



AUSTRALIAN SHEEPDOG WORKERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

SUPREME RULES

Adopted 19/03/1999

Revised & adopted 26/03/2004

Revised & adopted 18/06/2008

Revised & adopted 14/08/2013

Revised & adopted 17/10/2017

Revised & adopted 17/06/2026

Revised & adopted 07/04/2000

Revised & adopted 16/04/2007

Revised & adopted 13/09/2011

Revised & adopted 12/10/2016

Revised & adopted 25/02/2025

Allocation of Supreme Championships

1. **Approval to hold the Championships.** Proposal and application to hold the Supreme Championship must be presented to the Australian body for approval.
2. The Championship start and finish date is to be provided to the States six (6) months prior.
3. A Committee is to run the Championship. The State body or Committee must work in liaison with the Australian Association. Social activities should be discussed with the Australian Association.
4. Sponsorship arranged by the Australian Association and the State Body organising the Supreme. This sponsorship is to cover all costs relating to the trial.
5. The Venue is to be suitable to draw large crowds. To be held, where possible, in conjunction with another large event. Preferably with a large area for caravans and camping on the grounds or within a few kilometres.
6. Trial sheep must be inspected by delegate(s) of the committee running the trial at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the trial. If necessary, they are to be wigged (the cost to be borne by the organising committee), worked and/or handled.
7. **Judges.** The organising committee is to submit from the current "ASDWA Supreme Judges List" or the qualified Judges provided by the States, two preferred Judges and one Reserve Judge. The organising committee is to provide Accommodation and/or remuneration to the Judges. Final selection of the Judges is to be ratified at a suitable ASDWA General Meeting.

8. Prize Money, Trophies and Ribbons:

Supreme

- Twenty dogs into the second round. All finalists to receive prize money and/or ribbon and/or trophy.
- Top Ten dogs into the final to receive prize money and/or ribbon and/or trophy.

Improver

- Five dogs into the final, all finalists to receive prize money and /or ribbon and/or trophy.

Novice (if separate Novice is run – see Rule 22)

- Five dogs into the final – All finalists to receive prize money and/or ribbon and/or trophy.

9. Sashes/Certificates to be provided by the Australian Association. Costs are to be absorbed by the Organising Committee of the Supreme Championships.

10. Interstate Challenge. Three representatives from each State, chosen by their State as being appropriate competitors and ambassadors for their home State and for the sport of sheepdog trialling, shall be invited to compete for the Ted Gaby Shield at the Supreme Championships. The Challenge is to be over three (3) Trans-Tasman Rounds as follows:

- A Three rounds – to be held over the Trans-Tasman Course and worked under the Trans-Tasman rules.

These rounds are to be conducted in a block and the position in the programme is to be determined by the organising committee.

- B Each round may be judged by different judges.
- C The order of participants to change for each round and each round is to be listed in the official program.
- D The winning State team is to be determined by the Aggregate scores of all representatives over the three (3) rounds of the Interstate Challenge. The winning team is to receive replicas of the Ted Gaby Shield. The names of all representatives of the winning State team are to be engraved on the Ted Gaby Shield.

11. **Test Team Selection.** The team to represent Australia will be chosen from the outcome of the Ted Gaby Shield competition. The four highest scoring dogs over the three rounds of the Interstate Challenge will represent Australia against New Zealand for the Tests.

- After the Team has been chosen, any withdrawals will be filled by the next available highest scoring dog.
- The Test Team selected at the Supreme Championships will represent in the following Test Series irrespective of the date of the Tests.
- The Captain of the Australian team is to be chosen by the Association.
- Each Test Team Member is to receive an Australian Blazer with appropriate pocket which has been inscribed, and an Australian tie.
- Judge / Manager for Australia V New Zealand Test can only do one Test series in Australia and one Test in New Zealand for a period of five years.

12. Trans-Tasman Tests. These are usually held each year, alternating between Australia and New Zealand. Should a New Zealand Test Team be invited to Australia, they must be accommodated to a standard approved by the Australian Association.
13. Mementos. Each member of both Test Teams is to receive an inscribed memento of the occasion. Cost is to be absorbed by the organising committee.
14. Commentary. To be provided during the Championship to keep the public informed and competitors aware of the draw.
15. Television. There may be a television program made during the Championships and the Organising Committee to be aware of this and to allow time in the schedule.

Administrative

16. The entry form for all events conducted at the Supreme Championship must contain a declaration to be filled in and signed by all triallers and will read as follows:

I, ----- do hereby agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of the ASDWA and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. (See Rule 33)
17. Owners of all Dogs competing in all Trials must be financial members of a State Working Sheepdog Association and their dogs must be registered.
18. An owner may appoint, at the time of entry, a nominee to work the dog, or dogs, at a trial. Such a nominee must be a financial member of the Working Sheep Dog Association in the State in which they reside and accept full responsibility during the currency of the trial. If a nominee is appointed, they must work in both preliminary and final.
19. Entries are not to be accepted unless the full name and registered number of the dog is supplied. It should be stated on the entry form that the full name and registration number of each dog must be given and that the entry will not be accepted unless the information is supplied.
20. Novice dogs are not eligible to enter the Supreme Championship except in Tasmania and Western Australia, then only at discretion of the organising committee. However, a Worker without any Open Dogs be allowed to work 1 Novice Dog in the Australian Supreme Open/Improver in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, then only at discretion of the Organising Committee. Provision is to be made in the acceptance of Supreme entries to accommodate dogs that break their Novice status after the advertised closing date for entries.
21. If an Improver trial is to be held, it must be run in conjunction with the Open Trial. Improver dogs are eligible to enter the Improver or Open or both events. A Separate final to be run for both Open and Improver.
22. States may run a separate Novice, Encourage and/or Improver if they are able to do so.
23. If a competitor enters a dog in a Novice trial and wins after Supreme entries have closed, the competitor and dog become eligible, on payment of the entry fee, to compete in the Improver and/or Open trial.
24. In the event of a tie in the Novice, Improver or Open trials, a winner must be decided by a run-off.

25. Competitor's dogs should be drawn in the order of listing on their entry form.
No late entries can be accepted.
- a) One dog worker to be placed in the draw at the discretion of the Committee.
 - b) Two dog workers – one dog in the first half, second dog placed in second half of the draw.
 - c) More than two (2) dog workers to be evenly distributed throughout the draw
 - d) The "Interstate Challenge dogs" competing in the "Supreme Australian Championships" will be run in the nominated order supplied by the Competitor.
 - e) The visiting New Zealand Test Team will compete in the Championship at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
26. Only Judges' Cards drawn up by the Association may be used. A competitor cannot examine his/her card until the completion of the trial. Cards may only be examined in the presence of a Trial Steward and under no circumstances can a competitor examine the card of another competitor. The cards shall always remain the property of the Association and therefore must not be given to a competitor. The cards should also be kept in a position where they are not readily available for competitors to peruse. If Judge's cards are not used, written score must be handed to the officials.
27. No dog shall be permitted to compete in a trial or be brought near a trial ground if it has been exposed to the risk of distemper or parvovirus during a period of seven (7) weeks prior to the date of the trial is to be held. Owners of dogs may be asked to sign a declaration to this effect before being allowed to compete in a trial.
28. Any Protest must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the Trial Committee within fifteen (15) minutes and be accompanied by a fee of \$10 which will be returned if the protest is upheld. Such a protest will be dealt with by the Trial Committee, which will within twenty-eight (28) days submit a report to this Association. Any appeal shall be dealt with by the Committee of the Association whose decision will be final.
29. Any person or persons refusing to conform to these rules may be disqualified from competing at all future trials conducted under these Rules.
30. In the event of any question or situation not provided for in these Rules, the matter in question shall be dealt with by a jury consisting of any three (3) members from the State Representatives of the Australian Association and any action taken shall be reported to the Association within fourteen (14) days and the Executive Committee, if it deems fit, may make any alteration or addition to cover such contingency in the future.
31. These Rules shall not be altered or added to unless notice of the proposed alteration or addition shall have been given to the Secretary, and by the Secretary to each voting member of the Association in writing at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be considered and the motion is carried by a majority of the committee present at the meeting.

Conduct of the Trial

32. The judges' decision shall be final and they shall be in command of the trial from the time the competitor, with their dog released, enters the course.

33. Code of Conduct

- a) A competitor shall not inflict verbal or physical abuse on any person;
 - b) A competitor shall not inflict pain or cause wilful distress to any animal;
 - c) A competitor shall not engage in words or actions which constitute sexual harassment or discrimination;
 - d) A competitor shall not engage in un-sportsmanlike conduct
 - e) All competitors must wear appropriate clothing and footwear;
 - f) A competitor must present themselves for competition in a state of sobriety.
 - g) A Competitor shall not question the decision, abuse or intimidate any Judge during the course of the Trial.
34. Competitors at trials shall take their place according to the draw, and any dog absent shall not be allowed to compete, except at the discretion of the Organising Committee under special circumstances. If a competitor is granted permission to run in the trial after having missed their proper place in the draw, the run should take place at the end of the round in progress, at the committee's discretion. Should the same dog reach the final, they must take their place accordingly in the final.
35. When a competitor's name is called, the worker must proceed to the peg promptly from an entry gate near the starting peg. Should a dog leave the arena after the worker has been called to the peg, they should be disqualified.
36. The course is as per diagram of these rules. The diagram provides a course layout including minimum separation of obstacles, obstacle dimensions and a scale of points.
37. Sheep to be brought out from the fence a distance of eighteen (18) metres to give every dog a chance for a pick-up.
38. Should a dog break away before the sheep release signal has been given, the worker may move away from the peg, but not forward of it, to recall his/her dog.
39. After the sheep release signal has been given, and before the starting bell, should a dog break, it must be recalled from the peg without penalty. If the dog cannot be recalled before coming into contact with the sheep it must be disqualified.
40. In any trial, if any dog fails, at the first attempt, to sight the sheep they may be recalled and redirected and penalised accordingly.
41. At the conclusion of each trial the sheep must be taken to a point indicated by the trial committee, as expeditiously as possible. The put-away area preferably to be at the same end as the let-out and not on the side of the arena.

42. A re-run will not be given if a competitor has lost more points than will enable them to run in the finals. Re-run can be taken straight away or at the judge's discretion or at the discretion of the organising committee.
43. If, in the opinion of the judges or committee, or any body conducting a trial under these rules, any worker does not abide by the Code of Conduct, they may be subject to a fine not exceeding \$200, and / or disqualified from the current competition and/or forfeit all prize money and/or may be barred from competing at any trial conducted under these rules.
44. Any worker who handles their dog during a trial shall be disqualified unless permission has been granted by the judge.
45. No competitor shall be allowed on the trial course with any dog prior to or during the currency of the trial except when directed by a trial steward. The owner or nominee of a dog allowed to run loose by mistake or otherwise, may be fined subject to the Trial Committee.
46. If a dog should in any way injure a sheep, such dog shall at once be disqualified and the competitor held responsible for any damage to the sheep. Should a sheep exhibit defiance and or aggression and the dog then snaps at or nips the sheep, no points need be deducted nor the dog disqualified. If the dog is the aggressor and bites the sheep when not in self-defence, the judge must disqualify it.
47. If the working of the dog is of inferior merit the judge has the power to terminate the trial before the expiry of time allowed.
48. Bitches in season may work at the Supreme. Competitors must use discretion regarding these bitches, and they should not have a detrimental effect on other dogs competing.
49. The Judges' written scores for each run shall be displayed individually, added, and the totals divided by two (2). Judges should not confer regarding scores until the cards have been handed in.

Trial Rules

50. Time of the trial shall be fifteen (15) minutes and start and finish with a bell or siren.
51. The competitor will not be allowed to control the dog in any way except by signal, whistle or word of mouth. Any competitor who, by action sound or unfair maneuver stops or turns the sheep at any obstacle, or if the obstacle is negotiated by such action, shall have points deducted.
52. Any stick used by competitors shall be solid and not more than 46 centimetres long and without flaps.
- 52.A Have a ring at the starting peg to match the Trans Tasman course.
Competitor to leave on the right-hand side of the peg.
Competitor to walk over or inside the markers.

53. The dog may be cast from an area nine (9) metres in front of, nine (9) metres to either side or behind the peg to the fence. The peg is to be at least thirty (30) metres from the fence (see diagram).
54. The draw shall be considered to be completed when the sheep have crossed the balance marker as indicated on the course diagram.
55. If the sheep pass the worker on the right-hand side, they must be “unwound”, anticlockwise, and returned to a correct course. If the sheep circle the peg more than once from the right-hand side, the sheep need be unwound once and no further unwinding is necessary.
56. When taking sheep from one obstacle to another, a worker should walk in a straight line. The sheep should be on the competitor’s right side unless otherwise specified. Points must be deducted if the competitor stops between obstacles.
57. Should sheep enter any obstacle before the worker reaches the set, the competitor may step into the set and complete the obstacle. However, if the sheep have negotiated any obstacle under the same circumstances, such obstacle must be reworked, except for the pen, in which case the worker must step into the set and then close the gate. If the worker leaves the set before having negotiated an obstacle, they must be disqualified.
58. Points may be deducted for slow work.
59. During the course of the trial, any dog coming between the worker and the sheep shall be disqualified, except that the judges at their discretion, need not disqualify a dog coming between the worker and the sheep, provided that the dog is, or has been, forcing in a proper manner at the obstacle. When negotiating obstacles, points should be deducted if the sheep are allowed to circle the obstacle or if they pass the wing and are brought back.
60. If any sheep escape from the pen through the gate after the worker has left the set, they may re-pen the sheep but must not stop walking. If the sheep are not then penned, the trial terminates when the gate is closed and the worker forfeits the points for the sheep escaping and for the pen.
61. All points lost must be deducted, including points for negotiated obstacles if required.
- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| GAP = | 3 - Points |
| RACE = | 7 - Points |
| BRIDGE = | 10 - Points |
| PEN = | 20 - Points |

SUPREME COURSE Adopted 26/3/04

Obstacles to be set at least 40m to 60m apart – Longest section to the gap
Course to be set in square to suit the arena and Trans Tasman course
Course to be 9metres wide. Markers to be set 9 metres apart.
Edge of circle or square to be 2 metres from edge of obstacle
Put-away area should be as near as possible to let-out area and not on side of arena.

