



NATIONAL SHEEP DOG TRIAL ASSOCIATION – CANBERRA INC

Regulations & Field Rules for the conduct of the National Sheepdog Trial Championships (As at February 2010)

REGULATIONS

Each competitor shall commence with 100 points.

75 points are allocated for general work and the obstacles are allocated the following number of points: Race 7, Bridge 8, Pen 10.

Total 100 points.

FIELD RULES

- 1 The trials shall take place over such a course as the Committee of the National Sheepdog Trial Association (the Committee) shall determine.
- 2 Competitors must take their place by direction of the Steward and any dog absent when called upon to compete shall be disqualified, except in the case where the owner is carrying out special duties at the request of the Committee.
- 3 Each dog shall have three sheep in the first instance and, subsequently, any number the Judge may require.
- 4 The moment that the worker and dog are at the starting point and the sheep are liberated, 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 the worker leaves the casting peg. The Judge's decision on the sheep will be final.
- 5 The sheep shall, after the cast, be pulled into an area defined by flags or a line. As soon as all the sheep enter this area, they are deemed to be delivered and the worker is at liberty to proceed on the course.

- 6 Should the Judge deem necessary, he may order fresh sheep at any time during a trial but the trial must be conducted before any other trial is run. Should a re-run be ordered by the Judge because of a stray dog entering the ring and obstructing the trial in progress, that re-run will take place at once. Should the infringing dog be owned by the owner of the dog working in the trial or by the worker of the dog competing, then the working dog will be disqualified.
- 7 Each dog shall be allowed a maximum of fifteen minutes from the ringing of the bell after the sheep have been turned out.
- 8 The Judge shall have the power to call off any dog committing a misdemeanor of any kind, or having in his opinion, no chance of winning.
- 9 Any dog crossing the Cast, or passing between the competitor and the sheep during a trial, will be disqualified, except if covered by Rule 10.
- 10 If a dog is forcing the sheep through the Race or Bridge, when inside the wings and a sheep causes a cross by jumping over the dog, the dog shall NOT be disqualified.
- 11 If a dog should bite or in any way injure a sheep, such dog shall be disqualified and the competitor held responsible for any damage done to the sheep. Should a dog bark or snap at the sheep when they are stuck up, points may be deducted but the dog not be disqualified.
- 12 The circle in which the worker shall stand at each obstacle shall be 900-1200 mm diameter. The edge of the circle shall be 3 metres from the wings.
- 13 When the competitor has to move from one given point to another, he must do so in as direct a line as possible and not stop to work his dog. From the starting point to the race, the worker must move the sheep around to the right hand side of two markers. If necessary the worker may stand at either or both markers whilst working the sheep around the marker. Infringement of this rule may entail a deduction of points for each offence.
- 14 The worker shall not assist his dog in any way, other than by signal, whistle or word of mouth.
- 15 The competitor may use a stick or cane, without an attached flap, not exceeding a length of 450 mm, provided it is not employed for the purpose of creating a sound by coming in contact with any object whatsoever or in helping the dog control the sheep.

- 16 During a trial, should the owner or the dog break any of the Rules, a bell shall be rung to notify disqualification and also at the expiration of time of each trial. At the ringing of the bell the owner shall at once take his sheep to the yarding pen.
- 17 In these Rules, owner or competitor, except in the case of Rule 6, shall mean the person working the dog.
- 18 If, in the opinion of the Judge or Committee, any person ill-uses his dog, that person will be subject to a fine and may be debarred from competing again at any trials conducted under these Rules.
- 19 When the sheep have been penned and the worker goes to shut the gate and the sheep get out, the trial terminates and the dog retains the points gained up to the pen. No trial is complete until the pen gate is closed by the worker.
- 20 No bitch in season is allowed on the trial ground.
- 21 The Judge's decisions shall be final.
- 22 PROTESTS. All protests must be in writing and each accompanied by the prescribed fee and must be in the hands of the President, Secretary, or Trial Secretary of the Association within thirty minutes (30) of the conclusion of the Trial Championship. The Committee reserves the right to forfeit the protest fee should it so desire.
- 23 In the event of any good and sufficient evidence being supplied to the Committee regarding any irregularity in connection with the trials, the Committee reserves the right to disqualify or take any appropriate action it thinks fit at any time and demand the return of any monies, trophies, etc.
- 24 The Disputes and Protest Sub-Committee shall hear evidence on all objections, disputes and protests and shall have the power to summons persons to attend and give evidence.
- 25 In the case of all disputes and protests the decision of the Disputes and Protest Sub- Committee shall be final and binding.