



# 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 May 2024

### Announcements

#### Judge Approvals:

Fabian Sollereder (Austria) – Non-Regular Conformation  
Melanie Licciardi (Germany) – Regular Rally

#### Committee Appointments:

Kristie Franks was appointed to the Legislative Committee.  
Cynthia Montague was appointed to the Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee.

#### Fee Updates:

- The fee for rule books mailed internationally was increased from \$10 to \$20.

#### Policy Updates:

- A new policy to handle claims of unauthorized signatures was adopted.
- A motion to rescind the new policy for moderation of ASCA discussion lists failed.

The Board is currently updating ASCA's Business Plan and will present the final version at the 2024 Nationals.

Ideas for improved BOD-member communication include biannual Zoom calls with Affiliates and Committees, monthly town halls for member engagement, weekly updates, and an Ideas Board for collaborative sharing of ideas and strategies.

The results of the Aussie Times survey were presented, accompanied by a plan to resume printed editions starting in January 2025.

#### Nationals News:

- Island Grove Regional Park in Greeley, Colorado, was selected as the site for the 2026 Nationals.
- Revisions to the facility contract for the 2024 Nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska were approved.
- Several revisions to the National Specialty Rules were approved.

#### Committee News:

- A recommendation from the Rally Committee to clarify the list of required signs was approved.
- A recommendation from the Scent Detection Committee to revise the scents allowed was approved.
- The Scent Detection Committee's request to appoint a non-member as chair was denied.

#### Member Services:

- A correction to a litter whelping date was authorized.
- A petition was granted to allow a dog to be registered through the Other (Foreign) Registry.
- The Board resolved a registry dispute by facilitating several name changes and transfers of ownership.

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

## ASCA Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00 pm Central.

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

**Absent:** Director David Clayton.

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

**President Byrne called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.** She welcomed the members listening, introduced the directors present, and explained the Board's meeting process.

## 2026 Nationals Contract

The contract to hold the 2026 Nationals in Greeley, Colorado, has been presented to the Board for approval.

### Discussion:

- Gann noted that the contract arrived while Byrne was out of the country. It was forwarded to Counsel for final input and then sent to the Board. He asked if there were any comments.
- McCabe thought the contract looks standard, and we know what to expect from the site.
- Scheidt asked if Counsel had any concerns.
  - There was one concern regarding the \$3k per hour penalty for not vacating the premises on time. This seems unreasonable and might need to be addressed. Historically, we've vacated on time, but this could be a significant cost if we don't.
  - Byrne thought the issue should be addressed with the appointed 2026 Nationals Chairperson. We could ask the Nationals Advisory Committee to revisit this section with the facility or have a Board member handle it. We need something in writing, even though it likely won't be an issue.
  - Gann agreed about addressing contract specifics but thought we should send the deposit now to secure the dates with the facility.
  - Ward asked if this provision was new or if it was in past contracts. Scheidt explained that this was included when CASA hosted the Nationals in Greeley. They included it to ensure time for preparing for subsequent events.

### BD.24.62 Deposit for 2026 Nationals Site

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

**Motioned by Gann to pay the \$5,000.00 deposit for the Island Grove Regional Park facility in Greeley, Colorado, so we can get on their books for the dates of September 17-27, 2026. Seconded by Sims.**

## 2024 Nationals Contract Revision

A revised contract for the 2024 Nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska, has been presented to the Board for approval.

### Discussion:

- Gann noted that the revised contract arrived while Byrne was out of the country. It was forwarded to Counsel for final input and then sent to the Board. He mentioned that Ward might have more information about the changes.
- Sims raised a concern about provisions for food vendors, emphasizing the need for more options.
- Ward asked if everyone had seen the email she forwarded from the Nationals Chair in response to the Nationals Committee's questions. She highlighted key points from the email:
  - A food truck will be stationed near the stockdog area, rotating to offer varied food choices. Another food truck will be located near other program areas. The Pinnacle Bank Building will have a large concession stand.
  - Bringing personal food is allowed, but the sale of food is restricted to permitted vendors.
  - A new casino and restaurant are also on-site.
  - Alcohol can be brought in but should be concealed when taken away from RV/camping areas to respect regular food and drink vendors.
  - These provisions align with what is typically available at Nationals.
- McLellan stated she had no concerns and expressed confidence in the plan for parking RVs.
- McCabe mentioned that the additional food truck near performance areas alleviates previous concerns about feeding workers and judges during lunch, and noted the large main concession stand would be helpful. She felt all issues had been addressed and appreciated the cooperation from the site.
- Scheidt shared that she joined Laura Gibson and Denise Creelman for a tour of the Grand Island facility, where they discussed and resolved these issues. She described the facility as large yet conveniently structured, with enclosed areas for consuming food outside of competition areas. Despite

the usual challenges of hosting Nationals, she found no issues with the contract and noted the site's enthusiasm for hosting the event.

- Wesen agreed with previous comments, appreciated the Nationals Chair's report, and had no issues with the contract.
- Byrne also had no issues and was glad to have answers to previous concerns.
- Ward wanted to confirm that revisions from Byrne and Counsel were included in the contract. Byrne confirmed this, and Gann noted that Counsel requested his email be corrected in the contract.

## **April 2024 Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer McLellan presented the financial summary for April 2024.

The balances were as follows: Operating/Checking at \$144,782, Savings at \$75,805, AEMD Savings at \$49,236, and Foundation at \$41,337. The April P&L included notable items such as sales of the Working Trial Champion book reprint, which will contribute \$2,840 towards stockdog payback, and a \$3,905 charge for the payment service for the IT consultant, a yearly fee. A credit of \$4,200 was also noted, which was a refund from the payment service we were going to use but decided against. There was a significant expense for office printing due to forms and materials, which was an unusual one-time hit for the month.

McLellan highlighted a discrepancy of \$3,400 in the year-to-date comparison, which requires discussion with the bookkeeper. Financials for 2023 are still pending, with the bookkeeper focusing on finalizing the April numbers and then updating the Nationals account. An extension for taxes has been filed, so there are no immediate concerns there.

McLellan reported difficulties setting up Vanguard accounts and proposed opening accounts with her firm, Buttonwood Partners, instead. She assured the Board that safeguards are in place to prevent conflicts of interest, as she would not benefit personally from these accounts, which would be managed by a compliance officer. She highlighted that customer service with her firm would be more responsive compared to Vanguard.

McLellan motioned to open three separate accounts with Buttonwood Partners to earn interest and close the Vanguard accounts. This motion was seconded by Ward but was eventually withdrawn after extensive discussion.

### **Discussion:**

- Gann expressed concerns about a conflict of interest, emphasizing the importance of membership input on such decisions.
- Sims acknowledged the transparency and safeguards McLellan proposed but agreed with Gann about the perception of conflict.
- McCabe suggested communicating the plan to the membership for feedback, delaying the decision but ensuring transparency.
- Ward expressed frustration with the delay and questioned the need for further membership input, given the Board's prior decisions about the accounts. She asked if anyone else on the Board would handle the investment setup if McLellan could not.
- Scheidt volunteered to assist McLellan and suggested setting a deadline for membership comments to expedite the process.
- Wesen proposed putting the decision to a random schedule vote for membership input.
- Byrne disagreed, viewing it as a business decision for the Board, and questioned the necessity of member input for investment decisions. She did not view it as a conflict of interest since McLellan would not be personally benefitting from the accounts.
- McLellan agreed that it is a business decision and wondered about the method for gathering fair membership representation.
- Scheidt offered to negotiate with other investment firms and bring options to the Board. McLellan explained the delays with Vanguard. The accounts are open, but they are making us jump through hoops to get them linked to our bank account.

- McLellan agreed to withdraw the motion for now and work with the Executive Secretary on expanding the motion to include all necessary details.

Wesen raised a question about the Treasurer's Report, noting that the new payroll reporting system seemed to provide less information than before and asked about the changes and their impact on the numbers. McLellan agreed to check with the bookkeeper for clarification. Ward explained that the switch to QuickBooks for payroll at the beginning of the year resulted in a mix of systems due to carryover wages from 2023 payable in 2024. She noted that QuickBooks automatically codes payroll and tax payouts, which now directly affects the P&L. McLellan confirmed this might be the reason and agreed to investigate if detailed breakdowns could still be provided.

#### BD.24.63 April 2024 Treasurer's Report

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

**Motioned by McLellan to approve the April 2024 Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Byrne.**

## Business Plan

During the Board's Spring Meeting, it was agreed to break up the Business Plan into sections for review at each upcoming Board meeting, with the goal of having a final version ready for presentation at the Nationals in October. This plan has not been revised since 2010.

### Discussion:

- Byrne noted that some comments had been made in the Google Doc and asked if everyone had reviewed the plan. Wesen inquired about who would be responsible for making changes and gathering data. McCabe explained that it was already agreed that the Board would handle each section during the meetings leading up to the Nationals in October. Each director would have one month to comment on a section to ensure comprehensive input. This approach would allow for collaborative work on the revisions.
- The Board reviewed the sections, making necessary wording changes. However, some follow-up is required, particularly regarding the operations flow chart and integrating items from the strategic plan. They also discussed breaking down a couple of sections per week to handle over email for efficiency, and the possibility of a separate meeting to address the Business Plan exclusively.
- It was agreed to meet on May 30, 2024, to review the next section.

## Nationals Handbook

The Nationals Advisory Committee (NAC) has submitted a handbook for hosting the ASCA Nationals for the Board's review and approval.

### Discussion:

- Gann thanked the NAC for their effort in creating the handbook and specifically acknowledged McCabe for her attention to detail and valuable comments on the document. He mentioned that the updated version is available in the drive and noted that the NAC does not believe a formal motion to approve is necessary since it's a working document.
- Byrne expressed that the handbook should remain open for edits as situations arise and requested that the Board's gratitude be extended to the NAC for compiling the document. There were no further comments from the Board.

## Strategic Plan Assignments/Review Process

During the Board's Spring Meeting, they agreed to explore a strategy to better involve directors and committees in reviewing the Strategic Plan throughout the year by assigning specific topics for regular evaluation, rather than only reviewing it annually at the Spring Meeting.

## Discussion:

- Sims suggested that, while an annual review is useful, a mid-year review could ensure that the Board stays on track with its objectives. She noted that many items on the plan tend to be overlooked or forgotten. For example, some committee goals have not been updated for years.
- Byrne agreed, pointing out that the current review process often feels rushed. She proposed requesting information earlier in the year, rather than waiting until October or November. Sims concurred, noting that the end of the year is a particularly busy time.
- McCabe supported this idea, adding that the responsible parties in the strategic plan are usually the Board or committees. She suggested that liaisons should engage with their committees about strategic plan items twice a year instead of once. She proposed that committees review the entire plan and update their goals in May and December, leveraging the expertise within the committees to address broader issues. McCabe further proposed that sharing each committee's goals with all other committees could enhance collaboration and provide valuable insights.
- Byrne endorsed this approach, recommending a thorough review by committees in May and a secondary, lighter review in September in order to distribute the workload more evenly. This schedule would avoid the end-of-year rush due to Nationals and holidays. Sims and Wesen agreed with this plan.

## Results of Aussie Times Survey

Ward reported on the Aussie Times survey results and the proposal from the Aussie Times Committee:

### Publication Preferences:

- Printed: 59.5%
- Online: 21.4%
- Hybrid: 19.1%

### Frequency Preferences:

- 6 issues per year: 48.1%
- 4 issues per year: 46.4%
- 3 issues per year: 5.5%

### Separate from Dues:

- No: 58%
- Yes: 42%

### Advertisers' Preferences:

- Printed: 45.4%
- Neither: 26.5%
- Both: 21.2%
- Online: 6.9%

Based on the poll results and financial considerations, the Aussie Times Committee (McCabe, Wesen, Ward) recommended moving to four printed editions per year, starting with the Q1 2025 edition (January-March). All editions will also be available online for full members who opt out of the printed versions. This shift aims to balance member preferences with budget constraints.

The Committee proposed a two-year trial of the four-edition format for 2025 and 2026, with the stipulation that the account balance remains sufficient. If the balance falls below the agreed amount, subsequent editions will be online only until the balance is restored.

To support this plan, the Committee needs to get operations back on track with the print team and third-party handler for postage, aiming for a November 15 deadline for the January issue. Additional steps include timely information collection and securing advertisers. The goal is to keep the cost within \$35 per member, which allows for four editions given the increased costs of printing, shipping, and handling.

The current full membership fee of \$50 includes \$15 for dues and \$35 for the Aussie Times. Based on the cost estimate, the cost for four printed editions is \$37.36 per full member. The Committee believes that with negotiations, they can bring this cost down to \$35.

The Committee emphasized the importance of transparency and member feedback, suggesting that rulebook revisions and advertising strategies be considered to manage costs effectively. They also proposed exploring different binding and paper options to reduce expenses.

#### **Discussion:**

- Wesen and McCabe expressed support for the trial, acknowledging the financial challenges but agreeing that the proposal addresses member preferences and financial constraints.
- Byrne inquired about the survey response rate, which was about 16% (984 respondents out of over 6,000 emails sent).
- McLellan asked about the opt-out process for the printed version. Ward explained that lifetime members automatically opt-out of the Aussie Times, and there is a desire to allow regular members to opt-out in the future, which requires adjustments to the membership portal programming.

The Board unanimously supported the concept presented by the Aussie Times Committee.

## **BOD/Member Communication**

The Board discussed new ideas to improve communication with the membership regarding BOD decisions, aiming to make the process more engaging and effective.

Ward introduced the topic, emphasizing the need for better outreach to the ASCA community to understand and address their concerns. She proposed several new communication strategies to ensure the Board's actions align with the membership's best interests and to make members feel heard. Ward's proposal includes:

#### **Communication Ideas to Enhance BOD Relevance:**

##### **Affiliates:**

- Biannual Zoom Calls:
  - BOD Liaison plus two Directors per call.
  - Directors assigned by lottery to attend but encouraged to join any call.
  - Include Affiliate President, Representative, and others.
  - Consider splitting calls by demographic or program focus.
  - Determine the optimal number of affiliates per call to maintain effective communication.
- Ideas Board:
  - Create a collaborative space for Affiliates and BOD to share ideas, cost-saving measures, improvements, membership retention strategies, and new member acquisition.

##### **Committees:**

- Biannual Zoom Calls:
  - BOD Liaison plus two Directors per call.
  - Directors assigned by lottery to attend but encouraged to join any call.
  - Encourage all committee members to attend.
  - Discuss areas of focus and Strategic Plan items.
  - Identify committee needs from the BOD for success.
  - Assess committee membership needs and recruit if necessary.

##### **Membership:**

- Monthly Town Halls:
  - Conducted via Facebook Live or similar apps for public engagement.
  - Focus on current events or upcoming topics.
  - Speakers to be subject experts, Officers, and/or Liaisons.

- Weekly Updates & Open Items List:
  - Regular updates to keep members informed.
- Ideas Board:
  - Create a space for members and BOD to collaborate on ideas, cost-saving measures, improvements, and strategies for membership retention and acquisition.

Ward emphasized the importance of improving Board and membership health and transparency. She highlighted recent successes, such as landing two corporate sponsorships, and stressed the need to tap into the talent within the membership.

#### **Discussion:**

- Byrne appreciated Ward's comprehensive plan, acknowledging its potential benefits for the organization.
- Wesen supported the idea, noting the effectiveness of member Zoom meetings during Covid and advocating for more committee engagement.
- McLellan also expressed full support and thanked Jillian for the outline.

## **April 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.24.64 April 2024 Email Business**

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

**Motioned by Sims to ratify all business conducted over email in April 2024. Seconded by Ward.**

**President Byrne thanked the members listening and concluded the Open Session of the meeting at 8:36 pm.**

## **Registry Complaint**

This discussion was held in Executive Session from 8:36 pm to 8:55 pm. The Board resolved a registry dispute by facilitating several name changes and transfers of ownership.

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

## **ASCA Board Motions**

### **Director Recommendations**

#### **BD.24.48 Correction of Whelping Date for Litter 113097**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Scheidt, Sims, Ward, Wesen.  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by McCabe to approve the change in whelping date on litter #113097 from 2/2/2020 to 2/2/2022 after the appropriate fees are received by the Business Office. Second by Ward.**

Comments/Rationale: The motion seeks to correct an error in the whelping date for litter #113097. The current registered date of February 2, 2020, is incorrect, and based on the evidence provided by the litter owner, should be amended to February 2, 2022.



Affected: The litter owner, the ASCA Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## BD.24.58 ASCA Policy on Handling Unauthorized Signature Claims on Official Forms

**Motion carried** (8-0) - Approved: Byrne, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Scheidt, Sims, Ward, Wesen.

Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Clayton.

### **Motion by Wesen to add a new Section 8.20 Unauthorized Signature Claims on Official Forms to the ASCA Policy Book. Second by Ward.**

Current Wording: None.

Proposed Wording:

#### **8.20 Unauthorized Signature Claims on Official Forms**

##### **8.20.1 Purpose**

To establish a clear procedure for handling cases where an individual claims that their unauthorized signature has been included on an official ASCA form. This policy aims to ensure fairness, transparency, and adherence to legal standards in dealing with signature disputes.

##### **8.20.2 Procedure**

A. Initial Reporting and Board Notification:

1. When a claim of an unauthorized signature on an official ASCA form is brought to the Board's attention, the Executive Secretary will immediately inform the entire ASCA Board of Directors about the issue.

B. Registration Flagging and Freeze:

1. The Business Office is instructed to flag all relevant registrations connected to the claim.  
2. The registration(s) of the dog(s) involved will be frozen. This freeze will remain in effect until an official determination is made regarding the authorization of the signature.

C. Notification of Involved Parties:

1. The Executive Secretary will notify all parties involved in the claim about the registry freeze.  
2. The parties will be informed that the freeze will only be lifted following a court order that determines the authenticity of the signature in question.

D. Legal Determination Requirement:

1. ASCA acknowledges it does not have expertise in determining the authenticity of disputed signatures. Accordingly, in resolving a signature dispute, the Board will await a determination by a court/arbitrator of competent jurisdiction, whether U.S. or foreign.  
2. Among outcomes considered to be a legal determination that a signature is fraudulent is one of the parties involved in the dispute—in response to a charge of fraud or similar conduct—pleading guilty, “nolo contendere” or “no contest” or the equivalent, accepting deferred adjudication or a similar process in exchange for eventual dismissal of the charge(s), or being declared guilty.  
3. In the event of an appeal of a court/arbitrator determination, ASCA will act based on the original determination until/unless there is a stay of it during the appeal or a point at which an appeal results in a different outcome.  
4. A party requesting that ASCA rely on a legal determination or settlement is obligated to provide a certified copy or notarized copy of it to ASCA (unless it is undisputed by all involved parties) and, to the extent it is in a language other than English, to provide ASCA with a translation of it.

E. Procedure for Lifting Registry Freeze:

1. Upon receiving a court order, the Executive Secretary will present the order to the Board for review.  
2. If the court order determines the signature was unauthorized, appropriate steps will be taken to rectify the situation in accordance with ASCA's policies and procedures.



3. If the court order validates the signature's authorization, the registration freeze will be lifted, and the status of the dog(s) will revert to its original state.

F. Communication and Record-Keeping:

1. All communication regarding the issue should be documented and filed appropriately for record-keeping and future reference.
2. Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the process to protect the privacy of all involved parties.

### 8.20.3 Alternative Considerations

A. The Board may consult with legal counsel as needed throughout the process.

B. ASCA reserves the right to take further action, if necessary, based on the outcome of the legal proceedings.

C. The parties to a dispute over the authenticity of a signature also may choose to resolve it by written agreement among all those involved, which will be accepted by ASCA to the extent ASCA concludes the agreement is clear and undisputed.

Comments/Rationale: This policy formalizes procedures to address disputes involving unauthorized signatures, protecting the integrity of ASCA operations and the rights of all parties involved. By mandating a clear sequence of actions, the policy ensures that all signature disputes are handled with consistent due diligence.

Affected: ASCA organization and members.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### BD.24.59 Other Registration Request

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Scheidt, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

**Motion by Sims to grant an exception to the Registry Rules, permitting the dog to be registered through the Other Registry, despite the presence of a dog marked 'Not For Breeding' in its pedigree. Second by Scheidt.**

Comments/Rationale: The Registry Rules state that the applicant must provide evidence that the applicant dog's lineage is based 100% on ASCA registered dogs, none of whose registrations have been revoked by ASCA prior to the applicant's purchase of the dog or who was ASCA registered "Not for Breeding". However, the dog in question was marked NFB in 2011 when she was spayed, after she already had four ASCA registered litters from 2007-2010. The Board is willing to grant an exception since the dog was not marked NFB when she was bred.

Affected: The dog's owner, the ASCA Business Office.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### BD.24.60 Fee for International Rule Book Orders

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

**Motion by McCabe to increase the cost per rule book to \$20 for each rule book sent to Canadian and International addresses. The cost for rule books to domestic addresses will remain \$10 for each rule book. Second by Wesen.**

Comments/Rationale: The current charge of \$10 per rule book does not cover Canadian and International shipping costs.

Affected: The Business Office will be able to charge more to cover shipping costs. ASCA members with Canadian or International addresses will have an increased cost.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### BD.24.61 Motion to Rescind the ASCA Discussion Lists Moderation Policy

**Motion failed** (2-7) - Approved: Gann, McCabe. Disapproved: Byrne, Clayton, McLellan, Scheidt, Sims, Ward, Wesen. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

- **Comment from Director Byrne:** Unfortunately, the moderators are often made aware of inappropriate posts after the fact and there is not a way to recall the post after it has been made. If all members would follow the monthly rules, there would be no necessity for a change in policy.
- **Comment from Director Ward:** The BOD spent ample time discussing and reviewing the need to protect members from being attacked on ASCA owned platforms. This policy was vetted by legal counsel. This policy not only protects individuals it also protects ASCA from being complicit. The IT committee was made aware of the issue and gave advice on the best method of moderation. The motion was made available to the IT committee.
- **Comment from Director Wesen:** Members are speaking their minds and not being censored.

**Motion by McCabe to rescind the ASCA discussion list moderation policy which was approved by the board on April 18, 2024. Second by Gann.**

Comments/Rationale: The ASCA discussion lists are already moderated and have a published set of guidelines. Members have always been able to alert moderators if they feel a post or series of posts do not abide by the published rules. The original motion was made and voted on without ample time for input from all the moderators or any input from the general membership.

Affected: ASCA membership, ASCA discussion list moderators.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### EM.24.04 Site for the 2026 Nationals

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

- **Dissent from Director McLellan:** I agree with going to Greeley for 2026, but the motion has nothing to do with the rotation and therefore the rationale should make no mention of it in the supporting text at this time. It is misleading to the membership.
- **Comment from Director Byrne:** I do wish the NAC would have agreed to correct the rationale associated with the motion.
- **Comment from Director Sims:** I wish the rationale would have been adjusted to fit the motion. While I fully support going to Greeley for 2026 - we don't have enough information at this time to decide on a rotation.
- **Comment from Director Ward:** I fully support Greeley for 2026. The idea of returning to a rotation has a lot of merit, however I would love to see how we do in NE before we formalize a rotation. Maybe we can build the rotation beginning with Greeley. Thank you to the committee for all of your efforts. You are all appreciated.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Laura Gibson. Seconded by Rachel Vest.

The Nationals Advisory Committee recommends that the Board accept the proposal to host the 2026 ASCA National Specialty at Island Grove in Greeley, Colorado on September 18-26, 2026.

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

Comments/Rationale: The NAC would like to see the Nationals return to a set rotation of known, proven sites, with an eastern site worked into the rotation, if possible (Greeley, Bakersfield, East, Bryan). The NAC has worked diligently for years, trying to find a suitable and affordable eastern site. Since the Board feels we cannot afford the Virginia site for 2026, we recommend the schedule above, with the hopes that we can afford the Virginia site by 2028.

Affected: Those planning and attending the ASCA National Specialties.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## **Committee Recommendations**

### **Nationals Advisory Committee**

NA.24.12 Revision of Sections 21.2, 22.1, 22.2, 22.3, and 24 of the National Specialty Rules

**Motion carried** (8-0) - Approved: Byrne, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Scheidt, Sims, Ward, Wesen.

Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: Clayton.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion by Laura Gibson to approve the wording below to revise Sections 21.3, 22.1, 22.2, 22.3 and 24 of the National Specialty Rules.

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

Current Wording:

#### **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 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.

#### **22.1 Tracking**

Tracking must be offered at the ASCA National Specialty.

#### **22.2 Show Results**

The Nationals Committee is to provide show results to the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times Editor in the form of a marked catalog or computer disk file within 60 days post-event. A set of properly labeled Nationals pictures for higher award winners will be sent to the Aussie Times Editor within 60 days post-event. After the Aussie Times Editor is finished with the photos, they will be forwarded to the Business Office for historical records and inclusion in future ASCA Yearbooks.

#### **22.3 Alcoholic Beverages**

On the day of the General Membership meeting, no alcoholic beverages are to be served by the Nationals Committee prior to or during the meeting. No one with alcoholic beverages will be allowed to attend this meeting.

#### **24 Conclusion**

##### **24.1 Communication**

Every National Specialty is going to develop its own unique situations, both good and bad, and it is extremely difficult to anticipate everything that might come up. The Nationals contacts and the Board are here to help in any way possible and it is vital that one person, the National Chair, be responsible for the communication between the Nationals Committee and Board. This avoids duplication and in the interest of clarity, we require that it be handled that way.

## **24.2 Input**

These rules will be amended from time to time and any suggestions or input your club may have would be appreciated.

### Proposed Wording:

#### **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~~ **Chapter 13 Section 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.

#### **~~22.1—Tracking~~**

~~Tracking must be offered at the ASCA National Specialty.~~

#### **22.21 Show Results**

The Nationals Committee is to provide show results to the ASCA Business Office and the Aussie Times Editor in the form of a marked catalog or computer **disk** file within 60 days post-event. A **set file** of properly labeled Nationals pictures for higher award winners will be sent to the Aussie Times Editor within 60 days post-event. ~~After the Aussie Times Editor is finished with the photos, they will be forwarded to the Business Office for historical records and inclusion in future ASCA Yearbooks.~~

#### **22.32 Alcoholic Beverages**

On the day of the General Membership meeting, no alcoholic beverages are to be served by the Nationals Committee prior to or during the meeting. No one with alcoholic beverages will be allowed to attend this meeting.

## **247 Conclusion**

### **247.1 Communication**

Every National Specialty is going to develop its own unique situations, both good and bad, and it is extremely difficult to anticipate everything that might come up. The Nationals contacts and the Board are here to help in any way possible and it is vital that one person, the National Chair, be responsible for the communication between the Nationals Committee and Board. This avoids duplication and in the interest of clarity, we require that it be handled that way.

### **247.2 Input**

These rules will be amended from time to time and any suggestions or input your club may have would be appreciated.

Comments/Rationale: These revisions bring the National Specialty Rules up to date.

The revision for 21.2 is a correction of a rule reference.

Section 22.1 is deleted because it is redundant. Section 1.1 already states that Tracking will be included.

The revision for Section 22.2 is a renumbering and revision of outdated verbiage.

Section 22.3 is simply being renumbered to 22.2.

The current Section 24 is called "Conclusion." It should be at the end of the rules, so I have moved it to a more appropriate place. No changes other than numbering have been made.

Affected: Persons competing at the National Specialty and persons running the National Specialty.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Rally Committee

### RA.24.11 Clarification in List of Required Signs

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

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion RC 24.12 Clarification in the list of required signs in 1.15.2 A. Motion by Diana Curl to propose the following changes to the Rally rule book. When RC 23.03 was approved in Feb. 2023, allowing only one offset jump to be allowed on a Masters course, it made requiring two Halt, Leave Dog Signs as part of the "required set of signs" unnecessary. The proposed wording will remove that requirement. Seconded by Lori Anglemeyer.

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

#### Current Wording:

##### **1.15.2 Signs and Holders**

A. A full set of Signs consists of one of each sign except for Right Turn, Left Turn, 270 Right Turn, 270 Left Turn, 45 Diagonal Left, 45 Diagonal Right, 225 Loop Left, 225 Loop Right, Normal Pace, and Send Over Jump, and ~~Halt, Leave Dog~~; two each of these must be included.

#### Proposed Wording:

##### **1.15.2 Signs and Holders**

A. A full set of Signs consists of one of each sign except for Right Turn, Left Turn, 270 Right Turn, 270 Left Turn, 45 Diagonal Left, 45 Diagonal Right, 225 Loop Left, 225 Loop Right, Normal Pace, Send Over Jump, and Halt, Leave Dog; two each of these must be included.

Comments/Rationale: When RC 23.03 was approved in Feb. 2023, allowing only one offset jump to be allowed on a Masters course, it made requiring two Halt, Leave Dog Signs as part of the "required set of signs" unnecessary. The proposed wording will remove that requirement.

Affected: Affiliate Clubs and competitors will be affected by having one less sign required in their set. The website will have one less sign that requires being listed. Companies that provide premade signs will have one less sign to provide.

Effective Date: June 1, 2025.

## Scent Detection Committee

### SC.24.10 Revision of Scents Allowed

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approved: Byrne, Clayton, Gann, McCabe, McLellan, Scheidt, Sims, Ward, Wesen.  
Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-voting: None.

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

Committee Recommendation: Motion Number 24-13 Revision of 2.1 Scents Allowed. Motion to revise and amend portions of the Rule Book for Scent Detection, being Chapter 2.1.

Motion by Pam Miller to revise and amend the following portions of the Rule Book for the Scent Detection program to provide greater clarity on what odors may be used at trial. Seconded by Deborah Divich.

Results of Committee Vote: Approved: 12. Disapproved: None. Abstained: None. Non-Voting: 1.

Current Wording:

**2.1 Scents Allowed**

There is a choice of three suggested scents per level.

Line 1 - (Birch, Anise, & Clove) is used in the United States.

Line 2 - (Wintergreen, Pine, and Thyme) is used in Canada (CDC).

Line 3 - (Lavender, Eucalyptus, and Bay) is used in European trials.

It is suggested that the scents chosen are appropriate for your area.

Proposed Wording:

**2.1 Scents Allowed**

There is a choice of three suggested scents per level.

Line 1 - (Birch, Anise, & Clove) is used in the United States.

Line 2 - (Wintergreen, Pine, and Thyme) is used in Canada (CKC).

Line 3 - (Lavender, Eucalyptus, and Bay) is used in European trials.

~~It is suggested that the scents chosen are appropriate for your area.~~

Scents are suggested. Affiliate Clubs have the option of using any one of the three scents for the appropriate levels listed on the chart.

Comments/Rationale: This motion is made to revise the Rule Book as to scents allowed for use at trials in an effort of compromise with our Canadian and European members. The Scent Detection Committee has become aware of the variety of odors used in Canada and Europe and wishes to accommodate and promote successful trials in Europe and Canada as well as the U.S.

Affected: ASCA Executive Secretary, ASCA Webmaster, the Scent Detection Committee, Affiliate clubs, judges and exhibitors.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024.