) will become Provisional Judges ~~for a minimum of two assignments per~~ at the Novice level.

##### **11.4.5.1**

To progress from a Provisional judge to regular judge, a provisional judge must:

- A. Judge a minimum of 50 dogs for each level (Novice, Open, Advanced, and Excellent) and element (Interiors, Exteriors, Containers, and Vehicles).

- B. Obtain a minimum of two (2) positive co-judge evaluation reviews by two (2) different ASCA Scent Detection Regular Judges for each element/level that they judge. The Provisional Judge shall be responsible for providing a copy of the Provisional Scent Detection CO-Judge Review Form (found on the ASCA website) to the reviewing CO-Judge for completion. It is the Provisional Judge's responsibility to seek out an approved ASCA Scent Detection Regular Judge that has agreed to evaluate Provisional Judges. The Provisional Judge must have prior written approval of the Affiliate Club. The Affiliate host club shall have the final say as to whether a Provisional Co-Judge review may take place during the trial. Co-Judge Reviews are to take place at sanctioned trials, not matches, mock trials or fun runs.
- C. Create one the following for each of the level/element trials that they have CO-judged:
  - 1. A drawing of each of the search areas that were evaluated. The drawing(s) should include the approximate size of the area, a map of what was in the search area, the location of the hide(s) sets, and a description of the intended challenges with a brief review of what occurred during the search. Or,
  - 2. Photos showing the search area, location of the hide(s) set, listing the intended challenges and the resultant review of what occurred.

#### **11.4.5.2**

Provisional Judges are only required to complete the CO-Judge Evaluation Reviews (as described in 11.4.5.1) if they desire to judge any level above Novice. The above requirements must be met and approved at each level and element starting with Novice and advancing to Excellent (the highest level) before accepting assignments at the next level.

#### Current Wording:

##### **11.4.6**

After the Provisional Judge's assignments are completed, the applicant can petition the Board to be moved to regular status by sending copies of the Co-Judge reviews to the Executive Secretary to be forwarded to the ASCA Board the copies of the Co-Judge reviews and if accepted, their name will go forward in the approval process.

#### Proposed Wording:

##### **11.4.6**

Within 15 days following the close of each of the Provisional Judge's assignment(s) the applicant should submit copies of the Co-Judge reviews, drawings or de-brief photos and documentation of number of dogs judged to the ASCA Scent Detection Committee at [ASCAScentDetection@gmail.com](mailto:ASCAScentDetection@gmail.com) . Once all requirements for their current judging level have been met the ASCA Scent Detection Committee will notify the applicant that they can start judging at the next judging level.

##### **11.4.6.1**

After completing the evaluations for ALL levels (Novice, Open, Advanced, Excellent) and elements (Interiors, Exteriors, Containers, Vehicles) the Provisional Judge must submit the "Petition to Regular Status Scent Detection Judge" Form (found on the ASCA website) to the ASCA Business Office at [membership@ASCA.com](mailto:membership@ASCA.com) requesting to be moved to Regular status. The ASCA Business Office will verify the information on the form and notify the ASCA Scent Detection Committee Chair that the request has been received. A vote for acceptance to a Regular Judge will be put forth at the Committee level and upon committee approval the applicant will be referred to the ASCA Board of Directors for final approval. When final approval is made by the ASCA Business Office, the Judge will be notified and the classification on the Judges Directory will be changed to Regular Judge.

#### Current Wording:

##### **11.4.7**

Applicants with Relevant Scent Sports Judging Experiences (as described in 11.2) are immediately a Regular Status judge after passing the judge's written test and eligible to judge any ASCA Scent Detection class.

#### Proposed Wording:

##### **11.4.7**



Applicants with **Relevant** Scent Sports Judging Experiences (as described in 11.2), that are a full/regular judge in their respective organization with no limitations on levels or elements and who are actively judging will be reviewed and voted on by the Scent Detection Committee to become a Regular Scent Detection Judge, or a Provisional Judge (depending on judging experience first, then other experience). Applicants that are judges in other organizations are not guaranteed to be automatically accepted at the Regular Scent Detection Judge level. Those applicants approved as a Regular Judge (by a majority vote) of the Scent Detection Committee and the Board of Directors, will become **are immediately** a Regular **Status** Scent Detection Judge after passing the judge's written test (with a score of 100%) and are eligible to judge any ASCA Scent Detection class.

Comments/Rationale: This motion is made to revise the Rule Book to more fully define the requirements under which a Provisional Judge becomes a Regular Judge to assure that all of ASCA Scent Detection Judges are uniformly educated and mentored in a fair and impartial manner to judge within accepted and recognized perimeters.

Affected: The Scent Detection Committee, judge applicants, The ASCA Executive Secretary for the Board of Directors, the Webmaster and the ASCA Business Office.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### SC.24.07 Trial Paperwork Submission

**Motion carried** (6-1) - Approved: Byrne, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: Clayton. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

### **Motion by Liaison Hardin to approve the following recommendation from the Scent Detection Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Motion Number 24-08 Trial Paperwork Submission.

Motion by Deborah Divich to revise section 1 with the addition of section 1.11 Trial Paperwork Submission and Maintenance to the Scent Detection Rule Book. Seconded by Pam Miller.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 12. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 3.

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

#### **1.11 Trial Paperwork Submission and Maintenance**

##### **1.11.1**

Within 15 days after each ASCA sanctioned Scent Detection trial, the Affiliate submits the Gross Receipts Report with the correct payment, the Scent Detection Trial Report, the Scent Detection Post-Event Evaluation Form, and the ASCA Judge Evaluation Form along with any other ASCA forms that were needed at the trial to the ASCA Business Office. The Affiliate must keep copies of all paperwork including all entry forms for one (1) year.

##### **1.12.1**

Judges will maintain a copy of the score sheets and any relevant documentation after certification by the judge of record for a period of one (1) year following the trial date.

Comments/Rationale: This motion is made to clarify, the submission of paperwork following an ASCA Scent Detection Trial for the benefit of Affiliate Clubs, exhibitors, and judges.

Affected: The Scent Detection Committee, exhibitors, judges, trial secretaries and the ASCA Business Office, Webmaster with the reposting of the revised rules.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## Stockdog Committee

### SD.24.01 Distribution of Score Sheets at Nationals

**Motion carried** (5-2) - Approved: Byrne, McCabe, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: Clayton, McLellan. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director Clayton:** I think it should be more specific as to when the scores sheets will be awarded following the completion of judging.
- **Dissent from Director McLellan:** The rule already states that all contestants will receive a copy of their results. There is no need for additional clarification.

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

Committee Recommendation: Distribution of all score sheets at Nationals.

Motion by Devona Pierce that all contestants that received a qualifying score will have their score sheet awarded to them, and others will be available after distribution of placements and qualifying scores. Seconded by Sue Kelly.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 5.

Current Wording:

#### **26.9.2 DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES**

All contestants shall receive a copy of their score sheet(s) at the trial. The original score sheet will become the property of ASCA for official use in the certification of dogs.

Proposed Wording:

#### **26.9.2 DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES**

All contestants shall receive a copy of their score sheet(s) at the trial. The original score sheet will become the property of ASCA for official use in the certification of dogs.

All contestants that received a qualifying score will have their score sheet awarded to them and others will be available after distribution of placements and qualifying scores.

Comments/Rationale: This motion is needed to support those who attend the Nationals and earn a qualify score.

Affected: Judges handing out score sheets, Webmaster, and Business Office.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### SD.24.02 Posting Scores at Nationals

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: Posting Stockdog Scores in real time at Nationals.

Motion by Devona Pierce. Seconded by Sue Kelly.

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

Current Wording:

#### **26.9.1 SCORING**

The Trial Judge(s) is required to complete the ASCA Official Trial Judging Score sheet in its entirety. All Judges' corrections shall be initialed by the Judge. The scorekeeper shall separate the score sheet and return the original (white) copy to the Business Office. The second copy (yellow) will be distributed to the contestants.

Proposed Wording:

**26.9.1 SCORING**

The Trial Judge(s) is required to complete the ASCA Official Trial Judging Score sheet in its entirety. All Judges' corrections shall be initialed by the Judge. The scorekeeper shall separate the score sheet and return the original (white) copy to the Business Office. The second copy (yellow) will be distributed to the contestants. All individual Judge's scores will be posted as soon as possible upon the completion of the National run.

Comments/Rationale: Posting scores in would allow for competitors to know where they stand in placements.

Affected: This motion would affect volunteers at National events responsible for posting scores and secretary recording scores. Webmaster and Business Office.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**SD.24.03 Total Score Calculation for Stockdog Finals**

**Motion carried** (6-1) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward. Disapproved: Wesen. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

- **Dissent from Director Wesen:** This didn't get updated to 2 judges for each stock in the elimination. This does need to be corrected.

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

Committee Recommendation: Update the Total Score Calculation for Stockdog Finals.

Motion by Sue Kelly. Seconded by Devona Pierce.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 6.

Current Wording:

**24.6.2 TOTAL SCORE CALCULATION**

The scores from all go-rounds will be totaled to determine the placements (Elimination go-round scores will be used). There will be four scores from the first two Elimination go-rounds and four scores from the Final go-round.

Proposed Wording:

**24.6.2 TOTAL SCORE CALCULATION**

The scores from all go-rounds will be totaled to determine the placements (Elimination go-round scores will be used). There will be ~~four~~ three single scores from each stock the first two Elimination go-rounds and ~~four~~ three scores per stock class from the Final go-round.

Comments/Rationale: Update this section to reflect the correct number of scores that will be included in the Total Score Calculation for Stockdog Finals. This was missed when the change was made to the number of judges.

Affected: Stockdog Finals contestants, rulebook readers.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**SD.24.04 Policy on Stockdog Judge Cancellations and Warning Letters**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

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

Committee Recommendation: Policy on Stockdog Judge Cancellations and Warning Letters.

Motion by Devona Pierce to approve the below policy for Stockdog Judges Cancellations. Seconded by Sue Kelly.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 9. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 2.

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

### **26.8.1 Stockdog Judge Cancellations and Warning Letters**

Judges play a pivotal role in the successful execution of our events. Their commitment to assigned judging duties is essential. As such, repeated cancellations can disrupt event planning and diminish the reputation of our events. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken in the event of multiple cancellations by a judge.

Judging Assignment Definition: In the context of Stockdog trials, the 'Judging Assignment' shall be defined as the entire contract term of the event whether that term is for one day or multiple days, provided the event is to be held on consecutive days.

Cancellation Definition: A cancellation is defined as any instance where a judge, after accepting an assignment, later withdraws from that assignment for any reason, with less than 30 days' notice.

Warning Letter Trigger: If a judge cancels three judging assignments within a 24-month period, a formal warning letter will be issued.

Warning Letter Content:

The warning letter will:

1. Detail the instances of the cancellations.
2. Emphasize the importance of commitment to assigned events.
3. Highlight the potential consequences of further cancellations.
4. Offer an opportunity for the judge to provide feedback or reasons for the repeated cancellations.

Further Cancellations: If, after receiving the warning letter, a judge cancels another assignment within the subsequent 12 months, the judge may be subject to further actions, including but not limited to, 6 months suspension from judging at ASCA events.

Exceptions: Recognizing that unforeseen circumstances can arise, exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of ASCA's Board of Directors. Judges are encouraged to communicate any extenuating circumstances leading to cancellations as soon as possible.

Comments/Rationale: To prevent or correct judges from canceling on clubs at last minute.

Affected: All Stockdog Judges, Webmaster, Rulebook, and Business Office.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## Tracking Committee

TR.24.01 Eliminate Tracking Champion Verification Form

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Tracking Champion Verification Form is unnecessary.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the updated version for the Tracking Champion title. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

### **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](mailto:stockdog@asca.org).

Proposed Wording:

### **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](mailto:stockdog@asca.org).~~

Comments/Rationale: The reason to eliminate this paragraph is the new computer system will award the dog the TCH title when TD, TDU, TDX and UTDX titles are achieved and applied to the dog's record. No "Tracking Championship Verification Form" is needed.

Affected: All participants obtaining a Tracking Championship title. No software changes are needed.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

TR.24.02 Start Flag for TD Track (Revised 2/7/2024)

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Walk in distance for the tracklayer to the start flag for the TD track.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve clarifying the distance for the tracklayer to walk in to approach the TD track start flag(s). Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

**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.

Proposed Wording:

**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~~ will begin ten yards from the starting flag, lining up with the second (directional) 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. ~~An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag.~~ This article shall be **C**cloth, (such as but not limited to, a **B**bandana, or a **S**sock) and close to the same size as the end article, a **L**leather **G**glove or **W**wallet. ~~The tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in Section 2.10.~~

Comments/Rationale: The reason for the change is to prevent the beginning of the track to start on a corner. The tracklayer should lead up to the first flag(s) to assist the dog in locating scent of the track.

Affected: All dog and handler teams competing in TD level testing.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

TR.24.03 Start Flag for TDU Track (Revised 2/7/2024)

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Walk in distance for the tracklayer to the start flag for the TDU track.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve clarifying the distance for the tracklayer to walk in to approach the TD track start flag(s). Seconded by Laurie Shuren.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

**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.

Proposed Wording:

**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~~ will begin ten yards from the starting flag, lining up with the second (directional) flag. The ten yard walk in must be predominantly vegetation, and may allow a slight bend if space is limited. The start must not be at a transition, and the first thirty yards must be on vegetation. The Tracklayer will pause momentarily at the first flag, drop the first article and continue walking the track as specified in Section 2.10. ~~An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag.~~ This article shall be **C**cloth, (such as but not limited to, a **B**bandana, or a **S**sock) and close to the same size as the end article, a **L**leather **G**glove or **W**wallet.

Comments/Rationale: The reason for the change is to prevent the beginning of the track to start on a corner. The tracklayer should lead up to the first flag(s) to assist the dog in locating scent of the track.

Affected: All dog and handler teams competing in TD level testing.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.04 Number of Alternate Tracks

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Number of Alternate tracks.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes for the number of Alternate tracks. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

#### **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.

Proposed Wording:

#### **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. If on plotting day, judges find there is additional land available, more than one alternate track may be plotted. Judges must be sure to stay within the allowed number of tracks per test (see Section 1.24). The Judges should verify with the Chief Tracklayer for additional tracklayers prior to making this decision.

Comments/Rationale: To allow more than one alternate track to be plotted at a test.

Affected: Judges, tracklayers, and participants on the alternate list at tests.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.05 Bitches in Season

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Bitches in season.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve to add to test secretary duties to ask about Bitches in season. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

### **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.

Proposed Wording:

### **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. The Test Secretary will ask if there are any bitches in season. Bitches in season will run as specified in section 2.8. 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.

Comments/Rationale: The test secretary was not asking about Bitches in season, only the handler was responsible for informing the test committee.

Affected: All dogs entered in test.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### **TR.24.06 Line Length for Handlers**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Line length for handlers.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve to clarify line length between dog and handler per test level. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.



Current Wording:

**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.

Proposed Wording:

**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 at the TD and TDX levels, and no less than ten feet at the TDU and UTDX levels. 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.

Comments/Rationale: To allow handlers to be closer in an urban environment.

Affected: All Tracking handler and dog teams.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**TR.24.07 Judges Giving Tracklayers Maps**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Judges giving tracklayers maps.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes for judges giving tracklayers a map. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

### **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.

Proposed Wording:

### **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.

Comments/Rationale: Judges do not give tracklayers maps; tracklayers make their own maps.

Affected: Judges and track layers.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### TR.24.08 Tracklayer Limitations from 30 to 10 Days

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Tracklayer limitations from 30 to 10 days.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes for ease of finding tracklayers. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 6. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

### **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.

Proposed Wording:

### **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~~ ten 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.

Comments/Rationale: For ease of finding tracklayers due to a very small tracking community.

Affected: Judges, track layers and participants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## TR.24.09 Tracklayer Walk-in Distance

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Tracklayer walk-in distance listed in 2.10.3 and track type updates.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve a correction to having no walk-in requirements for the tracklayer at the TD and TDU levels. This is a general statement in 2.10.3, but to be explained in better detail in the BT, TD, TDU, TDX and UTDX track requirements. Also updates to include BT and UTDX. Seconded by Laurie Shuren.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

### **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.

Proposed Wording:

### **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 **Beginner Tracking Dog (BTD) test**, **Tracking Dog (TD) Test**, or a **Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test**.
2. The first flag in a **Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test** and **Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Test**.
3. The cross-track flags in a **TDX Test**.

The Tracklayer shall approach the start flags as directed by the judges, specified in each Track Requirement rules. 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.

Comments/Rationale: Clarification for no tracklayer walk-in requirement for BTD, TD and TDU.

Affected: Judges, track layers, and handlers.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

### **TR.24.10 Tracking Dog Urban Track Requirements**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Changing and updating Tracking Dog Urban track requirements.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve to change some track requirements for TDU tracks. Seconded by Laurie Shuren.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 2. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 4.

Current Wording:

### **4.4 Requirements for the TDU Track**

1. The track shall be at least 350 yards and not more than 400 yards in length.

...

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.

Proposed Wording:

**4.4 Requirements for the TDU Track**

2. The track shall be at least 350 yards and not more than ~~400~~ 425 yards in length.

...

13. 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, including curbs and small stairways. A track ~~may~~ shall cross areas of non-vegetated cover.
14. The total non-vegetated cover shall account for between ten to ~~twenty~~ thirty percent of the entire track. ~~More than eight~~ At least seventy percent of the track must be on vegetated cover. The first 30 yards of the first leg must be on vegetation. 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.

Comments/Rationale: Judges have requested more leeway for track design. Typo corrections.

Affected: Judges and exhibitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

TR.24.11 Tracking Dog Urban Article Wording

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Tracking Dog Urban article wording update.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve making this change for ease of article use. Seconded by Laurie Shuren.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

**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.

Proposed Wording:

**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~~ a piece of leather of similar size.

Comments/Rationale: Change the articles for Tracking Dog Urban for ease of use.

Affected: Judges and exhibitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.12 Tracking Dog Excellent Approach by Handler

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Tracking Dog Excellent, modification of the approach by handler as directed by judges.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve making this change as there is not always enough room to direct from 50 yards away. Seconded by Laurie Shuren.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 4. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 2.

Current Wording:

##### **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 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.

Proposed Wording:

##### **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 will instruct the handler as to the location of the starting flag, from a minimum of thirty yards but preferred fifty yards, from 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.

Comments/Rationale: Ease of judges to save space, and tracklayer only has 30-yard walk in.

Affected: Judges and exhibitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.13 Draw for Entries, Regular Tests, MVA Tests, and Specialties

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Changing the draw for entries, regular tests, MVA tests and Specialties.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve to simplify the draw. The draw needed to be re-worded so exhibitors could also be in the first draw to accomplish the Tracking Championship. Previously they would be excluded from the first draw. The TD and TDU draw is combined with the same rules to minimize wording in the rulebook. It also clarifies how people in the worker draw are to be included in the draw. And clarifies how MVA works in the draw. Seconded by Beth MacLehose.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

#### **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.

Proposed Wording:

#### **1.21.1 THE TD or TDU “DRAW FOR TEST ENTRIES”**

The TD or TDU “Draw for Test Entries” shall be at random from all Entries received, except that for a Tracking Dog (TD) Test or Tracking Dog (TDU), 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. Worker Draw as defined in Worker Draw chart (see 1.21.5) for any dog with or without certification or previous title.
2. Any dog competing in MVA Competition at a Local or National Specialty with a certification or previous Tracking title.
3. 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~~ with a certification or previous Tracking title.
4. 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~~ with a certification or previous Tracking title.
- ~~5. To ASCA registered Australian Shepherds with three or more TD/TDU titles.~~
- ~~6. To dogs with ASCA QTracker Numbers with three or more TD/TDU titles.~~
7. To a non-titled ASCA registered Australian Shepherd without a certification or equivalent title.
8. 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 and Test Urban (TDU) Test.

Current Wording:

#### **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. 15
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.

#### Proposed Wording:

#### **~~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. 15~~
- ~~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.~~

#### Current Wording:

#### **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.

#### Proposed Wording:

#### **1.21.32 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. Worker Draw as defined in Worker Draw chart (see 1.21.5).
2. Any dog competing in MVA Competition at Local or National Specialty.



3. To all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds ~~that do not yet have two TDX's or two UTDX's or a TDX and a UTDX~~ with one or more previous ASCA Tracking Title (Beginner Tracking Dog not included).
4. 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~~ with one or more previous ASCA Tracking Title (beginner Tracking Dog not included).
5. Any dog that has obtained both a Master Tracker title AND Tracking Champion titles.
- ~~6. To all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds with TDX-2 or UTDX-2 titles or MT titles.~~
- ~~7. 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.

Current Wording:

**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. Competition.
6. To a dog with an ASCA QTracker Number, titled through TDX-1/UTDX-1 but not entered in Versatility Competition.
7. Competition.
8. To an Australian Shepherd, titled through TDX2/UTDX2 or MT but not entered in Versatility Competition.
9. 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.

Proposed Wording:

**~~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:~~

- ~~8. To an untitled (in Tracking) ASCA registered Australian Shepherd with a TD/TDU certification or equivalent title.~~
- ~~9. To a titled (in Tracking) ASCA registered Australian Shepherd who is entered in the Versatility Competition.~~
- ~~10. To an untitled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number with a TD/TDU certification or equivalent title.~~
- ~~11. To a TD/TDU or TDX/UTDX titled ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd.~~
- ~~12. To a TD/TDU or TDX/UTDX titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number.~~
- ~~13. To a non-titled ASCA registered Australian Shepherd without a certification or equivalent title.~~
- ~~14. To a non-titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number without a certification or equivalent title.~~

~~Priority draw order for TDX/UTDX:~~

- ~~10. To an ASCA registered TD/TDU titled Australian Shepherd, not previously titled in TDX/UTDX.~~
- ~~11. To a TDX titled ASCA registered Australian Shepherd who is entered in Versatility Competition.~~
- ~~12. To a TD/TDU titled dog with an ASCA QTracker Number, not previously titled in TDX.~~
- ~~13. To an ASCA registered Australian Shepherd, titled through TDX-1/UTDX-1 but not entered in Versatility~~
- ~~14. Competition.~~
- ~~15. To a dog with an ASCA QTracker Number, titled through TDX-1/UTDX-1 but not entered in Versatility~~
- ~~16. Competition.~~
- ~~17. To an Australian Shepherd, titled through TDX2/UTDX2 or MT but not entered in Versatility~~
- ~~18. Competition.~~
- ~~18. 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:~~

- ~~5. Aussies that are untitled in Tracking, with a certification or an equivalent title.~~
- ~~6. TD/TDU and TDX/UTDX titled Aussies entered in Most Versatile Aussie competition.~~
- ~~7. Aussies titled through TD/TDU-2 but not entered in Most Versatile Aussie Competition.~~
- ~~8. Aussies who are uncertified.~~

~~Priority for draw order for TDX/UTDX test:~~

- ~~5. TD/TDU titled Aussies not previously titled in TDX or UTDX.~~
- ~~6. TDX or UTDX titled Aussies who are entered in Most Versatile Aussie competition.~~
- ~~7. Aussies who have previously titled through TDX-1 or UTDX-1.~~
- ~~8. 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.~~

Comments/Rationale: The draw was too complicated and did not allow exhibitors access to all tests when trying to accomplish the Tracking Championship title. This also combines TD and TDU instead of having more verbiage in the rule book. It also clarifies the worker draw and exhibitors entered in MVA.

Affected: Test chairperson and secretary and exhibitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.14 Beginning Tracking Dog Test Summary

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Beginning Tracking Dog test summary.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the sentence about being like a certification test be removed. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

#### **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.

Proposed Wording:

#### **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.

Comments/Rationale: The BTD test must be sanctioned, which does NOT make it similar to a certification test.

Affected: Tracking test chairperson and secretary.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.15 Beginner Tracking Dog Track Requirements

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Beginner Tracking Dog track requirements.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve to correct previous typos and change tracklayer wording. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

### **8.3 Requirements for the BTB Track**

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a BTB 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 BTB 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.

Proposed Wording:

### **8.3 Requirements for the BTB Track**

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a BTB 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~~ may 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 **first** 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 BTB 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.

Comments/Rationale: Correct previous typos and give more options for who can be a tracklayer.

Affected: Judges, evaluators, chairperson and exhibitor.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## TR.24.16 Beginner Tracking Dog Walk In and Line Length

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

### **Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Beginner Tracking Dog – update to the start of the BTM track and include line length specifications.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes for a 10-yard walk in and specified line length for BTM. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

#### Current Wording:

##### **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.

#### Proposed Wording:

##### **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 will begin ten yards from the starting flag, lining up with the second (directional) flag.** The Tracklayer ~~shall start~~ will pause momentarily at the first flag, drop the first article, and continue walking the track ~~in the manner~~ as 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 ~~C~~cloth, (such as but not limited to, a ~~B~~bandana, or a ~~S~~sock) and close to the same size as the end article, a ~~L~~leather ~~G~~glove or ~~W~~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 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.

The Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) 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.

Comments/Rationale: To add the 10-yard walk-in and line length specifications.

Affected: Judges and exhibitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.17 Beginner Tracking Dog Judge/Examiner Description

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

#### **Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) judge/examiner description.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the re-worded requirements for the BTD judge/examiner to broaden the requirements for more people to be able to apply to be an examiner. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

#### **8.6 Judge/Examiner for BTD 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 BTD. 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.

Proposed Wording:

#### **8.6 Judge/Examiner for BTD track:**

A person who has ~~put~~ titled at least one dog in TDX, UTDX, or VST ~~or equivalent title on a dog~~, in ASCA, AKC, or CKC may be judge/examiner for the BTD. ~~The title may be a title from ASCA, AKC, or CKC.~~ A person with equivalent title(s) from another organizations (example: IPO) 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.

Comments/Rationale: To make more people available to be an evaluator for the BTB test.

Affected: Anyone who would like to be an evaluator for the Beginning Tracking Dog test.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.18 Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Description

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: UTDX Description.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes to define the UTDX with more detail to be more flexible in an urban environment. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

#### **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.

Proposed Wording:

#### **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** environment. An Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) presents different surface challenges. It can be laid anywhere a person can walk in an urban environment, to include parks, quiet streets or campuses, etc. 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.

Comments/Rationale: To define the boundaries of UTDX for more flexibility.

Affected: Judges and participants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

#### TR.24.19 Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Eligibility Corrections

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: UTDX Eligibility corrections.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following corrections for UDTX Eligibility. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

**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).

Proposed Wording:

**6.1 Eligibility for the UTDX Test**

The Urban Tracking Dog Excellent (UTDX) Test shall be for dogs that have earned the TD or 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).

Comments/Rationale: This paragraph needed corrections, TDX is not required and the re-wording of the draw corrects the previous eligibility statement.

Affected: Tracking test Secretary and participants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

TR.24.20 Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Track Requirements

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: UTDX Track Requirements.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes for the UTDX track to make it more flexible. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

**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.

Proposed Wording:

**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 of 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. One turn shall be on hard surface, with at least 15 to 20 yards on hard surface before the turn, and continues for 30 yards on hard surface after the turn. The turn needs to be in a location that gives the dog choices in direction. This turn can be on quiet streets, pathways and near structures or out in the open.
7. ~~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.
8. 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).
9. Surfaces (see Section 6.5).
10. 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.

Comments/Rationale: With many schools not allowing dogs on the property, we needed to make this test more flexible to include urban streets and other environments. This also helps ASCA in Europe who have different urban settings than here in the United States.

Affected: Chairperson, Judges and participants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**TR.24.21 Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Surfaces**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: UTDX Surfaces.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve of making changes to the UTDX surfaces to allow more flexibility. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

**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.

Proposed Wording:

**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 percent and no more than ~~to~~ eighty percent non-veg, ~~preferably~~ with a ~~combination~~ minimum being forty percent of hard surface ~~and~~ with a minimum of thirty yards being soft non-vegetation soft surface.
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 ~~after the start flag~~ 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.

Comments/Rationale: To give the UTDX Non-Veg requirements more flexibility.

Affected: Judges and participants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

**TR.24.22 Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Obstacles**

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: UTDX Obstacles.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes for UTDX Obstacles. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

### **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.

Proposed Wording:

### **6.6 Obstacles**

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

Comments/Rationale: A small modification to clarify what are and are not obstacles for judges.

Affected: Judges and participants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.

## TR.24.23 Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Articles

**Motion carried** (7-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, McCabe, McLellan, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann.

**Motion by Liaison Wesen to approve the following recommendation from the Tracking Committee.**

Committee Recommendation: UTDX Articles.

Motion by Lisa Klein to approve the following changes to the UTDX article options. Seconded by Maia Halvorsen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 5. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

### **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 nonvegetated surface.

Proposed Wording:

### **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 or~~ 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.~~ cell phone case, check book cover, coaster, or container lid approximately 4 to 6 inches in size. ~~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 ~~a piece of leather of~~ 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.

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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.

Comments/Rationale: To make the description less “wordy” and change the end article options to match TDU.

Affected: Judges, tracklayers, and participants.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.