

WEST AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEP DOG ASSOCIATION



Amended 2024 **WAWSDA REGULATIONS FOR THREE SHEEP ARENA**

DEFINITIONS:

- Owner, worker, or competitor:** shall mean the person working the dog.
- Dog:** With relevance to these documents shall mean dog or bitch.
- WAWSDA:** West Australian Working Sheep Dog Association
- Affiliated Clubs:** Clubs that have approved membership of WAWSDA and contribute monies towards it.
- Novice Class:** Dogs that have not won a Novice, Improver or Open class at an official WAWSDA Trial
- Improver Class:** Dogs that have not won an Improver or Open class at official WAWSDA trial.
- Open Class:** For all Registered dogs.
- Encourage Class:** New worker who are accompanied by experienced worker to give guidance around the course. May have 5 Encourage runs plus 5 Novice or Improver starts. Encourage may not enter Open class. Total of 10 runs.

REGULATIONS governing the running of Arena Trials:

1. The trials shall take place over a course as the West Australian Working Sheep Dog Association may approve. Under current WAWSDA rules, clubs may run either WAWSDA Course or the Supreme Course. This enables use of the proposed rules.
2. Clubs conducting official WAWSDA Trials may choose to combine Improver and Open classes if time, entry numbers or availability of sheep is restricted. The committee may take other necessary measures to complete the trial in the allocated time.
 - 2a. Clubs may also limit entries in each class to complete the trial in the designated time.
 - 2b. The Trial Committee may at any time introduce a ring off to facilitate the event finishing at an appropriate time. Notification of the ring off to be placed at the entrance to the arena.
3. Awards may be offered (monetary or other) by the club conducting the trial. The awards shall be given by points.

Where a worker has more than one entry in a class, the dogs will be run in the order that the competitor has listed on their entry form. A competitor with a single entry is not to be placed in the first or last quarter of the draw. No worker will be expected / required to work consecutive entries and multiple entries to be spaced as widely as possible.

4. At club trials, substitution of dogs and post entries of dogs for individual classes will be allowed and will be accepted prior to the commencement of each individual class.
5. Western Australian State Championship Arena Trials will be run under WAWSDA rules. No post-entries or substitutions of dogs will be accepted for the State Championships. All dogs must be registered and there will be no restrictions to the entries of Open class dogs in the State Championships. All affiliated Clubs will endeavour to host the State Championships in rotation.
6. All dogs competing in OFFICIAL TRIALS must be registered with a recognised Sheep Dog Association, except for novice dogs trialling in the novice or encourage classes only.
7. Registered dogs must be registered with the State Association in the State in which the owner resides. Registered dogs from Interstate may keep their registration provided the registration number is transferred to the new Owner.
8. The WAWSDA Dog of the Year is the dog scoring the highest aggregate of points from each Club's Official Trial, 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.
 - 9.a. When 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.
 - 9.b. Scoring system for the Dog of the Year 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
 - 9.c. A tie for first place must be decided by a runoff in the Championships. For other place ties add the place points together and evenly divide them.
- 9 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.
- 10 A worker may lodge a protest before the event is completed. This must be in writing and be accompanied by a \$50 protest fee to trial committee. In the event the protest is successful the \$50 will be returned to the applicant.
- 11 Any one taking part in a trial who openly disputes the actions or decision of the Judge shall be dealt with by the Trial committee and/ or by WAWSDA.

12 All WAWSDA Trial entry forms will have the following indemnity clause:

Please complete below to enable us to accept your nominations: **WAIVER**

By submitting this entry form to *Club Name*, I, print name acknowledge that working sheep may put me at risk of injury or illness, and that attending this trial, I accept that I may be injured from both foreseen and unforeseen events associated with working sheep and dogs. I will not hold *Club Name*

Inc, Or WAWSDA Inc, the committee or members of the Association responsible for any illness or injury that may occur as a direct or indirect result of attending this trial. The handler/owner of the dog certifies that the entered dog is not a hazard to persons, stock or property.

Signature _____ Date _____

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Amended: March 2024

COURSE LAYOUT FOR THREE SHEEP ARENA TRIALS:

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1. Obstacles

- 1.1. All the obstacles must be made of materials that are strong enough to withstand the rigours of sheep hitting them many times during the trial. The obstacles shall be white or be light coloured and be secured in a manner that prevents any movement of them during the trial.
- 1.2. **Race:** Consists of four panels. Two of the panels are 3.6 metres long and placed parallel and level to each other 1.5 metres apart. The other two panels are hinged onto the parallel panels and angled apart making a wing so that there is 2.5 metres between them at the entrance. The height of each panel is 0.9m.
- 1.3. **Bridge:** Consists of three parts, the wing with a ramp, the raised bridge and the outlet. Each part will have panels of a height of 0.9m.
 - 1.3.1. The raised bridge must have a solid floor and be 0.40 metre off the ground. It will be 3 metres long, 1 metre wide and 0.9m with side panels.
 - 1.3.2. The wing will have panels 3 metres long with 4.5 metres between them at the entrance. There will be a solid ramp attached to the end of the raised bridge and extending into the wing to 1.5 metres. The ramp must extend to the sides of the wings.

- 1.3.3. The outlet will have panels 1.5 m long, hinged onto the end of the raised bridge and angled apart to 1.5 metres. There will be a solid ramp extending into the outlet for 1.5 metres. Depending on the rules at the time the trial is held, the outlet may or may not be included.

- 1.4. **Pen:** Consists of four panels each 2.5 metres long placed at right angles to each other to form a square. One panel is hinged to make the gate. At the start of the trial this gate is open at a right angle so that it is in line with the open entrance. A peg is placed in the ground at the end of the open gate so that it cannot be pushed backward onto the pen while the sheep are being worked into it.

2. Course markers

- 2.1. There will be winding pegs, markers and rings placed on the course to indicate the areas where the worker and sheep must move and stand. All markers and rings should be made of suitable materials and be secured to prevent movement by the sheep and be coloured so that they are easily visible to the judge from a distance despite the weather conditions.
- 2.2. **Casting Peg:** Where the worker will stand while the dog brings the sheep from the let-out into the defined area in front of the casting peg. When possible, the casting peg should be placed a minimum of 20 metres from the fence. The defined area in front of the casting peg consists of a semicircle and extends ten metres each side.
- 2.3 **Winding Peg:** These consist of two markers placed between the casting peg and the race. The first winding peg is placed straight up the ground from the casting peg and indicates where the worker and sheep turn left. The second winding peg is placed halfway between the first winding peg and the race. The worker and sheep must keep to the right of these markers when moving past them.
- 2.3. **Worker's Circle.** This is a ring with a diameter 0.9 metre in which the worker must stand while the dog works the sheep through an obstacle. The circle is placed three metres from the left edge or wing of an obstacle. The distance is measured from the edge of the circle.

3. Working corridors and areas.

- 3.1. Corridors are the defined areas where the sheep must stay while being moved between obstacles. The corridors are ten meters wide and must be clearly marked. The worker moves along the left edge of the corridor keeping the sheep on their right. Ideally different coloured markers should be used to mark the left and right edges. The corridors will be marked using a series of straight lines as follows, the left edges being marked first, and then the right edges.
- 3.1.1. Casting peg to first winding peg or marker. The right-hand edge around this winding peg will be an arc due to the direction change.
- 3.1.2. First winding peg or marker to second winding peg or marker.
- 3.1.3. Second winding peg or marker to workers ring at the Race.

- 3.1.4. Once sheep exit the end of the Race, proceed in a straight line to workers ring left of the entrance to the Bridge.
- 3.1.5. Once sheep exit edge of Bridge, proceed from of the Bridge to the worker ring on the left side of Pen gate in open position.
- 3.1.6. Other markers may be placed to indicate other areas where the dog can work the sheep without incurring penalties. These are the free working areas in front of the obstacles and a marker 15 metres before the bridge will indicate where the sheep may change sides as the worker approaches the bridge.

4 Layout of The Course

- 4.1.1 The opposite end of the course will be the let-out area where the sheep to be worked by the dog are released. This area will have bunting, flags or similar arranged in a manner to guide the sheep into a suitable position for the cast and lift. Ideally this will allow sufficient room for the dog to move behind the sheep to gain the best position for the lift. The sheep ideally should be 20metres clear from the back fence.
- 4.1.2 The obstacles will be worked in the following order, Race, Bridge then Pen. The Race will be placed in a location that requires a left hand turn from the first winding post to it.
- 4.1.3 The actual placement of the obstacles will depend on the size and shape of the venue, natural obstacles such as trees and possible ground disturbance or hazards that may pose a safety risk to the worker, sheep or judge.
- 4.1.4 The angle that the obstacles are placed to each other, and the corridors should take into consideration the following: The approach of the sheep to provide a sui table challenge, and the position where the judge will need to be to be able to accurately view the line across the entrance of the obstacle.