

AUSTRALIAN YARD DOG ASSOCIATION Inc

Competition Rules Updated 2016

Part I: Definitions

1(a): Yard dog competition: A competition, in which a dog and its handler must negotiate sheep through a predetermined course, confined within permanent or temporary sheep yards, within a specified time limit.

(2) No less than 18 sheep used unless the yards being used are of a permanent construction and cannot be extended to accommodate 18 sheep.

(b) “The Organizing Committee” – the persons responsible for conducting the competition

(c) “The Handler” - The person who

(i) Nominates to work a dog in a particular competition

(ii) Is working a dog in competition.

(iii) Has worked a dog in competition.

(d) “Special Prize” - A prize or trophy offered for the competition of dogs and /or handlers for which no entry fee has been charged.

Part II. Competition Levels

2(a): “Australian Yard dog Championship”

Eligibility

(i) The current Australian Yard Dog Champion

(ii) The current State Champion and dog placed second in the State Championship trial

(iii) The State may nominate 2 dogs of its choice if any of the following apply:

a) If an interstate dog wins a State Championship.

b) If the State Champion and runner up are unable to attend

c) If a State Championship has not been held since the Australian Championship

(iv) If an interstate dog wins a state championship he/she is eligible to compete in the AYDA Inc Championship regardless of his or her State of origin.

(v) The field of the Championship to be 25, and shall be comprised of the eligible State representatives and the top placings from an open trial conducted by the Organising Committee.

(vi) All handlers and Open dogs should have an equal opportunity to enter the qualifying trial held prior to the Australian Championship. Should it become necessary to restrict multiple entries it should be in consultation with the handlers affected.

(vii) All handlers with dogs that are classified as open dogs in their home State to have an equal opportunity to work in the open qualifying trial prior to the Australian Championship.

(b) The qualifying trial event run at the AYDA Championship will be run under AYDA rules.

In the event that the hosting body runs a Novice and/or an Improver section that the dogs be allowed to win two of each of these sections.

Part III. Finals

3(a): The Finalists shall be the highest scoring dogs in the first round.

(b) The number of finalists is determined by the number of placings offered, with a minimum of 6 placings

(c) One more dog is worked than places offered.

(d) If a number of dogs are tied on the lowest score eligible for the final, all go into the final.

(e) The highest aggregate score will be the winner.

(f) In the event of a tie for first place, after aggregation of scores, a run- off will be conducted. There must be an outright winner.

(g) In the event of a tie for the minor placings, prize money is pooled and divided e.g. if 3rd placing is a tie, money from 3rd and 4th placings is pooled and divided. If there is a trophy, a “toss” can be conducted between the place getters.

(h) Where possible, the final shall be conducted in the same order as the dogs were drawn to work in the first run. However, if a handler has more than one dog in the final, his run may be separated by others dogs.

(i) No prize will be awarded to a dog which, after being selected to compete in a final, fails to participate in the final.

Part IV: Draw

- 4(a)** A draw must be conducted to determine the order of working, prior to the start of the competition.
- (b)** That the draw for the Australian Championships be conducted according to the rules of the host State.
- (c)** All Handlers must be issued with either a copy of the draw or a copy must be displayed in a prominent position. A public address system should be employed wherever possible to keep both handlers and spectators informed.
- (d)** A handler cannot be substituted after the draw has been finalised for the qualifying trial or the Australian Yard Dog Championship

Part V: Course

- 5(a):** All competitions shall be run over such course as the Organising Committee determines.
- (b)** Competition Courses should include at least four of the following –
- (i) Gather of sheep
 - (ii) Drafting race
 - (iii) Drenching /classing race
 - (iv) Trailer/truck / elevated platform
 - (v) Ramp
 - (vi) Put sheep away
 - (vii) Any obstacle likely to be found in a farm sheep yard.
- (c)** When erecting the yards, the Organising Committee must ensure that there are no sharp edges, protrusions or objects that may be hazardous or cause injury to the sheep, the dogs, or handlers.
- (d)** Where the yards are constructed from panels or portable yards, the Organising Committee must ensure that they are securely fixed to prevent any movement when pressure is applied to the sheep.
- (e)** In competition courses that incorporate a drenching race or other confined area into which all sheep must be forced, the number of sheep to be worked shall be that number that allows each sheep to stand comfortably. This number shall be determined by the Organising Committee in consultation with the judge.
- (f)** All sheep must be inspected prior to being worked for any physical defects or injuries. Any injured or unhealthy sheep must not be worked
- (g)** That all available committee members inspect the trial course at least one day prior to the commencement of the championship trial, for the purpose of eliminating any design faults and to ensure animal welfare standards are met, in consultation with the trial convener.
- (h)** Prior to the commencement of the competition a representative of the Organising Committee must walk the course with the handlers and explain how the competition is to be worked.
- (i)** The Judge must be involved in the explanation of the course and must address the handlers prior to the commencement of the competition.

Part VI: Time limit

- 6 (a)** A maximum time limit in which to complete the course will be set before the competition commences. The composition of the course will influence the time limit. It is recommended that the course be constructed to allow it to be comfortably completed within about 12 minutes.
- (b)** The time limit will be set by the organising committee.
- (c)** A bell or similar device, when sounded, shall signify the start of each run and the expiry of the limit.

Part VII: Bitches in Oestrus

- 7 A** All bitches entered in competition must be inspected by a steward nominated by the organising committee prior to being worked.
- B** Any handler who works a bitch in oestrus shall be disqualified from further competition at that competition.

Part VIII: Canes

8 A: A handler may use a cane not exceeding 46cms (18") in length.

Part IX: Muzzles

9 A: A dog shall be permitted to work in a muzzle but shall incur a 5 point penalty.

Part X: Handler's Assistant

(a): Prior to competing, an elderly or disabled handler may apply to the judge to have an able bodied person assist him / her with any physically demanding task likely to be encountered in the competition.

(b) The assistant must be selected by the judge.

(c) The assistant will assist at the discretion of the handler.

Part XI: Working the competition

11 A The judge will be in command of the competition from the time the handler, with his dog released, enters the yards.

B All gates must be left as found by the handler, failure to do this will incur a penalty.

C The handler may assist his/ her dog to shift the sheep but will incur a penalty.

D (i) In the drafting phase of any trial the handler can use his/her body to avoid jamming the sheep's head. Also where the nominated sheep is past the gate of exit, but within reach of the handler, the handler may turn the sheep back with out loss of points for handling the sheep. However, the judge may penalise the dog if he considers over working by the dog caused the situation.

(ii) If a number of sheep become wedged in the mouth or neck of the draft, after the dog has proven they are unable to be moved, the worker may free the sheep without losing points for handling sheep.

E Misdrafting will be penalised at the discretion of the judge.

F Dogs biting excessively and working the sheep in an unduly rough manner may be disqualified at the judge's discretion.

G If the working of the dog is of inferior merit the judge may terminate the run before the expiration of the time limit.

H In the event of a misdraft a competitor may call on a steward to help rectify the misdraft.

I In order to work a trial a full complement of sheep is required to be worked through all sections of the trial course (i.e the sheep jumps out through no fault of the dog, the clock shall be stopped and the sheep returned before the trial continues.)

J The finalists and/ or placings are not to be decided on time records.

K Crosses shall be penalised only when the judge considers it to be inferior work.

Part XII: Welfare of Sheep and Dogs

A: If in the opinion of the judge any handler ill -treats or mishandles his dog or the sheep, he must be disqualified.

B: The handler will not be penalised for aiding a distressed sheep.

C: Any handler who fails to make an effort to stand up a sheep which goes down in a race or other confined space or fails to free a sheep caught in a fence, or shows disregard for the welfare of the sheep, must be penalized or may be disqualified.

D: Sufficient sheep should be obtained to provide fresh sheep for each dog.

E All dogs to be worked should be vaccinated and in general good health

Part XIII: Reruns

13 **A** A re run will be granted if any dog, not belonging to the handler comes into the competition area and interferes with the run.

B In the event of sheep escaping from the yards, the run may continue providing the judge considers the dog or handler were not the cause. If either was considered to be the cause, a penalty will be incurred or the dog will be rung off at the judge's discretion.

C. The judge may order a rerun for the dog competing at anytime during that dog's run.

D. If a rerun is granted, it must be conducted at the end of the draw.

Part XIV: Protests

14 **A** Any protest must be lodged with the disputes committee of the AYDA Inc. immediately the misdemeanor occurs and their ruling must be accepted as final.

B Any protest must be lodged in writing and accompanied by twenty Dollars (\$20) which will be refunded if the protest is upheld

Part XV: Scoring

15 **A** Section points must be allocated to each section according to the degree of difficulty of the obstacles with-in the section.

B Maximum of 100 points allocated and any dog that loses 100 points is eliminate

Part XVI: Judges

16 **A** There must be two judges for the Australian Yard Dog Championship, preferably from different States.

B The judges will be selected according to Championship status from lists selected and supplied by the states.

C Score from each judge will be combined and averaged. The score may not be used to challenge the judge's decision, which is final, except in the situation where a formal protest is lodged under Rules 14 A and 14 B

D A recommendation to all organising committees of the Australian Yard Dog Championship that all judges for the Championship may be different to the judges officiating in the Open and qualifying event

Part XVII: Interference

17 **A** In event of a run being interfered with e.g. gates left open, dog or sheep strays onto course, sheep escaping, the judge may stop the clock and rectify the fault to a position where a competitor gains no advantage or becomes disadvantaged. The clock would then restart and the trail continue.