



THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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

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

ASCA Executive Secretary's Report March 2024

Announcements

The Board will appoint a director to fill the current Board vacancy during their Spring Meeting in April 2024.

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

ASCA's application to change our IRS designation from 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(4) was denied.

We have hired a programmer to assist with fixes to the computer system.

Wyoming ASC was approved as a new ASCA Affiliate Club.

Genna Wethington was appointed to the Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee.

The [2024 Nationals Premium](#) was approved.

The rules for Most Versatile Aussie at Nationals were revised.

Committee Recommendations:

Agility (1 disapproved)

Obedience (1 approved)

Rally (1 approved)

Stockdog (3 approved)

ASCA Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 6:00 pm Central.

In attendance: President Susan Byrne, 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: 1st Vice President Rick Gann.

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

President Byrne called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Board Vacancy

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:03 pm to 6:16 pm. The Board addressed the process for filling the vacancy resulting from Lynda Hardin's resignation. Policy requires that the Board fills this vacancy at their subsequent monthly meeting after the close of the resume submission period. However, the brief interval between the submission deadline and the meeting presented a challenge for the Board to thoroughly evaluate the candidates and make an informed decision. Consequently, the Board has decided to defer the selection process to the Spring Meeting scheduled for April 4-6, 2024, to ensure a thoughtful and judicious appointment.

BD.24.30 Move Selection of Candidate for BOD Vacancy to Spring Meeting

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

Motion by Sims to override the rule for this situation and move to the Spring Meeting agenda. Reason - the way the timeline hits on this we only have 4 days to do interviews and make our decision and this isn't enough time. Seconded by Wesen.

AEMD Funds

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 6:16 pm to 6:53 pm. The Board discussed the financial strategy regarding the AEMD fund for the 2023-2024 show year. The discussion will continue during the Board's upcoming Spring Meeting.

Moved to Open Session at 6:53 pm. President Byrne welcomed the members listening, introduced those present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

February 2024 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McLellan presented the financial summary for February 2024. She reported the following account balances: \$178,524 in checking, \$25,804 in savings, \$33,293 in the AEMD account, \$41,337 in the Foundation account, and \$28,555 in the 2023 Nationals account.

She addressed a previously mentioned budgetary oversight concerning the "computer IT" costs managed by the Business Office. This issue partly arose from adjusting to the new bookkeeper and the transition to QuickBooks. McLellan assured the Board that corrective adjustments are underway as they streamline the financial management processes.

In response to this oversight, the Treasurer has made strategic budgetary adjustments. The initial allocation for computer system management, set at \$46,000 annually, remains untouched. However, she has increased the "computer/labor" budget by \$8,400, repurposing funds previously earmarked for interest on a now-settled loan. She reallocated \$35,000 from "contract labor" expenses to bolster the "computer IT" budget. This adjustment increases the total "computer IT" budget to \$95,000, adequately covering the projected annual IT expenses.

McLellan also shared plans regarding the Vanguard accounts, indicating she holds the necessary paperwork and intends to finalize signatures and submissions during the Spring Meeting. This action will enable the deposit of funds and the commencement of interest accrual on the accounts.

Lastly, she proposed reallocating \$50,000 from the checking to the savings account.

BD.24.31 February 2024 Treasurer's Report

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

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

IRS Designation

President Byrne provided the Board with an update on the attempt to modify ASCA's IRS status from a 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(4) designation. An IRS representative conveyed that ASCA's application was not approved due to our organization's focus on serving a specific community, rather than the broader public, which does not meet the qualifications for the desired status. We are now faced with two options: to either withdraw our application or adhere to the provided guidelines to submit a revised application.

System Liaison's Report

System Liaison Clayton briefed the Board on the progress of the computer system upgrade and broader technology projects. He shared that the new programmer has joined the team and is actively collaborating with the IT Committee on several projects. Their focus includes rigorous testing of the system to ensure its functionality and security. The five most pressing issues identified for immediate resolution include: the inability to process credit card payments over the phone, challenges in portal account creation, the generic nature of the online registration form which limits users' understanding of what they are agreeing to, the failure of litter

payment statuses to reflect as paid, and difficulties in registering for a QTracker account. The IT Committee is diligently addressing these concerns, prioritizing the resolution of critical issues while ensuring the system's stability remains uncompromised.

Electronic Litter Approval Process

Ward voiced concerns about an email she received, which requested her signature as a co-owner on a litter without clear explanation of its purpose. Both the Webmaster and Registrar were unable to identify the context, raising concerns about the implications of signing for unknown data. Ward suggested consulting with the attorney to review the language used in these requests to mitigate potential liability issues. Clayton suggested that, given the ongoing structural issues, emails containing that specific wording should be temporarily halted until a resolution is reached. Ward agreed.

Ward also shared that she had been previously informed by a Board member that the new programmer would not be moving forward with us due to concerns regarding collaboration with the payment processor. Byrne clarified that during the onboarding process, it became apparent that the programmer was uncomfortable working with the initially chosen payment processor. Subsequently, a second payment company was engaged, and we were able to move forward.

February 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.24.32 February 2024 Email Business

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

Motion by Clayton to ratify all business conducted over email in February 2024. Seconded by Sims.

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

Byrne also took a moment to caution members against the recent surge in scam and phishing emails. She emphasized the importance of vigilance, urging everyone to meticulously verify the sender's email address against the official ones listed on our website. She reassured members that ASCA does not engage in making such requests, highlighting the necessity of remaining alert to protect against potential scams.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

ASCA Board Motions

Director Recommendations

Fixed Schedule (Email)

AF.24.01 Application to Affiliate from Wyoming ASC

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

Motion by McCabe to approve the affiliate application from Wyoming ASC. Second by Wesen.

Location: Casper, Wyoming

President: Shelby Shank
Representative: Brooke Meek

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Random Schedule (Email)

CA.24.05 Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee Appointment – Genna Wethington

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

Motion by Liaison Ward to accept the committee application of Genna Wethington to the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee.

Comments/Rationale: This applicant has the desired skill set to help fulfill the committee's ongoing work.

Affected: Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee Members.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Emergency (Email)

EM.24.03 Approval of 2024 Nationals Premium

Motion carried (5-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Gann, McCabe, McLellan.

Motion by Liaison Ward to approve the attached 2024 National Premium (revision date 3/1/24) and treated as an emergency motion as originally intended.

Affected: Membership, 2024 Show Committee.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Committee Recommendations

Agility Committee

AG.24.04 Allow Tugging by Teams Entering and Exiting Agility Ring

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

- **Comment from Director Clayton**: Making an exception for the use of a leash or item as a toy as a reward and to increase drive. Dogs that don't tug have a disadvantage. The dog should have enough drive to be successful without this as this has been the case since the inception of the program.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion 06-2024 Add tugging by teams entering and exiting the agility ring.

Motion by Bambi Ellis. Seconded by Sandra Katzen.

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

- **Dissent from Committee Member Diana Curl**: I feel allowing tugging while entering the ring to be the same as using a Toy. Safety/ distraction issues could also be a concern even though several have said it is not.

- **Dissent from Committee Member Michael Kurdzo:** I feel that tugging entering and leaving the ring is a poor idea. Besides making the day longer it gives no consideration to the next dog in line.
- **Dissent from Committee Member Heather Tyler:** I do not believe tugging should be allowed when entering and exiting the ring. Safety is my biggest concern. If you have a dog finishing a run and the next dog on the line comes in thrashing a leash back and forth/growling, what do you think that dog will do? Any level dog may stop and stare causing time faults. They may look at a tugging growling dog, causing their body to fall off a contact equipment. If we are to allow this in a ring, why not get rid of the 10 foot rule for food or toys? Not to mention a dog taking it (growling while tugging) as a threat and reacting as such. It is a large distraction to dogs and inappropriate ring behavior. If your dog can't have handler focus entering or exiting a ring without tugging, then your dog isn't ready to trial.
- **Comment from Committee Member Nicole Watts:** 1. I compete in venues (UKI, USDAA) that have no restrictions on tugging on the leash while entering and exiting. I have never seen it be a problem in 20+ years of agility competition. There are rules about prompt entering and exiting, and they are in force whether or not you have a toy, are tugging, etc. The reality is that most people don't use their leash as a tug toy, anyway. 2. The advantage I see to toys, leash tugging etc is it keeps dogs focused on their people while entering and exiting the ring. That is a positive thing and good for safety. 3. The reality is that some dogs-- and especially Aussies-- are very loud in the ring. If they are barking loudly, jumping up and down, excited-- that is going to be exciting to other dogs. In obedience, they fault barking. We don't in agility (thank goodness), yet I think it's a much more likely scenario for causing challenges for other dogs.
- **Comment from Committee Member Sandra Katzen:** My experience in venues that allow dogs to be tugging on the leash while entering/exiting the ring is that they are not "thrashing" around but are just pulling on the leash. I do not hear growling either and since I am typically leash running I am close enough that I would. I would estimate that about 30%-40% of the dogs in the trial I have attended recently have been tugging while entering and or exiting the ring. I have not seen dogs that are running while the dogs are tugging being distracted by the tugging dog. I think dogs coming in /exiting barking and "screaming" are far more likely to be distracting to the dog running than a dog tugging on a leash and therefore unable to be barking does. ASCA purposely requires distance between the start & finish as a safety measure and therefore there really is no reason to not allow tugging. I think if a dog running the course is distracted by a dog coming in or exiting while tugging on it's leash, that is the dog that may not be ready to trial.
- **Comment from Committee Member Christian Prein:** Please also add than to the motion that almost all judges are for this change. We see in real life that it is exactly the opposite of what Heather is writing here. No other venues are forbidding this and it is no problem there at all. I say the completely opposite of Heather, if a working dog in the ring gets distracted by any dog outside or entering the ring than this dog in the ring is not ready for competition.
- **Comment from Committee Member Donalee McElrath:** I do agree with limited tugging as a way to focus your dog.

Current Wording:

11.2 Judges Responsibilities

The judge is the officiator of the Agility Trial. The judge is there to evaluate and educate. The judge shall evaluate the performances of the dogs/handlers. The judge helps to educate the handlers, the spectators, timers, scribe, ring stewards, gate stewards and all others involved with the Agility Trial.

It is the judges' responsibility to give a briefing to the steward who is in charge of measuring the dogs' heights. The judge must also brief the timer, the scribe and all stewards involved with the trial.

The judge is the ambassador of the sport during the event. From the presence of the judge, all involved within that event, including exhibitors, spectators, and workers, shall leave that event with an understanding about the sport of dog Agility, as given to them by the judge.

Judges must be fair, impartial, confident, and friendly. Beginners in the sport should feel at ease and welcomed by the judge, not intimidated. Experienced exhibitors should have no doubt but that the judge is in control by the judge's confident and respectful manner.

Judges should dress in a clean, professional manner and should always conduct themselves in a manner above reproach. Judges are representatives of the sport even when they are no longer judging an event. When judges attend an event as an exhibitor or in another capacity, they should continue to reflect an attitude of professionalism which would be expected from an individual in a position of respect and status. The smoothness of the running of the trial will greatly depend upon the timeliness and efficiency of the judge and the judge's ability to keep the trial running briskly.

For safety reasons, all dogs must exit the ring on leash and under the handler's control. Gentle tugging on the leash will be allowed while the handler exits the ring as long as the dog is secured by the leash. Under no circumstance will the leash be allowed to be placed so that it is used as a target for the dog after the last obstacle. Failure to comply will result in elimination (E) for the run.

When designing courses, judges should always keep in mind that 'flow' is of the utmost importance in all ASCA classes. This includes Regular Agility classes, Jumpers classes, and Gamblers classes. Judges must remember that both the initial point accumulation period and the gamble sequence period of the Gamblers class should be designed with that philosophy.

As standard practice, judges may not judge more than 350 agility runs per day. The Host Club may schedule up to 450 agility runs per day after consulting with and obtaining concurrence from the judge. Such scheduling should take into consideration the facility, seasonal conditions, worker availability, and number of course builds required to support the increased number of runs. The number of runs per day is determined by dogs entered in the catalog for the Regular, Jumpers, and Gamblers classes, including any FEO entries. The Host Club and the judge shall negotiate judging of and payment for any non-regular classes.

Proposed Wording:

11.2 Judge's Responsibilities

The judge is the officiator of the agility trial. The judge is there to evaluate and educate. The judge **shall** **must** evaluate the performances of the dogs/handlers. The judge helps to educate the handlers, the spectators, timers, scribe, ring stewards, gate stewards and all others involved with the agility trial.

~~It is the judges' responsibility to give a briefing to the steward who is in charge of measuring the dogs' heights.~~
The judge must **also** brief the timer, the scribe and all stewards involved with the trial.

The judge is the ambassador of the sport during the event. From the presence of the judge, all involved within that event, including exhibitors, spectators, and workers, **shall** **must** leave that event with an understanding about the sport of dog agility, as given to them by the judge.

The judge must be fair, impartial, confident, and friendly. Beginners in the sport should feel at ease and welcomed by the judge, not intimidated. Experienced exhibitors should have no doubt but that the judge is in control by the judge's confident and respectful manner.

The judge should dress in a clean, professional manner and should always conduct themselves in a manner above reproach. Judges are representatives of the sport even when they are no longer judging an event. When judges attend an event as an exhibitor or in another capacity, they should continue to reflect an attitude of professionalism which would be expected from an individual in a position of respect and status. The smoothness of ~~the~~ running ~~of~~ the trial will greatly depend upon the timeliness and efficiency of the judge and the judge's ability to keep the trial running briskly.

For safety reasons, all dogs must **enter and** exit the agility ring on leash and under the handler's control. **Gentle** Tugging on the leash will be allowed while the handler **enters and** exits the agility ring as long as the dog is secured by the leash. Under no circumstance will the leash be allowed to be placed so that it is used as a target for the dog after the last obstacle. Failure to comply will result in elimination (**E**) for the run.

When designing courses, judges should always keep in mind that 'flow' is of the utmost importance in all ASCA classes. This includes Regular Agility classes, Jumpers classes, and Gamblers classes. Judges must

remember that both the initial point accumulation period and the gamble sequence period of the Gamblers class should be designed with that philosophy.

As standard practice, judges may not judge more than 350 agility runs per day. The **Host Affiliate** Club may schedule up to 450 agility runs per day after consulting with and obtaining concurrence from the judge. Such scheduling should take into consideration the facility, seasonal conditions, worker availability, and number of course builds required to support the increased number of runs. The number of runs per day is determined by dogs entered in the catalog for the Regular, Jumpers, and Gamblers classes, including any FEO entries. The **Host Affiliate** Club and the judge **shall** must negotiate judging of and payment for any non-regular classes.

Comments/Rationale: With input from the Judge's group and discussion within the Agility Committee, it was agreed that tugging while entering/exiting the ring should be permissible.

Affected: Competitors who will be allowed to tug with their dogs while entering the agility ring.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Nationals Advisory Committee

NA.24.02 Revision to Section 21 MVA of the ASCA National Specialty Rules

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

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

Committee Recommendation: Revision to Section 21 MVA of the ASCA National Specialty Rules. Motion by Laura Gibson to amend the ASCA Nationals Specialty Rules, Section 21 MVA, with the wording below. Second by Renee Watson.

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

Current Wording:

21 Most Versatile Aussie Award

21.1 MVA Rules

Rules for this award are available from the ASCA Business Office. Copies of the approved rules must be available upon request and on the Show Grounds.

21.2 Bitches in Season

- A. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must run last in Obedience or in a separate ring at the option of the Nationals Committee. Bitches in season must wear pants in and around the rings. Consult Section 1.13 of the ASCA Obedience Rules and Regulations for complete rules.
- B. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must run last in Tracking and will be kept away from the Tracking area until called.
- C. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Stockdog Trial.
- D. Bitches in season entered in Versatility are allowed to compete at the National Agility Trial. Please consult Chapter 9 Section 2 of the ASCA Agility Rules and Regulations for complete rules.

21.3 Memorial Trophies

These awards are in memory of these former Directors and are provided and awarded by ASCA when the awards for MVA and MVJ are presented.

- A. ASCA Awards a memorial trophy in the name of Jean Carrillo each year at the ASCA National Specialty to the winner of Most Versatile Aussie. This award is in addition to the trophy offered by the Nationals Committee.

- B. ASCA Awards a memorial trophy in the name of Sandy Tubbs each year at the ASCA National Specialty to the winner of Most Versatile Junior. This award is in addition to the trophy offered by the Nationals Committee.

21.4 Versatility Record Keeper

One person will be solely responsible for versatility record-keeping from start to finish. The individual's name will be supplied to the Board with the first draft of the Premium List.

Proposed Wording:

21 Most Versatile Aussie Award

The Most Versatile Aussie Award is offered to recognize the dog which best combines the attributes of trainability, desire, and ability to work livestock, and faithfully represents the breed standard.

21.1 MVA Rules

The competition will be conducted using the rules in Chapter 1 of the MVA Rules and Regulations. Bitches in season will run at the end of each class (or as posted) with the same requirements as listed in the Agility/Obedience/Rally Finals and Tracking rules. Rules for this award are available from the ASCA Business Office. Copies of the approved rules must be available upon request and on the Show Grounds. To find the MVA Rule Book online, go to ASCA.org, click the Quick Links tab on the right side, choose Rules & Forms, then choose Rule Books, and then choose MVA/HOF/VCH/PCH Rules.

21.2 MVA Competition Conflicts

Dogs entered in Versatility often encounter competition conflicts. When a conflict is encountered, conformation takes priority. MVA/MVJ competitors must notify all ring/arena stewards 30 minutes before the class starts to get scheduling worked out. The MVA/MVJ Chairperson will be available to help work out conflicts with the event chairpersons and stewards, but ultimately, it is the competitors' responsibility to make sure they complete their runs before the rings/arenas close. All arenas and rings will have clearly posted times and arenas and rings will not be closed before the posted time.

21.23 Bitches in Season

- A. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must run last in Obedience or in a separate ring at the option of the Nationals Committee. Bitches in season must wear pants in and around the rings. Consult Section 1.13 of the ASCA Obedience Rules and Regulations for complete rules.
- B. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must run last in Tracking and will be kept away from the Tracking area until called.
- C. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Stockdog Trial.
- D. Bitches in season entered in Versatility are allowed to compete at the National Agility Trial. Please consult ~~Chapter 9 Section 2~~ 13.3 of the ASCA Agility Rules and Regulations for complete rules.
- E. Bitches in season entered in Versatility are allowed to compete for MVA points only at the National Rally Trial. Please consult 14.4 and 14.5 of the ASCA Rally Program Rules for complete rules.

21.34 Memorial Trophies

~~These awards are in memory of these former Directors and are provided and awarded by ASCA when the awards for MVA and MVJ are presented.~~

- ~~A. ASCA Awards a memorial trophy in the name of Jean Carrillo each year at the ASCA National Specialty to the winner of Most Versatile Aussie. This award is in addition to the trophy offered by the Nationals Committee.~~
- ~~B. ASCA Awards a memorial trophy in the name of Sandy Tubbs each year at the ASCA National Specialty to the winner of Most Versatile Junior. This award is in addition to the trophy offered by the Nationals Committee.~~

The Most Versatile Aussie and Most Versatile Junior awards will be presented each year at the Nationals Banquet. The Joseph Hartnagle Memorial Award and the Jean and Bob Carrillo Memorial Award will be presented to the Most Versatile Aussie. The Sandy Tubbs Memorial Award will be presented to the Most Versatile Junior. These three awards are in addition to the rosettes and awards offered by the Nationals Committee.

21.45 Versatility Record Keeper

One person will be solely responsible for versatility record-keeping from start to finish. The individual's name will be supplied to the Board with the first draft of the Premium List.

Comments/Rationale: There are various portions of Section 21 that are out-of-date, and we are adding wording to ensure that MVA and MVJ competitors have an easier time of completing their competitive runs.

Affected: Persons competing in MVA and MVJ at future Nationals, starting in 2024; Nationals Chairpersons and stewards who manage the Rally, Stockdog, Obedience and Agility National competitions

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval, to take effect for the 2024 ASCA National Specialty and to be included in the 2024 ASCA Nationals Specialty premium.

Obedience Committee

OB.24.02 Allowable Artwork on Dumbbells, Articles, and Gloves

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

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

Committee Recommendation: Allowable artwork on dumbbells, articles, and gloves.

Motion by Juliet Gentile to allow specified decorations and artwork on dumbbells, articles, and gloves as proposed in the following. Seconded by Hilary Hines.

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

Current Wording:

4.6.4 RETRIEVE ON THE FLAT

...

The dumbbell, which must be approved by the judge, shall be made of one or more solid pieces of one of the heavy hardwoods, or of a rigid or semi-rigid firm, non-toxic, non-wooded material, similar in size, shape, color and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells shall not be hollowed out. It may be unfinished, or coated with a clear finish, or may be of any color. It shall have no decorations or attachments but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell shall be proportionate to the size of the dog. The judge shall require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if, in their opinion, it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side, or too close to the edge of the ring.

Proposed Wording:

4.6.4 RETRIEVE ON THE FLAT

...

The dumbbell, which must be approved by the judge, shall be made of one or more solid pieces of one of the heavy hardwoods, or of a rigid or semi-rigid firm, non-toxic, non-wooded material, similar in size, shape, color and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells shall not be hollowed out. It may be unfinished, or coated with a clear finish, or may be of any color. It shall have no ~~decorations or~~ attachments but may ~~bear an inconspicuous mark for identification~~ display identifying marks or artwork, including the person's name and the dog's call name or picture. Titles may not be displayed. The size of the dumbbell shall be proportionate to the size of the dog. The judge shall require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if, in their opinion, it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side, or too close to the edge of the ring.

Current Wording:

5.8 SCENT DISCRIMINATION

...

In each of these two exercises the dog must select by scent alone and retrieve an article that has been handled by its handler. The articles shall be provided by the handler and shall consist of two sets, each comprised of five identical objects not more than 6 inches in length, which may be items of everyday use. The articles may be made of metal, leather, or wood. The handler will choose two of these three materials. The metal set shall be made entirely of rigid metal, the leather set shall be of such design that nothing, but leather is visible except for the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the object together, and the wood set shall be made entirely of one or more solid wood pieces. The articles in each set must be legibly numbered, each with a different number, and must be approved by the judge.

...

Proposed Wording:

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...

Current Wording:

5.10 DIRECTED RETRIEVE

The principal features of the exercise are that the dog stays until directed to retrieve, that it goes directly to the designated glove, and that it retrieves promptly. The orders for the exercise are "One", "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish." In this exercise, the handler will provide three predominantly white, cotton work gloves, which must be open and must be approved by the judge. The handler will stand with their back to the unobstructed end of the ring with their dog sitting in the Heel position midway between and in line with the two jumps. The judge or steward will then drop the three gloves across the end of the ring, while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction, one glove in each corner and one in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring and for the corner gloves, about 3 feet from the side of the ring. All three gloves will be clearly visible to the dog and handler, when the handler turns to face the glove designated by the judge. There shall be no table or chair at this end of the ring.

...

Proposed Wording:

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The principal features of the exercise are that the dog stays until directed to retrieve, that it goes directly to the designated glove, and that it retrieves promptly. The orders for the exercise are "One", "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish." In this exercise, the handler will provide three predominantly white, cotton work gloves, which must be open and must be approved by the judge. The gloves shall have no attachments but may display identifying marks or artwork, including the person's name and the dog's call name or picture. Titles may not be displayed. The handler will stand with their back to the unobstructed end of the ring with their dog sitting in the Heel position midway between and in line with the two jumps. The judge or steward will then drop the three gloves across the end of the ring, while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction, one glove in each corner and one in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring and for the corner gloves, about 3 feet from the side of the ring. All three gloves will be clearly visible to the dog and handler, when the handler turns to face the glove designated by the judge. There shall be no table or chair at this end of the ring.

...

Comments/Rationale: The rules around equipment are currently very restrictive. The proposed wording would allow for exhibitors to add personal embellishments without revealing any information the judge does not already know. Moreover, these changes would neither help nor hinder performance of the exercises.

Affected: Exhibitors would be allowed to use a wider variety of equipment. It would also allow them to use the same equipment allowed in other venues so they would not need to purchase additional equipment to participate in ASCA Obedience. Judges will still need to verify that the artwork & equipment meet the requirements set forth in the proposed language.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Rally Committee

RA.24.10 Clarification of Nationals and Finals Rally Judge Selection

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

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion 24.10 Clarification of Section 15.2 Judge Selection Process.

To clarify the time line for which the Rally finals Judges are chosen and the time line for which National Rally Trial judges selection. Also to separate Rally finals judges selection, and National Rally Trial judge selection.

Motion by Diana Curl, by the direction for the ASCA BOD, to propose the following wording to further clarify Rally finals Judge selection process and time line, and separate it from the National Rally Trail judges selection timeline and process. Seconded by Cynthia Hokes.

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

Current Wording:

15.2 Judge Selection Process

- A. The timeline for selecting Rally Finals and National Specialty judges shall be as follows.
 1. June 15 - July 1st (of the year prior to the event) – deadline for the ASCA Business Office to email a letter of interest to all Senior and Nationals Judges.
 2. July 15th (of the year prior to the event) – deadline for return of letter of interest via email to the Business Office.
 3. August 1st (of the year prior to the event) – a list of available judges shall be provided to the Rally Committee Chair.
 4. No later than August 15th (of the year prior to the event) – a proposed slate of judges for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial shall be provided to the ASCA National Specialty Committee Chairperson.
- B. Between June 15th and July 1st of the year prior to the event, the ASCA Business Office shall send a letter of interest to all Senior and National Judges. Senior Judges will indicate interest and availability to judge Rally Finals and/or the National Rally Trial. National Judges will indicate interest and availability to judge the National Rally Trial. Senior and National Judges must return their letters of interest to the Business Office via email no later than July 15th of the year prior to the event. Judges who do not email a letter of interest to the Business Office by the deadline will not be considered in the selection process.
- C. Judge selection for Rally Finals and the National Rally Trial will be made by the Rally Committee Chair (or an assigned committee representative) and the Rally Finals and National Secretary for the event being selected. Selections will be made from the letters of interest emailed to the Business Office by the deadline.
 1. If the Rally Committee Chair submits a letter of interest to judge one of the showcase events, the selection of judges will be made by the upcoming Rally Finals and National Secretary and the previous year's Rally Finals and National Secretary.

2. Two Judges will be selected to Judge Rally Finals and two Judges will be selected to judge the National Rally Trial. In addition to the two Judges selected to judge Rally Finals, an Alternate Judge will also be selected in case one of the Rally Finals Judges is unable to fulfill their duties. An Alternate Judge will also be selected for the National Rally Trial, should one of the National Rally Trial Judges not be able to judge. Alternate Judge selections for both events will be made from the letters of interest submitted.
3. In the unlikely event that more than one alternate is needed for one of the showcase events, the Selection Committee will make further replacements from the letters of interest submitted by the deadline. If there are no more letters of interest available to select a replacement judge, the Emergency Replacement Guidelines in the Rally Rulebook will be used. Any judge hired through the use of the Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the requirements listed in Chapter 15.1 Eligibility to Judge.

Proposed Wording:

15.2 Judge Selection Process

- A. **RALLY FINALS:** The timeline for selecting Rally Finals ~~and National Specialty~~ judges shall be as follows.
 1. ~~June 15 – July 1st (of the year prior to the event) – deadline for the ASCA Business Office to email a letter of interest to all Senior and Nationals Judges.~~
Between March 1st-April 1st of the year prior to the event, the ASCA Business Office shall send a letter of interest to all Senior Judges.
 2. ~~July 15th (of the year prior to the event) – deadline for return of letter of interest via email to the Business Office.~~
Senior Judges will indicate interest and availability to judge Rally Finals by returning their letter of interest to the Business Office, via email, by April 15th of the year prior to the event. Judges who do not email a letter of interest to the Business Office by the deadline will not be considered in the selection process.
 3. ~~August 1st (of the year prior to the event) – a list of available judges shall be provided to the Rally Committee Chair.~~
Judge selection for Rally Finals Trial will be made by the Rally Committee Chair (or an assigned committee representative) and the Rally Finals and National Secretary for the event being selected. Selections will be made from the letters of interest emailed to the Business Office by the deadline. If the Rally Committee Chair submits a letter of interest to judge Rally Finals, the selection of judges will be made by the upcoming Rally Finals and National Secretary and the previous year's Rally Finals and National Secretary. Two Judges will be selected to judge Rally Finals.
 4. In addition to the 2 Judges selected to judge Rally Finals, an Alternate Judge will also be selected in case one of the Rally Finals Judges is unable to fulfill their duties. The Alternate Judge selection will be made from the letters of interest submitted. In the unlikely event, more than one alternate is needed for one of the showcase events, the Selection Committee will make further replacements from the letters of interest submitted by the deadline. If there are no more letters of interest available to select a replacement judge, the Emergency Replacement Guidelines in the Rally Rulebook will be used. Any judge hired through the use of the Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the requirements listed in Chapter 15.1 Eligibility to Judge.
 5. No later than ~~August 15th~~ May 5th (of the year prior to the event) – a the proposed slate of judges for Rally Finals ~~and the National Rally Trial~~ shall be provided to the ASCA National Specialty Committee Chairperson.
- B. **NATIONAL RALLY TRIAL:** The timeline for selecting National Specialty judges shall be as follows.
 1. Between June 15th and July 1st of the year prior to the event, the ASCA Business Office shall send a letter of interest to all Senior and National Judges.
 2. ~~Senior Judges will indicate interest and availability to judge Rally Finals and/or the National Rally Trial.~~ Senior and National Judges will indicate interest and availability to judge the National Rally Trial. Senior and National Judges must return their letters of interest to the Business Office via email no later than July 15th of the year prior to the event. Judges who do not email a letter of interest to the Business Office by the deadline will not be considered in the selection process.

3. Judge selection for ~~Rally Finals and~~ the National Rally Trial will be made by the Rally Committee Chair (or an assigned committee representative) and the Rally Finals and National Secretary for the event being selected. Selections will be made from the letters of interest emailed to the Business Office by the deadline. If the Rally Committee Chair submits a letter of interest to judge ~~one of the showcase events~~ the National Rally trial, the selection of judges will be made by the upcoming Rally Finals and National Secretary and the previous year's Rally Finals and National Secretary. Two Judges will be selected to judge ~~Rally Finals and two Judges will be selected to judge~~ the National Rally Trial. ~~In addition to the two Judges selected to judge Rally Finals, an Alternate Judge will also be selected in case one of the Rally Finals Judges is unable to fulfill their duties.~~
4. In addition to the two Judges selected to judge Rally Finals, an Alternate Judge will also be selected for the National Rally Trial, should one of the National Rally Trial Judges not be able to judge. Alternate Judge selections ~~for both events~~ will be made from the letters of interest submitted. In the unlikely event that more than one alternate is needed for one of the showcase events, the Selection Committee will make further replacements from the letters of interest submitted by the deadline. If there are no more letters of interest available to select a replacement judge, the Emergency Replacement Guidelines in the Rally Rulebook will be used. Any judge hired through the use of the Emergency Replacement guidelines must meet the requirements listed in Chapter 15.1 Eligibility to Judge.
5. No later than August 15th (of the year prior to the event) - the proposed slate of judges for the National Rally Trial shall be provided to the ASCA National Specialty Committee Chairperson.

Comments/Rationale: A member of the BOD identified that the timeline previously approved by the BOD in November 2023, does not meet the guidelines in which to select the Rally finals Judges prior to the end of the merit year. The timeline for choosing the National Rally Trial judges is good as previously proposed. The BOD requested the committee revised this motion, and also separating the two categories for further clarity. Due to the current timing issues involved , the "due by" dates for Rally Finals Judges selection may need re-evaluation going forward.

Affected: The Business Office will be affected by having a separate time line for sending Judges invites for participation letters for both Rally Finals and National Rally Trials. Judges will be affected as they will now have more time to consider Judging the National Rally Trial not having to commit during the timeline for the Rally Finals judging selection.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Stockdog Committee

SD.24.05 Correction to Total Score Calculation for Stockdog Finals

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

Motion by Liaison Sims to amend motion SD 24.03 to read as follows:

Current Wording: Approved 2/27/2024

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 three single scores from each stock the first two Elimination go-rounds and three scores per stock class 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 ~~three~~ **two** single scores from each stock the first two Elimination go-rounds and three scores per stock class from the Final go-round.

Comments/Rationale: The motion was submitted with the error of 3 single scores from the elimination round and there are only 2.

Affected: Stockdog Finals contestants, rulebook readers.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

SD.24.06 Alternate Nationals and Finals Judges

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

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Sue Kelly to add alternate judge language to the rulebook. Seconded by Regina Bures. The SDC was tasked to add language to our rules on selecting alternate judges for Finals and the National trial.

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

Current Wording:

Chapter 24. ASCA Stockdog Finals

24.8.3 FAILURE TO SECURE THREE FINALS JUDGES

If three Finals Judges cannot be secured from the pool of judges meeting the qualifications in Section 24.8.2, the qualifications will be waived in the order they are listed to increase the number of judges in the pool.

Example: Waive 24.8.2 #1 to see if more judges are available. If not, waive 24.8.2 #2, etc. until three Judges are hired to judge Stockdog Finals.

24.8.4 DRAWING FOR SELECTION

The Board of Directors will perform a random draw of all Stockdog Judges who satisfy the qualifications listed in Section 24.8.2. The random draw will be done at the General Membership Meeting held at the National Specialty Event. The selection process will be done once in full view of any who wish to attend the meeting. All names will be shown in the order of the draw at the meeting, and then posted to the ASCA Website and any ASCA approved e-mail list.

The first nine names will be supplied to the Host Club in no order to choose and hire three judges for Stockdog Finals. If three judges cannot be secured from this list, and all nine judges have been asked and more than six decline the offer, the Host Club will be provided with the next single (10th) Judge's name, in the order of the original random draw. If the next (10th) Judge declines the offer, the next (11th) Judge's name, in the order of the original random draw, will be provided. This will continue in the order of the original random draw, one name at a time, until all three positions are filled. Each additional Judge must be asked and decline before moving to the next name on the list.

If a Judge withdraws after being hired as one of the three Finals Judges, the next Judge, in the order of the random draw, will be provided to the Host Club. This will be repeated as many times as necessary if more than one judge withdraws from the original three chosen. Each additional Judge must be asked and decline before the next name is provided to the Host Club.

A reason must be provided to the Board of Directors by the Host Club explaining why an additional Judge, beyond the original three is needed. Note: The Nationals working trial Judges do not have to come from this list.

Chapter 25. ASCA National Specialty

25.1 Selection of Judges

The Course Director for the National Specialty Stockdog Trial will be responsible for selecting and hiring the Judges. The Course Director for each pre-trial held during the National Specialty will be responsible for selecting and hiring Judges for their pre-trial.

When Judging the National Specialty and any pre-trial held during the National Specialty, the following rules vary from a regular trial event.

- A. To judge the National Specialty, the Judge must have been approved to move out of the Provisional Status and be a Regular Judge before accepting the assignment. Provisional Judges may judge a pre-trial held during the National Specialty.
- B. An Apprentice Judge may not apprentice at either the National Specialty or any pre-trial held during the National Specialty.
- C. The Judges do not need to be the same Judges who judged the Stockdog Finals.

Proposed Wording:

Chapter 24. ASCA Stockdog Finals

24.8.3 FAILURE TO SECURE THREE FINALS JUDGES

If three Finals Judges and an alternate cannot be secured from the pool of judges meeting the qualifications in Section 24.8.2, the qualifications will be waived in the order they are listed to increase the number of judges in the pool. Example: Waive 24.8.2 #1 to see if more judges are available. If not, waive 24.8.2 #2, etc. until three Judges and an alternate are hired to judge Stockdog Finals.

24.8.4 DRAWING FOR SELECTION

The Board of Directors will perform a random draw of all Stockdog Judges who satisfy the qualifications listed in Section 24.8.2. The random draw will be done at the General Membership Meeting held at the National Specialty Event. The selection process will be done once in full view of any who wish to attend the meeting. All names will be shown in the order of the draw at the meeting, and then posted to the ASCA Website and any ASCA approved e-mail list.

The first nine names will be supplied to the Host Club in no order to choose and hire three judges and an alternate for Stockdog Finals. If three judges and an alternate cannot be secured from this list, and all nine judges have been asked and more than ~~six~~ five decline the offer, the Host Club will be provided with the next single (10th) Judge's name, in the order of the original random draw. If the next (10th) Judge declines the offer, the next (11th) Judge's name, in the order of the original random draw, will be provided. This will continue in the order of the original random draw, one name at a time, until all ~~three~~ four positions are filled. Each additional Judge must be asked and decline before moving to the next name on the list.

If a Judge withdraws after being hired as one of the three Finals Judges, the next Judge, in the order of the random draw, will be provided to the Host Club. This will be repeated as many times as necessary if more than one judge withdraws from the original ~~three~~ four chosen. Each additional Judge must be asked and decline before the next name is provided to the Host Club.

A reason must be provided to the Board of Directors by the Host Club explaining why an additional Judge, beyond the original ~~three~~ four is needed. Note: The Nationals working trial Judges do not have to come from this list.

Chapter 25. ASCA National Specialty

25.1 Selection of Judges

The Course Director for the National Specialty Stockdog Trial will be responsible for selecting and hiring the Judges and alternates for each stock. The Course Director for each pre-trial held during the National Specialty will be responsible for selecting and hiring Judges for their pre-trial.

When Judging the National Specialty and any pre-trial held during the National Specialty, the following rules vary from a regular trial event.

- A. To judge the National Specialty, the Judge must have been approved to move out of the Provisional Status and be a Regular Judge before accepting the assignment. Provisional Judges may judge a pre-trial held during the National Specialty.

- B. An Apprentice Judge may not apprentice at either the National Specialty or any pre-trial held during the National Specialty.
- C. The Judges do not need to be the same Judges who judged the Stockdog Finals.

Comments/Rationale: The BOD requested that the SDC add 'alternate judge' language to the rulebook. I have highlighted the added language and used strikethrough for deletions.

Affected: Course Director for the Stockdog Finals and the Course Director for the National Trial.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

SD.24.07 Separate Guidelines from Stockdog Rule Book

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

- **Dissent from Director Wesen:** Rules are in guidelines that didn't get moved to rulebook.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Sue Kelly to remove the Guidelines from the Stockdog Rulebook to a downloadable PDF file. See attached. Seconded by Devona Pierce.

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

Current Wording: See ASCA Stockdog Rules.

Proposed Wording: See attached.

No changes have been made to these rules as these are just guidelines to the rules when they were made by committee.

Comments/Rationale: This will allow for condensing of the printing of the Stockdog Rule book but allow judges to print off Guidelines if needed for reference.

Affected: Webmaster, Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Attachment: Stockdog Rulebook Guidelines.pdf

ASCA Stockdog Program Guidelines

This document is a compilation of guidelines that were interspersed in the Stockdog Rulebook.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 1.1 Purpose

Ideal Stock Dog: The purpose of a stockdog is to take the place of a person's work, accomplishing what is needed without damage, undue stress, or danger to the stock. The proper frame of reference for judges and exhibitors evaluating the dog's work should be "what is best for the stock."

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 5.2 Promptness

It is up to the contestant to make sure the judge has their correct armband number and division in which they are trialing before they start the run.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 6.1.2 Non-Regular Classes

The ideal herding dog is one that can handle the stock in the best and most efficient way for that particular stock while working in harmony with the handler. To minimize stress and weight loss, the best pace for stock is a walk or jog; therefore, the ideal dog will adjust their pace to the stock and not push them unduly. It is understood that sometimes stock will run upon finding themselves loose in an arena with a dog. The dog must then work to establish control to get and keep the stock bunched. When control is established, the dog should back off and give the stock a chance to slow their pace. Dogs that charge, chase, stampede, and continually split the stock are to be excused. The ideal dog is alert to every move of the stock but is responsive to the handler's commands. The dog should display a natural concern for keeping the stock together and, therefore, will remain in contact with the stock at all times. Being in contact with the stock does not necessarily mean gripping. The dog will show calm self-confidence, and the ability to employ an appropriate amount of force for each situation, such as gripping heads or heels, when necessary.

Cattle: The ideal cattle dog works closer to the cattle using wear, correct positioning, power, and grip to keep them grouped and moving. More power (not to be mistaken for unnecessary gripping) is usually needed to move or stop cattle. Cattle should not be run through the course, but neither should they be allowed to drift at their leisure by a dog out of contact due to lack of power.

Sheep: The ideal sheep dog should work sheep cautiously and with as little physical contact as is necessary. The degree of lightness of the sheep will determine how far off the dog should be working. The lighter the sheep, the further off the dog should be, the stickier the sheep, the closer the dog will have to work. With sticky sheep, a grip on the heels may be necessary. If a dog encounters fighting sheep, which do not yield when the dog stands their ground, then a head grip may be justified. In most cases body biting or wool pulling are unnecessary and can result in time being called on the contestant.

Ducks: The ideal duck dog works well back off the ducks and moves them slowly and smoothly. Gripping, running over, or pouncing on ducks is unnecessary and is grounds for excusal. Nudging a duck with the nose is acceptable in a case where the duck refuses to move for the dog.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 6.2.1 Divisions

Below are general guidelines of what is expected of Started, Open, Advanced, Post Advanced, Novice and Junior dogs. Keep in mind that the stock will play a major role in the smoothness of the run. The more difficult the stock, the rougher the run may look.

The Started Dogs: The Started Dog has had little or no trial experience, though they should have control over their stock and be under the control of the handler. The Started dogs should have the beginning of side commands, a walk on, and a stop. This division is not intended for testing a dog's instinct. Dogs entered in this division with little or no control do great harm to themselves, the stock, and to those who have to work after them and try to gain control over stressed stock. Handler lines were added to the program to show both fetch and driving work by the dog. The Started dogs do not have a handler's line. Therefore, the started dog is allowed to work the course in whatever way is advantageous for the dog and handler. They may either drive or fetch the course (or a combination of both), with no point losses as long as the dog is in control of the stock and under control of the handler.

The Open Dogs: These dogs should be able to control and rate their stock. The commands for left, right, slow down, and stop should be solid. These dogs should have a parallel drive, the start of a drive, and a good fetch. Response to commands should be smooth, and the dog should be working at a greater distance from the handler.

The Advanced Dogs: The Advanced dogs should be able to work efficiently at any distance from the handler. The handler and dog should be exhibiting good teamwork with the dog showing proper responses to commands and the handler allowing the dog to take the initiative to think on its own. These dogs should have a cross-drive, drive, and take any necessary commands to get the job done. These dogs should be able to handle all types of stock from light to heavy with maximum control and minimum stress.

The Post Advanced Dogs: The Post Advanced dogs should be able to work efficiently at any distance from the handler without the aid of a fence line. These dogs should be able to handle all types of stock from light to heavy with maximum control and minimum stress.

The Junior Handler: This class is for juniors up through seventeen years of age using any dog from an untitled dog to a Working Trial Champion (WTCH). The handler is judged on their ability to control the dog, course knowledge, ability to read livestock, dog and handler teamwork, and attitude. Ringside coaching is allowed, but points will be deducted.

The Novice Handler: This class is for adults over seventeen years of age using any dog from an untitled dog to a Working Trial Champion (WTCH). The handler is judged on their ability to control the dog, course knowledge, ability to read livestock, dog and handler teamwork, and attitude. Ringside coaching is allowed, but points will be deducted.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 8.1.3 Size of Duck/Geese Arena and Time Allowed Per Run

Equipment:

1. Panels - All panels shall be readily visible and made of sturdy material.
2. Gates - All gates must hinge allowing for easy swing of the gate.
3. Fencing - All fencing shall be made of suitable material to permit the livestock to work without chance of injury.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 8.2.10 Failure to Complete the Course

Any contestant may call time on themselves at any time, and it is highly appreciated if the situation warrants it. Once a handler calls time on their run, the dog is immediately put back on leash and handler and dog should exit the arena. The Judge will assign this run a "no score" and write on the score sheet "HCT" (Handler Called Time). All contestants may re-pen at any time and receive a score.

Our different courses offer a variety of ways to begin the run: Course B has the Gather, Course A has the Take Pen, Course C, D, E, and F may use either take pen or gather.

Neither the center chute nor the free-standing pen needs to be completed in order to receive a qualifying score in any division. The center obstacle is for Open and Advanced dogs only.

Runaway Lines: Each time two or more head of stock break back over a runaway line, it is considered an attempt for the obstacle being worked.

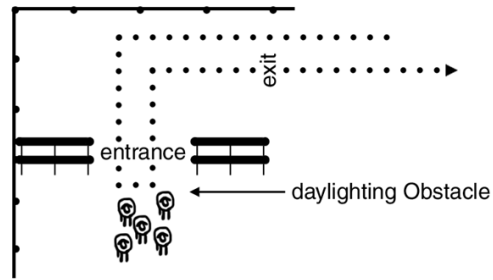
A maximum of two attempts are allowed at each obstacle no matter what course is being used. A handler may move on to the next obstacle after one legitimate attempt. Before moving on, it is advisable to inform the Judge that you are doing so. If the Judge does not believe that a "legitimate" attempt was made at the obstacle, they may immediately ask the handler to reattempt that obstacle. If the stock never goes through the obstacle, it is up to the Judge to determine if the work the dog does near an obstacle is to be counted as an attempt at that obstacle. When the Judge has determined that two attempts have been made, they will inform the handler, and the handler must then move on to the next obstacle. It may be considered an attempt when:

1. The dog is working, and the stock just slips by the obstacle.
2. The stock only makes it to the Advanced Handler line before they sneak around the dog and return to the re-pen end of the arena.
3. If the stock has gone up the wrong side of the arena twice.
4. Two or more head of stock crossed a "runaway line."
5. The Judge may also move a handler on to the next obstacle when:
 - a. The handler has not moved on after two attempts.
 - b. After a reasonable length of time has passed with no progress being made toward the obstacle.

Warnings: A three-minute warning before the time ends will be given for sheep and cattle and a two-minute warning before the time ends will be given for ducks. When a warning is given by the Judge or timekeeper, the handler must

acknowledge that they have heard the warning by raising their hand. Judges may ask a contestant to re-pen stock rather than call time and still give a score.

Daylighting: If for some reason the stock goes into the obstacles through the exit, they must be brought clear out of the obstacle and back into the obstacle through the entrance in order to receive Course points (see illustration). This includes all the obstacles, including the center chute. At least one head of stock must clear the entrance of the obstacle before being turned back around for Course points to count. However, only those head of stock that clear the daylight line will count for Course points.



Examples of possible point losses for ability to control stock:

- Splitting stock.
- Excessive weaving of stock.
- Leaving one or more head of stock behind.
- Circling stock.
- Excessive running of stock.
- Excessive barking.
- Dog keeps looking at handler.
- Purposely driving stock to the back fence before starting the lift and fetch (on a gather).
- Undue stress to stock caused by dog or handler.
- Losing control of stock.
- "Drift" - when dog is out of contact with the stock and the stock wanders through the obstacle(s) despite the dog.
- Dog sniffing ground or eating grass, dirt, etc., and avoiding working.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 9.1.1 Course A Arena

The following guidelines were made with the ideal run of the Advanced Trial Dog in mind and with absolutely no consideration given to the degree of difficulty of the stock. Obviously, the judge will have to modify their expectations of the Started and Open dogs and take the nature of the stock into consideration.

The Start: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 15

Take Pen: Course A has a Take Pen. Scoring begins from when the handler opens the gate and ends when the stock successfully clears the opening of the take pen, and the take pen gate is closed.

Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) brought out the first time. The handler may enter the take pen with the dog and earn course points. If the handler takes the stock out of the pen without the dog, course points may still be earned.

Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished. Taking stock out of the take pen should be smooth and easy with the dog going to the fence line to allow the stock maximum opportunity to find the opening. The dog should have a confident approach to the stock and show an understanding of bringing the entire herd out of the pen. Control points may be lost for:

- Handler taking stock out of the pen without the dog.
- Handler entering the pen to assist the dog.
- Dog holding the stock in the take pen.
- Dog busting through the middle of the herd while they are still in the pen or as they come out of the pen.
- Not bringing all the stock out of the pen at the same time.

Drive/Fetch Through Obstacle 1: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 20

Scoring begins at the completion of the take pen and ends when the stock exits the first obstacle or after two attempts have been made. Course A is a counterclockwise course and should have stock moving towards obstacle 1 on the right side of the center chute. Scoring begins when the take pen gate is closed and ends when at least one head of stock passes through an imaginary line which is drawn from the end of the panel nearest obstacle 2, to the back fence.

Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that complete the drive/fetch and obstacle 1. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished but may be lost if the stock is driven/fetched down the left (wrong) side. The dog may either start the drive/fetch immediately after taking the stock from the take pen or may hold up the stock while the handler closes the gate and then start the drive/fetch. The drive/fetch should show control by the dog over the stock as

the dog takes the stock directly from the pen to obstacle 1. The dog's awareness of the entire herd and its ability to control the stock when deviating from this pattern is essential. Appropriate force should be used to keep the stock moving in the proper direction. The dog's ability to turn back animals breaking away and keep their herd together at the beginning of their run is important. The stock should go through obstacle 1 in a counterclockwise direction with minimum stress to the stock. The dog's ability to keep all the stock on the fence and moving at the entrance is important. Their ability to keep the drive/fetch going at this point will prevent the stock from stopping at the corner. The dog should be able to turn back stock trying to go on the wrong side of the obstacle.

Example of point losses on the drive/fetch:

- Losing control after the stock comes out of the pen.
- Stopping the drive by turning them around and heading them back to the pen.
- Out of contact with stock/drift.

The stock continues in a counterclockwise direction from obstacle 1. Scoring begins as the stock exit panel 1 and ends when at least one head of stock passes through an imaginary line which is drawn from the end of the panel nearest obstacle 1, to the back fence.

Cross-Drive/Fetch Through Obstacle 2: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 25

Scoring starts when the stock exit obstacle 1 (as described above), and ends when the stock exit obstacle 2, or after two attempts have been made. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) put through the obstacle by the dog the first time they go through, and Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished. Ideally, the stock should go from the exit of obstacle 1 directly to obstacle 2 and through the obstacle with minimum stress to the stock. The dog's ability to make a cross-drive from obstacle 1 to obstacle 2 exhibits their ability to prevent problems from occurring when daylight is seen between the stock and the obstacle after exiting obstacle 1. This task often involves the actions of turning stock back that break away down the arena. The dog should be able to control these animals without simply following them to the other end of the arena and bringing them back again. After entering obstacle 2, it is important the dog show control and obedience to allow the entire herd to progress through the exit, rather than part of them breaking back around the ends of the obstacle. The stock continues in a counterclockwise direction from obstacle 1. Scoring begins as the stock exit panel 1 and ends when at least one head of stock passes through an imaginary line which is drawn from the end of the panel nearest obstacle 1, to the back fence.

Set-up and Work at Center Obstacle: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 30

Neither the center chute nor the free-standing pen needs to be completed in order to receive a qualifying score in any division. The center obstacle is for Open and Advanced dogs only. Scoring begins when stock exit obstacle 2 and ends when at least one head of stock passes through an imaginary line which is drawn at the exit of the chute or after two attempts have been made.

Course points are received for the number of head (or %) the dog put through the chute the first time through. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from obstacle 2 directly to and through the chute. Additional control point losses may result from excessive handler assistance such as too much use of crook or pushing stock.

Control To and Re-pen: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 10

Scoring begins after the last attempted obstacle and ends when the handler closes the re-pen gate. Once the re-pen gate is open no further points can be given on any other part of the course and the dog should move the stock as efficiently as possible to the re-pen.

Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that dog put into the re-pen. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the last attempted obstacle, center chute, or free-standing pen directly to the re-pen with minimum stress on the stock. It makes sense to move the stock away from the gate before opening it.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 10.1.1 Course B Arena

The following guidelines were made with the ideal run of the Advanced Trial Dog in mind and with absolutely no consideration given to the degree of difficulty of the stock. Obviously, the judge will have to modify their expectations of the Started and Open dogs and take the nature of the stock into consideration.

The Start: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 15

Course B has a Gather: Scoring begins when the dog is released and ends when the dog moves the stock past the Advanced Handler's line. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) completing the gather. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

The gather should show the ability of the dog to put all the stock together into a controlled bunch. The dog should come around the stock as wide as necessary to keep the stock calm and quiet. If the stock is on the fence line when the dog is sent on the gather, and it is necessary to bring them off the fence, the dog should demonstrate the ability to go between the fence and the stock in a controlled manner. Once the dog has put all the stock together into a controlled bunch the handler will start the drive/fetch to the first obstacle. The stock does not need to be brought directly to the handler but may be brought in a straight line toward obstacle 1. Control points may be lost for:

- Splitting stock.
- Excessive weaving of the stock.
- Leaving some stock behind.
- Circling stock.
- Excessive running of stock.
- Excessive barking.
- Dog keeps looking at handler.
- Holding stock on the back fence.
- Deliberate driving of stock to the back fence before setting up the stock for the drive/fetch (shows no gather).

Started Handler's Position: There are no restrictions. A handler may start their gather from whatever position or distance is best for their dogs. A handler may leave their dog anywhere in the arena and reposition themselves before they send their dog. The dogs may be left on lead until the stock is settled in the arena for the gather. Once the handler feels they are ready to start the leash must come off the dog.

Open Handler's Position: At no time can the Open Handler cross the Open Handler's line without a 15-point loss. A handler may start their gather from whatever position or distance is best for their dog on the re-pen side of the Open Handlers Line. A handler may leave their dog anywhere (as long as the handler and dog are on the re-pen side of the Open Handlers Line) in the arena and reposition themselves before they send their dog. The dog may be left on lead until the stock is settled in the arena for the gather. Once the handler feels they are ready to start, the leash must come off the dog.

Advanced Handler's Position: For Course B, the handler must stand next to the free-standing pen on the re-pen side of the Advanced Handler's Line when sending the dog on the gather. Handlers may stand on either side of the pen. On any course if the handler does cross the Handler's Line, they will lose 50% of their total score. Once the dog has been sent, the advanced handler is free to move about on the re-pen side of the Advanced Handler Line.

Drive/Fetch Through Obstacle 1: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 20

This is a clockwise course and should have stock moving towards obstacle 1 on the left side of the center pen. Scoring begins when the stock crosses the Advanced Handlers Line and ends when at least one head of stock passes through an imaginary line which is drawn from the end of the panel nearest obstacle 1, to the back fence.

Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that complete the drive/fetch and obstacle 1. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished but may be lost if the stock is driven/fetched down the right (wrong) side.

Ideally, the dog should have control of the stock at the end of the gather and take the stock directly to obstacle 1 (see Course A Drive/Fetch description). The stock should go through obstacle 1 in a clockwise direction with minimum stress to the stock. The dog's ability to keep all the stock on the fence and moving at the entrance is important. Their ability to keep the drive/fetch going at this point will prevent the stock from stopping at the corner. The dog should be able to turn back stock trying to go on the wrong side of the obstacle.

Example of point losses on the drive/fetch:

- Losing control after the stock comes out of the pen.
- Stopping the drive by turning them around and heading them back to the pen.
- Out of contact with stock/drift.

The stock continues in a clockwise direction from obstacle 1. Scoring begins as the stock exit panel 1 and ends when at least one head of stock passes through an imaginary line which is drawn from the end of the panel nearest obstacle 2, to the back fence. Advanced: Course points will be awarded only for the stock completing the obstacle prior to the handler crossing over the Advanced Handlers line to open the center pen's gate.

Cross-Drive/Fetch Through Obstacle 2: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 25

Scoring starts when the stock exit obstacle 1 (as described above), and ends when the stock exit obstacle 2, or after two attempts have been made. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) put through the obstacle by the dog the first time they go through, and Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the exit of obstacle 1 directly to obstacle 2 and through the obstacle with minimum stress to the stock. The dog's ability to make a cross-drive from obstacle 1 to obstacle 2 exhibits their ability to prevent problems from occurring when the stock has cleared the exit of obstacle 1. This task often involves the actions of turning stock back that break back down the arena. The dog should be able to control these animals without simply following them to the other end of the arena and bringing them back again. After entering obstacle 2, it is important the dog show control and obedience to allow the entire herd to progress through the exit, rather than part of them breaking back around the ends of the obstacle.

Set-up and Work at Center Obstacle: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 30

The free-standing pen does not need to be completed in order to receive a qualifying score in any division. The center obstacle is for Open and Advanced dogs only. Scoring begins after at least one head of stock passes obstacle 2 and ends when one or more head of stock enters the pen and the gate is closed, or until after two attempts have been made.

Ideally, the stock should go from obstacle 2 directly into the freestanding pen with minimum stress to the stock. The handler may not open the center pen gate until obstacle 2 has been attempted or completed. While working on the free-standing pen, a handler may move around the arena, but may never cross over the Open Handlers Line without a score deduction (50% for Advanced, 15 points deducted for Open). There are no restrictions on where a handler must stand while working the center pen, nor must a handler maintain a hold on the gate.

The stock should be brought up to the mouth of the pen and allowed to settle while entering, with the dog holding one side and the handler the other. Once the free-standing pen is completed, the dog and/or handler will remove the stock from the pen, but this will not be scored as part of the Course points for the Free-Standing pen. However, time may be called for any abuse to the stock while this is being done and additional control points may be lost as a result for excessive handler assistance such as too much use of crook and/or pushing stock (when the stock is either entering or exiting the pen).

Course points are received for the number of head (or %) the dog puts into the pen. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Control To and Re-pen: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 10

Scoring begins after the last attempted obstacle and ends when the handler closes the re-pen gate. Once the re-pen gate is open no further points can be given on any other part of the course and the dog should move the stock as efficiently as possible to the re-pen.

Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that dog put into the re-pen the first time. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the last attempted obstacle, center chute, or free-standing pen directly to the re-pen with minimum stress on the stock. It makes sense to move the stock away from the gate before opening it.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 11.1.1 Course C Arena

The following guidelines were made with the ideal run of the Advanced Trial Dog in mind and with absolutely no consideration given to the degree of difficulty of the stock. Obviously, the judge will have to modify their expectations of the Started and Open dogs and take the nature of the stock into consideration.

The Start: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 15

Our different courses offer a variety of ways to begin the run: Courses C has a Take Pen.

Take Pen: Scoring begins from when the handler opens the gate and ends when the stock clears the opening of the take pen, and the take pen gate is closed.

Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) brought out the first time. The handler may enter the take pen with the dog and earn course points. If the handler takes the stock out of the pen without the dog, course points may still be earned. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished. Taking stock out of the take pen should be smooth and easy with the dog going to the fence line to allow the stock maximum opportunity to find the opening. The dog should have a confident approach to the stock and show an understanding of bringing the entire herd out of the pen. Control points may be lost for:

- Handler taking stock out of the pen without the dog.
- Handler entering the pen to assist the dog.
- Dog holding the stock in the take pen.

- Dog running through the middle of herd either while they are still in the pen or as they come out of the pen.

Drive/Fetch Through Obstacle 1: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 20

With a right-hand chute: requires a dog to move the stock up the middle of the arena to obstacle 1. Scoring begins when the take pen gate is closed and ends when at least one head of stock passes through the panels and an imaginary line which is drawn from the plane between the two in-line panels of obstacle 1.

The dog may either start the drive/fetch immediately after taking the stock from the take pen or may hold up the stock while the handler closes the gate and then start the drive/fetch. The drive/fetch should show control by the dog over the stock as the dog takes the stock directly from the pen to obstacle 1. The dog's awareness of the entire herd and its ability to control the stock when deviating from this pattern is essential. Appropriate force should be used to keep the stock moving in the proper direction. The dog's ability to turn back animals breaking away and keep their herd together at the beginning of their run is important. The stock should go through obstacle 1 in a counterclockwise direction with minimum stress to the stock. Their ability to keep the drive/fetch going at this point will prevent the stock from stopping at the corner. The dog should be able to turn back stock trying to go on the wrong side of the obstacle.

Example of point losses on the drive/fetch:

- Losing control after the stock comes out of the pen.
- Stopping the drive by turning them around and heading them back to the pen.
- Out of contact with stock/drift.

With a left-hand chute: requires a dog to move the stock up the middle of the arena to obstacle 1. Scoring begins when the take pen gate is closed and ends when at least one head of stock passes through the panels and an imaginary line which is drawn from the plane between the two in-line panels of obstacle 1.

The dog may either start the drive/fetch immediately after taking the stock from the take pen or may hold up the stock while the handler closes the gate and then start the drive/fetch. The drive/fetch should show control by the dog over the stock as the dog takes the stock directly from the pen to obstacle 1. The dog's awareness of the entire herd and its ability to control the stock when deviating from this pattern is essential. Appropriate force should be used to keep the stock moving in the proper direction. The dog's ability to turn back animals breaking away and keep their herd together at the beginning of their run is important. The stock should go through obstacle 1 in a counterclockwise direction with minimum stress to the stock. Their ability to keep the drive/fetch going at this point will prevent the stock from stopping at the corner. The dog should be able to turn back stock trying to go on the wrong side of the obstacle.

Example of point losses on the drive/fetch:

- Losing control after the stock comes out of the pen.
- Stopping the drive by turning them around and heading them back to the pen.
- Out of contact with stock/drift.

Cross-Drive/Fetch Through Obstacle 2: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 25

The imaginary "figure 8" continues as the stock progresses from the end of obstacle 1 to obstacle 2. Scoring begins after the stock exits the plane of obstacle 1 and ends when at least one head of stock passes through the panels and an imaginary line which is drawn from the plane between the two in-line panels of obstacle 2.

Scoring starts when the stock exit obstacle 1 (as described above), and ends when the stock exit obstacle 2, or after two attempts have been made. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) put through the obstacle by the dog the first time they go through, and Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the exit of obstacle 1 directly to obstacle 2 and through the obstacle with minimum stress to the stock. The dog's ability to make a cross-drive from obstacle 1 to obstacle 2 exhibits their ability to prevent problems from occurring when the stock has cleared the exit of obstacle 1. This task often involves turning back stock that breaks away down the arena. The dog should be able to control these animals without simply following them to the other end of the arena and bringing them back again. After entering obstacle 2, it is important the dog show control and obedience to allow the entire herd to progress through the exit, rather than part of them breaking back around the ends of the obstacle.

Set-up and Work at Center Obstacle: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 30

Scoring begins when stock exit obstacle 2 and ends when at least one head of stock passes through an imaginary line which is drawn at the exit of the chute or after two attempts have been made.

Course points are received for the number of head (or %) the dog put through the chute the first time through.

Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from obstacle 2 directly to and through the chute. Additional control point losses may result from excessive handler assistance such as too much use of crook or pushing stock.

Control To and Re-pen: Points Allotted: Course Points = 5, Control Points = 10

Scoring begins after the last attempted obstacle and ends when the handler closes the re-pen gate. Once the re-pen gate is open no further points can be given on any other part of the course and the dog should move the stock as efficiently as possible to the re-pen. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that dog put into the re-pen the first time. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the last attempted obstacle, center chute, or free-standing pen directly to the re-pen with minimum stress on the stock. It makes sense to move the stock away from the gate before opening it.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 12.1.1 Course D Arena

The following guidelines were made with the ideal run of the Advanced Trial Dog in mind and with absolutely no consideration given to the degree of difficulty of the stock. Obviously, the judge will have to modify their expectations of the Started and Open dogs and take the nature of the stock into consideration.

This course may be run in either direction by reversing the position of all Obstacles within the arena. This course may be run with a take pen or gather. For Course D, E, and F, Advanced handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler Line on the take-pen side of the line, wherever they feel it is best to take control of the stock in order to move them up the middle of the arena. All openings are 10 feet wide.

Panel Sizes:

1. 8-foot for 100-125 feet wide arenas is recommended.
2. 8-12-foot for arenas wider than 125 feet. *Exception:* Panels for pens must be 12-16-foot.

Obstacle 1 is on the center line based on the width of the arena and on the Advanced Handlers' Line.

Obstacle 2 will be positioned 20% of the arena length from the back fence (opposite the re-pen) with the right side of the right-hand panel placed 15% of the arena width from the right-hand fence.

Left side of the panel is: 20% of arena length (measured from the top) and 10 feet from the left arena fence.

The panels are situated 15% of the arena width (measured from the right side of the arena) with the lower edge of the lower panel (panel closest to the re-pen side of arena) positioned 30 feet above the Advanced Handlers' Line.

The side of the pen closest to the re-pen end of the arena is positioned 12.5% of the arena length (measured from the bottom of the arena), with the left side of the pen positioned 20% of the arena width (measured from the left side of the arena). Pen is not for Started Division.

Advanced Handlers' Line: The Advanced Handler Line shall be determined by the length of the arena. It is not to exceed a distance of 125 feet. Measure half the length of the arena down from Obstacle 2 toward the re-pen end of the arena. The Advanced Handler Line extends across the arena parallel to the back fence at the point measured. Advanced Handler Line in an arena with greater than 250-foot length shall be 125 feet.

Formulas:

- #2 Multiplying the arena length by 20% will give the footage measurement to set the panels down from the top of the arena. Multiplying the arena width by 15% will give the footage from the right side of the right panel from the right fence to set the panels.
- #3 Multiplying the arena length by 20% will give the footage measurement to set the panel down from the top of the arena.
- #4 Multiplying the arena width by 15% will give you the footage to set the panels from the right side of the arena fence. The lower edge of the lower panel (panel closest to the re-pen side of arena) is positioned 30 feet above the Advanced Handlers' Line.

Scoring for the re-pen begins after the last attempted obstacle and ends when the handler closes the re-pen gate. Once the re-pen gate is open no further points can be given on any other part of the course and the dog should move the stock as efficiently as possible to the re-pen. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that dog put into the re-pen the first time. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the last attempted obstacle to the free-standing pen, and directly to the re-pen with minimum stress on the stock. It makes sense to move the stock away from the gate before opening it.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 13.1.1 Course E Arena

The following guidelines were made with the ideal run of the Advanced Trial Dog in mind and with absolutely no consideration given to the degree of difficulty of the stock. Obviously, the judge will have to modify their expectations of the Started and Open dogs and take the nature of the stock into consideration.

This course may be run in either direction by reversing the position of all obstacles within the arena. This course may be run with a take pen or gather, depending on the facility. For Course D, E, and F, Advanced handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler Line on the take-pen side of the line, wherever they feel it is best to take control of the stock in order to move them up the middle of the arena. Opening for obstacles 1, 2, 3, and 4 (same obstacle as 1) are 10 feet wide.

Exception: The opening created between the top of the right-hand panel of obstacle 5 and the left-hand edge of the left-hand panel of obstacles 1 and 4 is 15 feet and the opening between the parallel panels of obstacle 5 is 20 feet.

Panel Sizes:

1. 8-foot for 100-125 feet wide arenas is recommended.
2. 8-12-foot for arenas wider than 125 feet. *Exception:* Panels for obstacle 5 are always 12 feet.

The opening for obstacles 1 and 4 (same obstacle used twice) is centered on the center line of the arena width (measured side to side). The panels are positioned 27 feet above the Advanced Handlers' Line (away from the re-pen side of arena).

Obstacle 2 will be positioned 20% of the arena length from the back fence (opposite the re-pen) with the right side of the right-hand panel placed 15% of the arena width from the right-hand fence.

Obstacle 3 is positioned at a 45-degree angle, with the center of the opening set 20% of the width of the arena measured from the left side fence, and 20% of the length of the arena measured from the back fence (opposite the re-pen).

Obstacle 5 consists of two parallel panels placed 20 feet apart with the ends closest to the re-pen side of the arena placed on the Advanced Handlers' Line. The top of the right-hand panel is situated 15 feet below the left-hand edge of the left-hand panel, perpendicular to the plane of obstacles 1 and 4.

Advanced Handlers' Line: The Advanced Handler Line shall be determined by the length of the arena. It is not to exceed a distance of 125 feet. Measure half the length of the arena down from obstacle 2 toward the re-pen end of the arena. The Advanced Handler Line extends across the arena parallel to the back fence at the point measured. Advanced Handler Line in an arena with greater than 250-foot length shall be 125 feet.

Formulas:

- #2 Multiply the arena length by 20% will give the distance to set the panels from the back fence (opposite the re-pen). Multiplying the arena width by 15% will give the distance the right-hand edge of the right-hand panel is positioned from the right-hand fence.
- #3 Multiplying the width of the arena by 20% will give the distance the center of the opening will be from the left side fence. Multiplying the length of the arena by 20% will give the distance the center of the opening will be from the back fence (opposite the re-pen). The panels are placed at a 45-degree angle.

Scoring for the re-pen begins after the last attempted obstacle and ends when the handler closes the re-pen gate. Once the re-pen gate is open no further points can be given on any other part of the course and the dog should move the stock as efficiently as possible to the re-pen. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that dog put into the re-pen the first time. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the last attempted obstacle, center chute or free-standing pen directly to the re-pen with minimum stress on the stock. It makes sense to move the stock away from the gate before opening it.

Daylighting: The maximum number of course points that may be earned is the minimum number of livestock to clear either opening. *Example 1:* If five head of livestock enter obstacle 5 and three head of livestock exit obstacle 5, 3 course points are earned. *Example 2:* If three head of livestock enter obstacle 5 and five head of livestock exit obstacle 5, 3 course points are earned. If the livestock stray from the desired path while executing the "L", control points will be deducted.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 14.1.1 Course F Arena

The following guidelines were made with the ideal run of the Advanced Trial Dog in mind and with absolutely no consideration given to the degree of difficulty of the stock. Obviously, the judge will have to modify their expectations of the Started and Open dogs and take the nature of the stock into consideration.

This course may be run in either direction by reversing the position of all obstacles within the arena. This course may be run with a take pen or gather, depending on the facility. For Course D, E, and F, Advanced handlers must position

themselves at the Advanced Handler Line on the take-pen side of the line, wherever they feel it is best to take control of the stock in order to move them up the middle of the arena. All openings are 10 feet wide. *Exception:* The opening for obstacle 4 is 20 feet.

Panel Sizes:

1. 8-foot for 100-125 feet wide arenas is recommended.
2. 8-12-foot for arenas wider than 125 feet. *Exception:* Panels for pens must be 12-16 feet.

Obstacle 1 is on the center line based on the width of the arena and on the Advanced Handlers' Line.

Obstacle 2 will be positioned 20% of the arena length from the back fence (opposite the re-pen) with the right side of the right-hand panel placed 15% of the arena width from the right-hand fence.

Obstacle 3 is positioned at a 45-degree angle, with the center of the opening set 20% of the width of the arena measured from the left side fence, and 20% of the length of the arena measured from the back fence (opposite the re-pen).

Obstacle 4 consists of one panel positioned with the end closest to the re-pen end of the arena 20' above and perpendicular to the left-hand end of the left-hand panel of obstacle 1.

The side of the pen closest to the re-pen end of the arena is positioned 12.5% of the arena length (measured from the bottom of the arena), with the left side of the pen positioned 20% of the arena width (measured from the left side of the arena). Pen is not for Started Division.

Advanced Handlers' Line: The Advanced Handler Line shall be determined by the length of the arena. It is not to exceed a distance of 125 feet. Measure half the length of the arena down from obstacle 2 toward the re-pen end of the arena. The Advanced Handler Line extends across the arena parallel to the back fence at the point measured. Advanced Handler Line in an arena with greater than 250-foot length shall be 125 feet.

Formulas:

- #2 Multiply the arena length by 20% will give the distance to set the panels from the back fence (opposite the re-pen). Multiplying the arena width by 15% will give the distance the right-hand edge of the right-hand panel is positioned from the right-hand fence.
- #3 Multiplying the width of the arena by 20% will give the distance the center of the opening will be from the left side fence. Multiplying the length of the arena by 20% will give the distance the center of the opening will be from the back fence (opposite the re-pen). The panels are placed at a 45-degree angle.

Scoring for the re-pen begins after the last attempted obstacle and ends when the handler closes the re-pen gate. Once the re-pen gate is open no further points can be given on any other part of the course and the dog should move the stock as efficiently as possible to the re-pen. Course points are earned for the number of head (or %) that dog put into the re-pen the first time. Control points are earned for how the work was accomplished.

Ideally, the stock should go from the last attempted obstacle, center chute or free-standing pen directly to the re-pen with minimum stress on the stock. It makes sense to move the stock away from the gate before opening it.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 26.10.7 Who May Fill Out Score Sheet

Score Sheet Instructions: The score sheet is broken into two sections:

"Course Score" The dog gets credit for each head of stock that goes through each obstacle as long as the dog does the work and the stock does not, in the opinion of the Judge, drift through the obstacle. No extra credit is given if the stock passes through the same obstacles more than once. The course must be attempted /completed in the correct sequence.

"Dog's Ability to Control Livestock" is scored for how well the dog accomplishes the work. Each part of the run will be scored for the manner in which the dog controls their stock for that section. "Control points" must be given for all sections of the course the dog accomplished and/or attempted.

Judges are expected to judge all types of herding breeds and need to be aware of the difference in working style between the breeds and judge accordingly, not comparatively. This includes natural instinct for the breed, savvy, training, concentration, interest, power, and handling. In order for an appropriate control score to be given, NATURAL INSTINCT must be shown. A mechanical dog that successfully completes the course strictly due to training should not be given a higher score due to training alone, when giving a control score. The dog's ability to control livestock is the opinion of the Judge only.

Note: A dog should not lose control points if the stock is more difficult than a dog with a cooperative draw as long as the dog is able to stay in control.

Guideline for Stockdog Rules 28.1.1 Excused Dogs

Reasons for Being Excused from the Arena (Judge Calls Time):

- Unnecessary gripping or gripping in severe manner. Grips should be either on the head or legs. Body, neck, belly, back and ham are all unnecessary grips. A severe grip would be intentional wool pulling, hanging on, slashing, and jerking a leg(s) out from under the animal. In the case of ducks, any mouthing, gripping, running over, or pouncing on is unnecessary.
- Overrunning of the stock by the dog.
- Lack of progress. If a contestant and their dog are unprepared and are unable to accomplish the task, time may be called even if no harm is being done to the stock.
- The handler taking hold of the dog to discipline them while in the arena.
- Any dog that cannot be called off stock and must be chased down by the handler. It does not matter if the dog is not gripping. Running stock head long into a fence can have disastrous effects.

Course Descriptions and Materials (Formerly Appendix B)

Course A

Ducks/Geese

- Arena: minimum of 60 x 90 feet up to a maximum of 100 x 100 feet (plus or minus 5 feet combined).
- Panels: 4-5 feet x 2 feet.
- Take Pen: located at end of arena opposite obstacles 1 and 2, outside the arena; 8 x 8 feet minimum, 16 x 16 feet maximum, with the take pen gate a minimum of 8 feet.
- Obstacle 1: one panel located 8 feet from rear fence; entrance 4 feet wide and exit 8 feet wide.
- Obstacle 2: two panels positioned against the side fence creating a 90-degree angle; located 8 feet from rear fence. The entrance is 8 feet wide, and exit is 4 feet wide.
- Center Chute: located mid arena, entrance approximately 7 feet, exit 2 feet.
- Re-pen: Same as take pen or on same side of arena.

Sheep/Goats/Cattle

- Arena: 100 x 200 feet minimum (plus or minus 5 feet combined).
- Panels: 8 to 12 feet.
- Take Pen: located at end of arena opposite obstacle 1 and 2, outside the arena.
- Obstacle 1: one panel located 24 feet from rear fence; entrance 10 feet, exit 24 feet.
- Obstacle 2: two panels positioned against the side fence creating a 90-degree angle, 24 feet from rear fence. The entrance is 24 feet wide, and exit is 10 feet wide.
- Chute: opening located mid-arena; exit 4 feet.
- Re-pen: same as take pen or on same side of arena.

Course B

Ducks/Geese

- Arena: minimum of 60 x 90 feet up to a maximum of 100 x 100 feet (plus or minus 5 feet combined).
- Panels: 4-5 feet x 2 feet.
- Obstacle 1: two panels positioned against the side fence creating a 90-degree angle; located 8 feet from rear fence. Entrance 8 feet wide and exit 4 feet wide.
- Obstacle 2: one panel located 8 feet from rear fence; entrance 4 feet wide and exit 8 feet wide.
- Free-standing Pen: 4-6 square feet with the gate located mid-arena; gate must open towards obstacle 2.
- Re-pen: located at end of arena, outside of arena.

Sheep/Goats/Cattle

- Arena: 100 x 200 feet minimum (plus or minus 5 feet combined).
- Panels: 8-12 feet (*Exception*: free-standing pen).
- Obstacle 1: two panels positioned against the side fence creating a 90-degree angle, 24 feet from rear fence. The entrance is 24 feet wide, and exit is 10 feet wide.
- Obstacle 2: one panel located 24 feet from rear fence; entrance 10 feet, exit 24 feet.
- Free-standing Pen: 12-16-foot panels located mid-arena; gate must open towards obstacle 2 and must be a minimum of 10 feet.
- Re-pen: located opposite obstacles 1 and 2, preferably outside of arena.

Course C

Ducks/Geese

- Arena: minimum of 60 x 90 feet up to a maximum of 100 x 100 feet (plus or minus five feet combined).
- Panels: 4-5 feet x 2 feet.
- Take Pen: Located at the end of arena opposite Obstacle 1 and 2, outside the arena. The Take Pen must be a minimum size of 8 x 8 feet, and a maximum size of 16 x 16 feet. The take pen gate must be a minimum of 8 feet.
- Obstacle 1: two panels positioned 12 feet and up to 20 feet from rear fence and 12 feet and up to 20 feet from the side fence at a 45-degree angle from the upper left corner of the arena, in line with each other with a 4-foot opening. *Note:* Obstacles 1 and 2 must be set at the same distances from the fences.
- Obstacle 2: two panels positioned 12 feet and up to 20 feet from rear fence and 12 feet and up to 20 feet from the side fence at a 45-degree angle from the upper right corner of the arena, in line with each other with a 4-foot opening. *Note:* Obstacles 1 and 2 must be set at the same distances from the fences.
- Chute: located 35 feet down the arena from the bottom corner of the panel of obstacle 2 and 12 feet and up to 20 feet from the side fence, with a 2-foot exit. See the drawing in the Appendix.
- Re-pen: Same as take pen or on same side of arena.

Sheep/Goats/Cattle

- Arena: 150 x 225 feet minimum (plus or minus 5 feet combined).
- Panels: 8-12 feet
- Take Pen: located at the end of the arena opposite obstacles 1 and 2, outside of the arena.
- Obstacle 1: two panels positioned 35 feet and up to 50 feet from the rear fence and 35 feet and up to 50 feet from the side fence at a 45-degree angle to the upper left corner of the arena, in line with each other with a 10-foot opening, or a 15-foot opening when using six to ten head of livestock, as long as the cross drive between the bottom corner of the panel of obstacle 1 to the bottom corner of the panel of obstacle 2 is no less than 43 feet across. *Note:* Obstacle 1 and 2 must be set at the same distances from the fences.
- Obstacle 2: two panels positioned 35 feet and up to 50 feet from the rear fence and 35 feet and up to 50 feet from the side fence at a 45-degree angle to the upper right corner of the arena, in line with each other with a 10-foot opening, or a 15-foot opening when using six to ten head of livestock, as long as the cross drive between the bottom corner of the panel of obstacle 1 to the bottom corner of the panel of obstacle 2 is no less than 43 feet across. *Note:* Obstacle 1 and 2 must be set at the same distances from the fences.
- Chute: located one 100 feet down the arena from the bottom corner of the panel of obstacle 2 and 35 feet up to 50 feet from the side fence, with a 4-foot exit. See the drawing in the Appendix.
- Re-pen: Same as take pen or on same side of arena.