

WEST AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEP DOG ASSOCIATION



Regulations and Rules. Reprinted & updated August 2008.

REGULATIONS governing the running of Arena Trials:-

1. The awards shall be by points.
 2. All competitors start with 100 points and deductions are made for all mistakes by dog or worker.
 3. Obstacle points will be: Race 7 points, Bridge 8 points, Pen 10 points.
 4. Where a worker has more than one entry in a class, the entries will be distributed as uniformly as possible throughout the class, but not necessarily as listed on the entry form. The first and second entries in any class will be randomly selected from all competitors in that class. No worker will be expected / required to work consecutive entries.
 5. Substitution of dogs will be allowed and will be accepted prior to the commencement of the first day of the trial only.
 6. No post entries will be accepted for the State Championships.
 7. All dogs competing in OFFICIAL TRIALS must be registered with a recognised Sheep Dog Association, with the exception of novice dogs trialling in the novice class only, [note all dogs entering The WAWSDA Annual State Trial must be registered.]
 8. Registered dogs must be registered with the State Association of the State in which the owner resides.
 9. The WAWSDA Dog of the Year is the dog scoring the highest aggregate of points from each Club Championship, including the State championship and the award will be known as "The Sheepdog of the Year Award". The presentation of the Sheepdog of the Year Award will be made at the last recognised trial in that year.
- 9A Where possible and time permitting each Club should run a minimum of twelve [12] or more finalists, and points will be allocated to the twelve [12] highest scoring dogs in the finals and where necessary from the first round Championship run.
- 9B Scoring system for the Dog of the Yard Competition.

1 st = 15points	4 th = 9 points	7 th = 6 points	10 th = 3 points
2 nd = 12 points	5 th = 8 points	8 th = 5 points	11 th = 2 points
3 rd = 10 points	6 th = 7 points	9 th = 4 points	12 th = 1 point

A tied event must be decided by a run off for first place in the Championships. For other place ties add the place points together and evenly divide them.

- 9C where the handler is unable to trial a dog or dogs due to judging commitments an average of the score achieved by that individual's dog or dogs is added to their final total at the end of the year.

DEFINITIONS:

A	Owner or competitor shall mean the person working the dog.
B	Dog shall mean dog or bitch

RULES FOR TRIALS:

1. The trials shall take place over such course as the West Australian Working Sheep Dog Association shall determine.

2. Competitors must take their place as shown in the draw. Any dog absent when called upon to compete shall be disqualified, except in exceptional circumstances, subject to the trial committee's ruling.
3. Each dog shall work three [3] sheep.
4. All dogs must be released on entering the arena or they will be disqualified.
5. Once the worker is standing at the peg and the sheep are released, they shall be the sheep worked by that dog; subject to the worker having the right to object to the sheep or a sheep before leaving the casting peg. The judge's decision shall be final.
6. A judge may order fresh sheep at any time during a trial and may terminate a trial at any time for inferior work, or abuse of sheep. Any trial terminated by a judge will bring forfeiture of the score for that run.
7. The judge will give a signal after the sheep are released and a bell will be rung indicating that time will start at this point; each dog will be allowed 15 minutes to complete the course or any such shorter time as is publicised prior to the start of the trial.
8. The competitor may cast the dog at any time after the bell, but all dogs must be within 10 m of the worker before casting. Any dog leaving the peg before the casting bell sounds must be recalled, and failure to do so will result in disqualification.
9. The worker shall not assist the dog in any way, but may direct it by signal, whistle or word of mouth; each competitor may use a stick not exceeding 45cm in length, providing it is not used for the purpose of creating a sound or assisting in any other way,
10. Any dog crossing between the worker and the sheep at any time during the trial will be disqualified. Dogs stopping on the cast or casting outside the arena will be penalised at the judge's discretion.
11. After completing the cast the sheep must be brought in a straight line into a semi-circular area defined by pegs; when this is completed the worker then proceeds with the course when ready, without further reference to the Judge.
12. Every movement of the worker from point to point must be in a straight line and no worker may walk backwards for more than one step at a time or wilfully stop to work his dog; penalty for either offence is disqualification
13. From the casting peg to the race, the workers and their sheep must move around the right hand side of the flags. If the sheep pass on the left hand side they must be returned and brought around the right hand side before leaving the ring of the first obstacle. The worker may stand at either flag whilst working the sheep around the flags, but will be penalised for each such stop.
14. The circles in which the worker stands at each obstacle shall be 90cm in diameter and the edge of the circle shall be 3 m from the wings of all obstacles, including the pen gate. Position of the circles to the obstacle is shown in the accompanying plan.
15. If the sheep enter any obstacle before the worker is in the circle, this obstacle must be reworked. All sheep must be completely through the obstacle before the worker leaves the circle, otherwise they will be disqualified.
16. When a dog is forcing sheep through the race or bridge from inside the wings and a sheep causes a cross by jumping over the dog – the dog shall not be disqualified or lose points for such a cross.
17. After completing the bridge, the worker must move so that the exit of the bridge is on his right hand when proceeding to the pen.
18. All sheep must be completely past the entrance of the pen before the competitor may leave the circle to close the gate. Any worker running with the gate to trap the sheep will be penalised with the loss of all pen points. Any sheep escaping after the worker leaves the circle and returned immediately before the worker closed the gate – Penalty 1 point of more. [Judge's discretion [18A]. Any sheep escaping completely after the worker leaves the circle will result in the loss of all pen points and the trial is terminated.
19. The bell will be rung to notify disqualification and time expiry of each trial and on conclusion of the trial each competitor must move his sheep as directed by the committee
20. If the sheep escape while being worked on the course, the trial may be terminated at the judge's discretion.

21. Any dog deliberately biting or in any way injuring a sheep shall be disqualified and the owner held responsible for any damage done. Dogs barking or snapping at sheep when stuck up or when attacked by the sheep may be penalised but not disqualified. No dog may wear a muzzle or bit.
22. If in the opinion of the judge or the trial committee any person ill uses their dog, they may be subject to a fine of \$30.00 and may be de-barred from competing in any further trials conducted by the West Australian Working sheep Dog Association.
23. That power be given to the trial Committee to alter the time allowed for each competitor to complete the course. All competitors to be notified prior to the start of the competition.
24. If any dog strays onto the arena whilst a trial is in progress or any other interference occurs, the competitor may request a re-run; the judges' immediate decision shall be final. All re-runs will take place after the last dog has competed in that class
25. Any competitor bringing dogs onto the ground and allowing them to run loose, either by mistake or otherwise – penalised by trial committee.
- 25A No dogs shall be allowed in to the arena prior to the start of any trial or during the period of any trial unless directed by the Trial Committee – penalised by the trial committee.
- 26 Any competitor who voluntarily withdraws forfeits all points for that trial.
- 27 That any competitor requiring and aid be subject to the judge's discretion
- 28 The judge's decision is final
- 29 That any member other than an encourage worker, or interstate visitor working a dog in an official trial will be a fully capitated member of the WAWSDA [7th March 1996]