

# **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YARD DOG ASSOCIATION INC UTILITY TRIAL RULES**

**2022**

These rules are to be read in conjunction with the rules that apply to SAYDA Yard trials.

**DEFINITION:** A competition that includes both yard & field work in which the yard component is conducted using ten or more sheep.

## **COMPETITION LEVELS:**

1. **NOVICE:** For dogs who have never won one [1] Novice Utility, Yard or 3 sheep trial.
2. **OPEN:** All dogs eligible to compete.

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:**

1. State Utility Championships may have 1 or 2 judges in both Novice and Open Sections.
2. Judges to be approved by both the Convenor and committee of the SAYDA.

## **SPECIFIC TRIAL RULES FOR UTILITY TRIALS:**

**[In addition to all of the rules applying equally to Utility and Yard Trials]**

1. A farm trial has one [1] obstacle in the arena.
2. A Utility Trial has three[3] obstacles in the arena. The course should include some of the following; a gap, a race, a bridge, a trap or any obstacle that may be found in a sheep paddock.
3. The "draw" shall be considered completed when the sheep are round the peg past the centre of balance, or if a delivery circle is used when the Judge indicates the sheep have successfully negotiated the circle. Neither the pen nor circle is to be included as one [1] of the course obstacles.
4. If any sheep escape from the pen through the gate after the handler has left his peg to shut the gate, the trial terminates. All points for the pen will be forfeited.
5. If sheep escape over the pen fence as the handler is closing the gate, the handler closes the gate and completes the trial with no loss of points for sheep escaping, at the judge's discretion.
6. Should sheep enter any obstacle before the worker reaches the circle, the handler may step into the circle, and complete the obstacle. However, if all sheep have negotiated any obstacle under the same circumstances, such obstacle must be reworked, except for the pen. In this case the worker must step into the circle then shut the gate.
7. If a handler leaves the peg before completing an obstacle the trial will terminate with no score recorded.
8. A cross in the cast of an Open Utility will automatically cost ten [10] points.
9. A second [2] cross in cast/lift/draw of a Utility Open &/or Championship will automatically be disqualified.
10. No cross is allowed outside the "yard" section of a Championship Utility course.
11. A novice dog is disqualified after two [2] crosses from cast to resting pen.
12. The top ten [10] dogs in the Open Section qualify to run in the Utility Championship Final with a minimum of six. All dogs on equal points for the last eligible placing may run..
13. When erecting the course the organising committee must ensure there are no sharp edges, protrusions or objects that may be hazardous or cause injury to the dog, sheep or handler.
14. The organising committee must ensure that all yards and obstacles are securely fixed to prevent any movements when pressure is applied by the sheep.
15. Where possible a minimum of 100 metres for the cast.
16. Five [5] sheep to be used in the arena except in exceptional circumstances when permission to use a lesser number is to be requested from the SAYDA Committee.
17. Between ten [10] and fifteen [15] sheep to be worked through the yard section.
18. Minimum of [15] minutes to be allowed to work the course.
19. A course should be set to allow the majority of competitors to complete the course in the required time.