SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YARD DOG ASSOCIATON INC.

BYLAWS

Section – A: Membership

1) Membership Categories
(Junior Triallers)
2) Temporary Membership

3) Reciprocal Membership

4) Honorary and Life Memberships

Section – B: Competition Rules

1. Yard Trials

2. Utility Trials

Section – C: Code of Conduct

Section – D: Inclement Weather Policy

Section – E: AYDA Voting & Delegates

Section – A: Membership

1) Membership Categories

Family Membership: Consists of two adults (living under the same roof) and children under the age of 18 years of age. No voting rights apply to the children.

Junior Triallers: To be aged between 12 and 16 years. A junior must be capable of opening and shutting all gates, to draft and complete the course by themselves. They may have an adult standing with them for advice only. Parents are required to sign an entry form on their behalf prior to trialling

Single Membership: Member over the age of 18 years with full competing and voting rights.

Associate Membership: Non-competitive member.

2) Temporary Membership

Prospective members/handlers may compete in 3 competitions prior to becoming a member of the Association provided a temporary membership fee is paid prior to the commencement of the trial. Temporary membership will only apply once in the lifetime of the prospective member.

3) Reciprocal Membership

Handlers who are full financial members of their home state may compete under reciprocal membership in all classes providing they fill out a reciprocal membership form and sign it annually.

4) Honorary and Life Memberships

Honorary and/or Life Memberships may be awarded to a member who has done 15 years of exemplary service

Section – B: Competition Rules

1) Yard Trials

Definitions

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.

The Organising Committee: The persons responsible for conducting the competition.

Handler: The person who:

i) nominates to work a dog in a particular competition
ii) works a dog in a competition
iii) has worked a dog in a competition

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

1.1 - General Rules

a) 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.
b) 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.
c) To be eligible for any of the Annual awards the handler must have paid their membership to the SAYDA by 1st October for that financial year and have competed in a minimum of three trials during that financial year.

1.2 – CLASSES

a) **Encourage**

An Encourage handler may win TWO Encourage class trials in total.
An Encourage handler may win ONE Encourage Class with a dog that has won a trial of a higher class.
The Encourage Classes are to be run first thing in the morning of a trial whether this is on the first or following days
Once an Encourage handler has entered a class higher than Maiden class, they will forfeit their Encourage status.

b) **Maiden**

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

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

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

c) **Novice**

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

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

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.

The Novice Class must run a Final providing time permits at the convenor’s discretion.

d) **Improver**

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

An Improver class dog may enter the Open Class.

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

e) Open

Dogs that have won their Novice &/or Improver can go into the Open.

1.3 - State Championship

a) A SAYDA State Championship will be held annually.
b) A SAYDA State Championship is to have TWO Judges.
c) A SAYDA Representative(s) for the Australian Yard Dog Championship will qualify through the State Championship.
d) If either the 1st &/or 2nd placings of the SAYDA Championship cannot attend the Australian Yard Dog Championship the next highest South Australian placed dogs that are able to attend can represent our State. The owners of the eligible dogs have to give notice of intention to attend/not attend AYDA Championship within 14 days of the SA State Championship.
e) Clause 2A of the Australian Yard Dog Inc Competition rules define the eligibility for the Australian Yard Dog Championship.
f) The field for the State Championship to be not less than twenty-five.
g) Handlers who are full financial members of their home state may compete under reciprocal membership in all classes providing they fill out a reciprocal membership form and sign it annually.

1.4 – Eligibility - State Championships

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.

1.5 - 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 time will not be the deciding factor and prize money will be shared. 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.
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 Rule 1.2.
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.

1.6 - 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 only 1 dog must be drawn near the middle of 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.

1.7 - The Course

All competitions shall be run over such a course as the Organising Committee determines. Competition courses should include some of the following:

a) Gather sheep
b) Drafting race
c) Drenching/classing race
d) Trailer/truck
e) Ramp
f) Fill a woolshed
g) Put sheep away
h) Any obstacle likely to be found in farm sheep yards.
i) 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.
j) 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.
k) 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.
l) All sheep must be inspected prior to being worked for any physical defects of injuries. Any injured or unhealthy sheep must not be worked.
m) 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.
n) The Judge must be involved with the explanation of the course and must address the handlers prior to the commencement of the competition.

1.8 - 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.

1.9 - 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 participating further in that competition.
   NB: This rule may or may not apply subject to the current ruling adopted by SAYDA via the AYDA Rules (see below).
c) SAYDA rules will align with the AYDA by adopting the current ruling for working bitches in season.

1.10 - Cane

a) Canes are not permitted to be used in a trial.

1.11 - Muzzles

a) The Encourage handlers be permitted to work their dog in a muzzle without loss of points.
b) All other sections at a trial shall incur a penalty of 5 points when their dog works in a muzzle.

1.12 - 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.

1.13 - Working the Competition

a) 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.
b) 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. All above mentioned dogs must be off the leash as they enter the grounds or receive a 5-point penalty.
c) Handlers on taking up position must stand in that position until that part of course is complete. Movement from position will result in a loss of points
d) All gates must be left as found by the handler. Failure to do this will incur a penalty. Gates should be opened and closed from the end of the gate failure to do so will result in the loss of points. Closing the gate before the leg of the last sheep is over the line will result in loss of points.
e) The handler may assist his/her dog to shift the sheep but will incur a penalty.
f) In the drafting phase of any trial the handler can use their body to avoid jamming the sheep's head.
g) 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.
h) Any dog jumping into a pen other than the one it is working unless working the drench from outside must be penalised at the judge's discretion.
i) Misdrafting will be penalized at the Judge's discretion.
j) 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.
k) Any sheep that jumps off course is determined as lost. Any sheep jumping forwards the competitor may continue. A sheep jumping backwards may be reworked at the judge's discretion for a loss of points.
l) Influencing of sheep by the handler must be pointed.
m) Dogs biting excessively and working the sheep in an unduly rough manner may be disqualified at the Judges' discretion.
n) If the working of the dog is of inferior merit, the Judge may terminate the run before the expiration of the time limit.
o) 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.
p) Dislodged muzzles can be replaced without loss of points. The clock will not be stopped.
q) Any dog soiling on the course will be penalised a minimum of 10 points.
r) If a dog is injured the trial may be terminated at the Judge's discretion.

1.14 - Welfare of Sheep and Dogs

a) If in the opinion of the Judge, any handler ill-treats of mishandles his dog or 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 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.
d) 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.

1.15 - 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.

1.16 - Protests

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

1.17 - 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.

2) Utility Trials

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.

2.1 COMPETITION LEVELS:

NOVICE: For dogs who have never won one [1] Novice Utility, Yard or 3 sheep trial.

OPEN: All dogs eligible to compete.

2.2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

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

2.3 SPECIFIC TRIAL RULES FOR UTILITY TRIALS

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

a) A farm trial has one [1] obstacle in the arena.
b) 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.
c) 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.
d) 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.
e) 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.
f) 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.
g) If a handler leaves the peg before completing an obstacle the trial will terminate with no score recorded.
h) A cross in the cast of an Open Utility will automatically cost ten [10] points.
i) A second [2] cross in cast/lift/draw of a Utility Open &/or Championship will automatically be disqualified.
j) No cross is allowed outside the “yard” section of a Championship Utility course.
k) A novice dog is disqualified after two [2] crosses from cast to resting pen.
l) 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.
m) 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.
n) The organising committee must ensure that all yards and obstacles are securely fixed to prevent any movements when pressure is applied by the sheep.
o) Where possible a minimum of 100 metres for the cast.
p) 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.
q) Between ten [10] and fifteen [15] sheep to be worked through the yard section.
r) Minimum of [15] minutes to be allowed to work the course.
s) A course should be set to allow the majority of competitors to complete the course in the required time.

Section C: CODE OF CONDUCT

All members and competitors involved in any aspect of the South Australian Yard Dog Association Inc agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

1) **Condition of dogs**:
   All dogs are to be presented in a good healthy condition at all times.
   A bitch visibly in pup &/or in the last 3 weeks of their pregnancy cannot be trialled.
   A bitch visibly lactating cannot be trialled.
2) **Transport of dogs**:
   Dogs are not to be overcrowded in vehicles and trailers.
   Dogs are to be safely secured when being transported.
   Trailers & cages transporting dogs are to be kept clean & well-ventilated with water to be regularly offered to dogs.
3) **Behaviour of handlers and members**:
   Handlers disciplining dogs in a manner that offends the public will not be tolerated at SAYDA Inc venues and events.
   Handlers threatening dogs on the trial ground will be reprimanded, have points deducted or be disqualified.
   Handlers & members must not inflict pain or cause wilful distress to any animal.
   Handlers & members are required to be respectful towards officials, other members, handlers & spectators & behave in a sportsmanlike manner both on & off the trial venue.
   Handlers & members must always present themselves for competition & official business in a state of sobriety.
   Handlers or members must not engage in any action or dialogue that may be deemed as discrimination or sexual harassment.
   Handlers & members must not inflict verbal or physical abuse upon another member, competitor, official or spectator.
   Any breaches of Conduct must be presented to the Judge, Convenor, and Disputes Committee for a resolution on the day.
4) **Members Etiquette**:
   Handlers should be considerate when exercising their dogs.
   All dog droppings are to be appropriately disposed.
   Dogs are to be under control at all times.

Section – D: Inclement Weather Policy

All trials run under the rules of the SAYDA Inc will take into consideration the following when inclement weather is predicted to continue until the day of the trial, or during the day of a trial.

The Executive of the SAYDA will make a decision, when practical showing a duty of care for sheep, dogs and competitors.

A decision is to be made after:

1. Consultation with the convenor.
2. Consultation with the owners of the sheep.
3. Consideration for the welfare of the sheep, dogs and competitors.

The trial will be either cancelled or delayed where practical.

Section – E: AYDA Voting & Delegates

All motions to be voted on at the AYDA AGM MUST BE voted on by the members of the SAYDA prior to the AYDA AGM. SAYDA delegates will then be directed on how to proceed. Any delegate not following the directions of the membership will face expulsion as a SAYDA delegate and will face disciplinary action.