

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YARD DOG ASSOCIATION Inc RULES 2021

1. 'Definitions

A. 'Yard Dog Competition'

A competition in which a dog and its handler must negotiate sheep through a pre-determined course, confined within permanent or temporary sheep yards, within a specified time.

B. 'The Organising Committee'

The persons responsible for conducting the competition.

C. 'Handler'

The person who:

(1) nominates to work a dog in a particular competition

(2) works a dog in a competition

(3) has worked a dog in a competition

D. 'Special Prize'

A trophy offered for the competition for dogs and or handlers for which no entry fee has been charged.

2 Competition levels

1] Any handler may work a dog in a competition conducted by the SAYDA on condition that he/she agrees to comply with the rules & code of conduct of the SAYDA Inc & he/she is a full financial, junior or life member of the SAYDA Inc or a temporary member of the SAYDA.

2] An Encourage handler may compete in 3 competitions prior to becoming a member of the Association provided a temporary membership fee (as determined by the Association at the AGM) is paid prior to the commencement of the trial.

3] To be eligible to compete in the State Championships or any annual award at the trial run by the SAYDA a competitor must be a full financial member of the SAYDA

3 CLASSES - rules updated at Special General Meeting 6-3-21

1] Encourage

2] Maiden

3] Novice

4] Improver

5] Open

6] State Championship

1] **Encourage**

A] Once a **dog** has won an Encourage, he/she is then graded "Maiden" and can no longer compete in the Encourage Class. The **handler** can remain in the Encourage for two wins. On the second win the **Handler** is no longer eligible to enter the Encourage Class.

B] The Encourage Classes are to be run first thing in the morning of a trial whether this be on the first or following days.

2] **Maiden**

A] Once a dog has won a Maiden, he/she is then graded "Novice" and can no longer compete in the Maiden Class.

B] A Maiden dog may be nominated in a Novice Class at the discretion of the trial convenor.

C] The winner of the Maiden Class may compete in the Novice class on the day at the discretion of the trial convenor.

D] Any **Handler** that has won at Open Championship Event is not eligible to enter their dogs in the Maiden Class.

3] **Novice**

A] Once a dog has won a Novice Class, he/she is then graded "Improver" and can no longer compete in the Novice Class.

B] A Novice dog cannot be nominated in an Improver or Open Class.

C] If a Novice dog wins a Novice trial it can go into the Improver Section on the day, if its handler wishes. If he/she wins the Improver Section it is then an "Open" class dog. If his/her score is high enough they may compete in the Open final.

4] **Improver**

A] Once a dog has won an Improver Class, he/she is then graded "Open" and can no longer compete in the Improver Class.

B] An Improver class dog may enter the Open Class.

C] The Improver winner's score counts for his Open run score only if the judge is the same.

5] **Open**

Open dogs are dogs that comply in accordance with rule 4.

E. **State Championship**

(1) A SAYDA State Championship will be held annually.

(2) A SAYDA State Championship is to have 2 judges.

(3) SAYDA representatives for the Australian Yard Dog Championship will qualify through the State Championship.

(4) **Clause 2A** of the Australian Yard Dog Inc Competition rules define the eligibility for the Australian Yard Dog Championship.

- (5) The field for the State Championship to be not less than twenty-five.
- (6) The competitor must be a full financial member to enter the qualifying round of the State Championships.

(7) **Eligibility**

- (a) The current SAYDA State Champion
- (b) Dogs that have qualified by winning a SAYDA affiliated Open event in the period since the previous State Championship was held.
- (c) The top placings from an Open event conducted in conjunction with the trial.
- (d) If a number of dogs are tied on the lowest scores eligible, all dogs will go into the field.

(6) **Finals**

- (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 six.
- (c) One more dog is worked than placings offered.
- (d) If a number of dogs are tied on the lowest scores eligible for the final, all dogs will go into the final.
- (e) The highest aggregate score of the first round and the final 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 minor placings, times will be the deciding factor. If there is a trophy, the trophy recipient will be decided by the toss of a coin.
- (h) The draw for the final will be the in the same order as the dogs were drawn in the first round.
- (i) If a handler has more than one dog in the final, the runs will be separated by other dogs.
- (j) After qualifying for a final, no prize will be awarded to a dog that fails to compete in the final.
- (k) In the event that two or more competitors tie for placings and there is insufficient time to run a final, time will be the deciding factor after consultation between the convenor and the judge.

[l] It is not necessary to conduct separate competitions for each competition level.

[m] When Special prizes are offered for Encourage, Novice, Improver, Open and State Championship events, the eligibility of dogs will be determined by the criteria as described in **Clauses 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E**.

[n] A Dog that wins a Special prize, for which no entry fee has been charged, does not have its status affected.

[o] Eligibility of working status will be taken as at the date of the competition.

3. Finals

- A. The finalists shall be the highest scoring dogs in the first run
- B. The number of finalists is determined by the number of placings offered. One more dog is worked than the placings offered. Time permitting all dogs on equal points for the last eligible placing may run. Preference going to Championship and Open competitions first.

- C. The competitor with the highest aggregate points of the elimination round and the final round will be deemed the winner.
- D. In the event of two or more competitors scoring an equal number of aggregate points after the elimination round and the final round, a run-off will be conducted.
In the event that the aggregate points of the three rounds are still equal for first position, then aggregate times for all three rounds will determine the winner.
- E. The final shall be conducted in the same order as the dogs were drawn to work in the first round.
- F. No prize will be awarded to a dog which, after being selected to compete in the final, fails to participate in the final.

4. Draws

- A. A draw must be conducted to determine the order of working, prior to the start of the competition.
- B. Dogs are drawn as listed on the entry form.
- C. Multiple dog handlers are to be evenly placed throughout the draw at the convener's discretion. Handlers with one dog may be drawn anywhere in the draw.
- D. All open competitions must be run according to the draw.
- E. All handlers must be issued with a copy of the draw or a copy must be displayed in a prominent position. A public address system should be employed whenever possible to keep both handlers and spectators informed.
- F. Handlers should note the following on their entry forms: In case of a ballot, please take out the following dogs in the order requested.

5. The Course

- A. All competitions shall be run over such a course as the Organising Committee determines.
- B. Competition courses should include some of the following
 - (1) Gather sheep
 - (2) Drafting race
 - (3) Drenching/classing race
 - (4) Trailer/truck
 - (5) Ramp
 - (6) Fill a woolshed
 - (7) Put sheep away
 - (8) Any obstacle likely to be found in farm sheep yards.
- 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 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 areas into which all sheep must be forced, the number of sheep worked shall be the number that allows each sheep to stand comfortably. The Organising Committee, in consultation with the Judge shall determine this number.
- 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. 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.
- H. The Judge must be involved with the explanation of the course and must address the handlers prior to the commencement of the competition.

6. Time Limit

- 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 twelve minutes.
- B. The time limit will be set by the Organising Committee.
- C. A bell or similar device, when sounded will signify the start of each run and the expiry of the time limit.

7. Bitches in Oestrus

- A. All bitches entered in the 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 in that competition except for those bitches described in **Clause 7c** of these rules.
- C. Bitches in oestrus may compete in an Open event provided that it is acceptable under State Law.

7 (a) Cane

Canes are not permitted to be used in a trial

8. Muzzles

The Encourage handlers be permitted to work their dog in a muzzle without loss of points.

All other sections at a trial shall incur a penalty of **5 points** when their dog works in a muzzle..

9. Handlers Assistants

- A. Prior to competing, an elderly or disabled handler may apply to a Judge to have an able-bodied person assist him or 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 direction of the handler.

10. Working the Competition

- A. 1] In encourage, maiden & Novice classes, the Judge will be in command of the competition from the time the handler enters the course. The handler may take up the casting position prior to releasing the dog off the leash.
2] In the Improver, Open qualifying & Championship classes, the Judge will be in command of the competition from the time the handler enters the course with their dog released.
- 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. 1] In the drafting phase of any trial the handler can use their body to avoid jamming the sheep's head.
2] Where the nominated sheep is past the gate of exit, but within reach of the handler, the handler may turn the sheep back with loss of points.
- E. Misdrafting will be penalized at the Judge's discretion.
- F. Any sheep misdrafted must be rectified by the handler, or if needed with the help of an assistant and the Judge will decide. The clock will not be stopped..
- G. Dogs biting excessively and working the sheep in an unduly rough manner may be disqualified at the Judges's discretion.
- H. If the working of the dog is of inferior merit, the Judge may terminate the run before the expiration of the time limit.
- I. 1] Once the handler has released their dog & commenced the trial any handler who handles their dog during the trial will be disqualified, except for safety & welfare situations.
2] Dislodged muzzles can be replaced without loss of points. The clock will not be stopped.
3] If a dog is injured the trial may be terminated at the Judge's discretion.

11] Welfare of Sheep and Dogs

- A. If in the opinion of the Judge, any handler ill-treats or mishandles his dog or sheep, he must be disqualified.
- B. The handler will not be penalised for aiding a distressed sheep.
Any handler who fails to make an effort to stand up a sheep which goes down in a race or confined areas, or fails to free a sheep caught in a fence, or shows disregard for the welfare of the sheep, must be penalised or may be disqualified.

- C. Where possible, sufficient sheep should be obtained to provide fresh sheep for each dog. If this is not possible, the sheep must be rotated to avoid stress.

12] Re-runs

- 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 a sheep escaping from the yards, the run may continue, provided the Judge considers the dog or handler was not the cause. If either was considered 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 re-run for the dog competing at any time during the dog's run.
- D. If a re-run is granted it must be conducted at the end of the draw.

13] Protests

Any protest must be lodged **by the competitor in writing** with the Disputes Committee of the SAYDA immediately the misdemeanor occurs and their ruling must be accepted as final. No correspondence will be accepted following the decision of the disputes committee.

14] Scoring

- A. Section points must be allocated to each section according to the degree of difficulty of the obstacles within the section.
- B. In the event of a competitor running out of time, he/she loses the points already deducted and also the points from the uncompleted and remaining sections.