

QUEENSLAND WORKING SHEEP DOG  
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
QWSDAI

# RULES



REGISTRATION, THREE SHEEP, YARD DOG, UTILITY, SHORT COURSE & TRIAL RULES.

UPDATED August 2022

## **CODE OF CONDUCT.**

A Member shall not: -

- inflict verbal or physical abuse on any person.
- inflict pain nor cause wilful distress to any animal.
- engage in actions or dialogue which result in sexual harassment or discrimination.
- engage in unsportsman like conduct.
- abuse, bully or intimidate any Judge during the course of the Trial or after the completion of the Trial.

A Member must: -

- wear appropriate clothing and footwear when competing.
- always present themselves for competition and or official business in a state of sobriety.

## **REGISTER RULES**

1. The Register shall be known as the "Queensland Working Sheep Dog Register", and shall be kept by the Registrar of QWSDAI.

### **PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER DOGS**

2. No person shall be entitled to make application for registration of any particulars in the Register who is not a financial member of QWSDAI.

### **DOGS ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION**

3. Any sheep dog which, in the opinion of the QWSDAI Management Committee, is of sufficient merit to justify its registration, may be registered. In deciding an application for registration, the Management Committee shall have regard to:
  - (a) the dog's working qualities
  - (b) its breeding qualities as shown by its progeny
  - (c) its pedigree
  - (d) any other information which may be furnished along with the application or otherwise acquired by the Management Committee.
4. Dogs registered with respective State Sheep Dog Associations are recognised as registered, provided proof of registration is supplied.
5. Pedigrees of dogs registered with a recognised Working Stock Dog Association will be accepted and noted on their registration forms, providing proof of registration is supplied.

### **NAMING OF DOGS**

6. Each breeder must register a separate stud prefix for use exclusively in connection with the names of animals bred by them. Fee to be decided annually by the Management Committee.

Each animal submitted for individual registration must be named and such name must not exceed two words, in addition to the breeder's stud prefix, which must be used.

Names once used for dogs registered cannot be used again and cannot be changed.

The owner of a dog included in a notified litter may subsequently name and register the dog, provided that the breeder's stud prefix is used.

The name and address of the breeder of each animal must be given. The breeder of an animal is the owner of its dam at the date of its birth.

### **INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION**

7. The following individual registration of dogs for three sheep and yard dogs is available: Fees to be decided annually by the Management Committee.
  - (a) From a notified litter
  - (b) Not from a notified litter but by a registered sire and from a registered dam.
  - (c) Other than specified.

**TRANSFERS**

8. The vendor must officially transfer every registered animal sold and also every animal sold out of a notified litter. Such transfers must be made within two calendar months from date of sale. Registration Card to be returned to Registrar with transfer form. Fee to be decided annually by the Management Committee.
9. Members who register a litter and want to register and transfer pups, must first register the pups in their name and then transfer to new owner.
10. Non-members may transfer a registered dog to a member provided transfer cost is paid.
11. Non-members may transfer a registered dog to another non-member provided the transfer cost is paid.

**FORMS**

12. All transfers, and individual registrations must be made on the official forms, obtainable on application from the Registrar or Secretary of the QWSDAI. Cost to be decided annually by the Management Committee.

**PEDIGREE FORMS**

13. Pedigree forms are available on request

**REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES**

14. On registration of any application, the Registrar shall issue to the applicant a Certificate of Registration. No certificate shall be issued by the Registrar until appropriate forms are duly completed and the fees paid.

**PENALTIES**

15. Any applicant for registration who makes a false statement or fails or unreasonably delays to give any information or make any notification or return required by the Register Rules may be refused registration and shall also be liable to be suspended or expelled from the Association and to have the registration of any dogs then owned by them cancelled.

**ALTERATION OR AMENDMENT OF REGISTER RULES**

16. These register rules shall not be altered or added to unless notice of the proposed alteration or addition shall have been given to the Secretary and then to each member of the Management Committee in writing (14) days prior to the Management Meeting at which the motion is to be considered and the motion is carried by a majority of the Management Committee members present at the meeting.

**17. ANNUAL COSTS**

<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	Single Worker ---	<b>\$80.00</b>
	Breeder	
	Prefix Holder	
	Judge	
	Family ---	<b>\$90.00</b>
	Interstate ---	<b>\$50.00</b>
	Non-worker ---	<b>\$50.00</b>
	3-month late fee ---	<b>\$10.00</b>

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<b>Constitution Nil</b>	<b>Rule Book - TBA</b>	
<b>Badges</b>	Replacement to Members	\$ 5.00
	Non - Members	\$ 6.50
<b>Ties</b>	Members	\$ 40.00
	Non - Members	\$ 45.00
<b>Caps</b>		\$ 10.00
<b>Other Merchandise as per Webpage</b>		
<b>Secretary's Honorarium</b>		\$1500.00
<b>Judges fee</b>	per run (including finals)	\$ 2.00
<b>Prefix Registration</b>		\$ 10.00
<b>From a Notified Litter</b>		\$ 5.00
<b>Not Notified Litter but Registered Parents</b>		\$ 5.00
<b>Other than specified</b>		\$ 10.00
<b>Transfers</b>		\$ 5.00
<b>(24) Fine for loose dogs</b>		\$ 20.00
<b>(56) Fine for ill use of dog</b>		\$ 35.00
<b>(57) Fee for protest</b>		\$ 20.00
<b>Pedigree Forms</b>	- Nil Registration, <b>Transfer, Notified Litter forms</b> - Nil	
<b>Queensland Association Trophy</b>	- TBA	<b>Insurance Levy</b> - TBA

## **18. POINTS AND TROPHIES**

### **TROPHIES**

The trophy year shall occur from 1st June to 31 May annually. All trials must be completed by 31st May to be included in the points total.

### **POINTS**

A points system be used for all advertised sheep dog trials in Queensland on basis of:

1st - 6	2nd - 5	3rd - 4
4th - 3	5th - 2	6th - 1

In event of a tie, points are added together and then halved.

Points shall only be awarded to dogs owned and worked by the handler. Should a dog be sold during the season, points do not go with the dog. To accrue points in the annual trophies the dog must be registered in the handler's name.

**Perpetual trophies, together with a replica trophy for recipient to keep, are awarded yearly.**

#### ***Don Smith Memorial Open Dog of the Year***

Six highest scoring dogs in each Open Trial will qualify for points.

If Novice Dog wins an Open trial, dog receives 6 points in Open Dog of the Year.

Winner of Trophy highest points scorer for the season.

If a Trial Committee has to restrict nominations at a trial, then all competitor nominations are to be taken. Only dog nominations are to be restricted at the discretion of the committee in a fair and equitable manner in consultation with the competitors for the trial to be deemed a point scoring trial.

#### ***Colykade Improver Dog of the Year***

Genuine Improver dogs, accrue points for placings gained in Improver trials. Once a dog wins an Improver Trial, they gain six points and then become an Open Dog.

#### ***Friskies Pet Care Novice Dog of the Year Trophy***

Novice dogs accrue points for placings or winning in Novice, Special, Improver and Open Trials for the whole of the points year.

#### ***Parr Family Handler of the Year Trophy***

Points to be awarded on all Advertised three sheep dog trials in Queensland, including Novice, Improver, Special and Open Trials.

#### ***Ken & Natalie White Novice Handler of the Year Trophy***

Points awarded on all approved three sheep dog trials including Novice, Improver, Special and Open Trials.

Handler must not have won a Novice trial or better at the start of the points year, and will accrue points to the end of that year in all categories except Encourage.

#### ***Ian Skea Encourage Handler of the Year Trophy***

Handler must start the points year as an Encourage Worker and will accrue points throughout the year in Encourage, Novice, Improver, Special and Open approved Three Sheep Trials.

## THREE SHEEP TRIALS

### 19. REPRESENTATION

Representatives are chosen from the Don Smith Memorial Open Dog of the Year placings. The six top dogs (points total), which are available to represent Queensland at the next Supreme, at the end of the points year and their handlers compete over 3 runs at the first trial after the end of the points year for the right to represent Queensland at the Interstate competition at the next Supreme championships. **These 3 runs must be over the 'Trans-Tasman' course which will be used at the Interstate challenge.**

The total of the aggregate score from the run-off plus the points earned by that dog in the relevant year to be used to determine the two dogs and handlers to represent Queensland. No competitor to have more than 2 dogs. Competitors to run in a block as the trial committee deems.

One representative - one dog.

Dogs are chosen from the highest scoring available dogs.

The handler who earned the points must be the handler who represents QWSDAI at the next National Supreme.

A representative must be a full Working or Family Member and either,

- (i) A resident of Queensland; or
- (ii) Has not been a member of any other State Working Sheep Dog Association in the past twelve months; or
- (iii) A Life Members of QWSDAI.

To be chosen as a representative of Queensland, the competitor must be prepared to represent Queensland at the next National Supreme, any official function, meeting, etc which may occur during their representation.

Once chosen, a handler, if they wish, may withdraw an eligible dog to make another of their dogs, which has a lesser score, eligible for selection. The lesser scoring dog only becomes eligible if it has a score greater than all other available dogs that have not already been selected.

Should any representative dog not be able to participate for any reason, the handler must advise the Management Committee in writing and supply veterinary certificate stating reason. The dog may be substituted at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Competitors representing Queensland shall be supplied with a State Blazer and pocket with badge and appropriate writing.

The Rep-Run Trial will be a Trans-Tasman trial, Improver/Novice run to be run together under Normal Queensland rules.

## **CONDUCT OF THE TRIAL**

20. The collection of entry fees should be at the discretion of the committee conducting the trial ("trial committee"). Competitors who enter and are not able to attend must advise the trial committee prior to commencement of trial or entry fees must be paid.
- 20A. That all trial nominations close 11:59pm on the closing day set by the trial committee unless otherwise stated on the entry form.
21. The amount of \$1.00 shall be paid by triallers on all Novice, Improver, and Open Trial runs, excluding Encourage, Finals & Short course Runs. Monies collected to be paid into Supreme Bank Account on completion of the trial. This Account will be known as "Queensland Working Sheepdog Association Incorporated Supreme Fund Account."
22. The trials will be carried out in the order drawn for under the direction of the trial committee. The person in charge will have a draw for the order of running. Copies of the draw MUST be available to competitors prior to the commencement of the trial. Competitors must take their place at the starting peg by direction and any competitor absent when called upon to compete may be disqualified at the discretion of the trial committee. Once a competitor has arrived at a trial, they must take their correct place in the draw or forfeit the run unless a "miss" is caused by the '2 ring' situation. Draws must be adhered to where possible. Missed runs go to the end of round or draw. Persons deliberately or continuously missing runs may be reported in writing, and this complaint will be dealt with by the Management Committee.
23. Draws shall be conducted as follows: Every competitor should have a run in the first round. Competitors with a bigger number of entries then go twice in subsequent rounds so they do not accumulate at the end, but still have dogs in the final rounds.
- If a member is unable to attend on the first day of the trial, they shall be entitled to tick the box on the nomination form. The member will then be placed in the third and following rounds but may have no more than three dogs.
24. All dogs unable to compete must be scratched before the commencement of the trial.
25. When the first trial has been run and subsequent trial commenced, no more dogs may compete in the previous trial.
26. A worker or dog's status shall remain as is until the completion of the trial.
27. Should there be a final contested by qualified dogs, the Judge will give the awards on the aggregate number of points scored.
28. There shall be a minimum of 6 dogs in a final of any sheep dog trial worked under the QWSDAI Rules. Each of the 6 dogs to receive an award (i.e., cash, and/or trophy, and/or ribbon). The order of finalists shall be as they qualify.
29. An advertised trial is a trial run by a Show Society, Committee, or similar body, open for competition to financial members, who are to be advised of the trial.
30. Unofficial trial days be called "Benefit Days". The winner/s do not receive any prize money and the trial does not break a dog's status.
31. A Novice Dog is a dog which has not won an advertised Novice Trial or better. A Novice Dog winning a special prize in any trial, where no entry fee has been charged for prize, does not break its Novice Status. Where the Novice is run in conjunction with an Improvers or Open trial, such trial shall be deemed as a Novice Trial and the winning dog shall break its status.

32. A Novice Dog is not eligible to compete in a genuine Improvers Trial until first having won a Novice Trial, and in the event of winning a Novice Trial presently in progress can enter an Improver Trial. Such dog is to go at the bottom the official Improvers Draw.
33. A Genuine Improver Dog is a dog which has won a Novice trial, but not won an Improver, Special or better trial.
34. Any dog having divided a first prize at any advertised trial shall not lose its status.
35. All dogs nominated in trials must be nominated under their official registered name, with prefix.
36. A new financial member (Under 6 months) may compete with an unregistered dog for two runs, after which the dog must be registered with the QWSDAI.
37. All dogs working in trials (except for those covered in 36) must be registered with the QWSDAI or an official Association of other States.
38. An owner may appoint a nominee to work their dog or dogs in the trials, and such nominee will jointly assume responsibility with the owner during the trials.
39. Any person or persons bringing dogs onto the ground and allowing them to run loose, either by mistake or otherwise, except when directed by the trial committee may be fined. Amount to be reviewed annually.
39. Bitches in oestrus may enter a trial course. Competitors must use discretion regarding these bitches, and they should not have a detrimental effect on other dogs competing.  
  
If a competitor does not use this discretion, then the trial committee may ban the competitor from working any further dogs for the duration of the trial, including any final.
40. The trial results must be forwarded by the trial committees to the QWSDAI Secretary within 7 days of the trial and must include all the dogs' prefix titles. The results must include the top six placings in all sections held.
41. An encourage worker is a worker who has not won three encourage trials, a novice trial or better. An encourage worker be allowed to win 3 encourage trials with the same dog provided that that the dog they are trialling is owned by the encourage worker. Encourage workers may still borrow dogs and are only able to win 1 trial with a borrowed dog and or 3 trials with their own dog.
42. No dog will be allowed to enter the ring with a muzzle. However, if the dog bites someone while in the ring, the owner will be responsible, and dog will be disqualified.
- 42A. Choker collars are not to be used at sheep dog trials. Any competitor seen to be using a choker collar on their dog will be dealt with by the Committee.
43. Any person found using any device electronic or otherwise to distract or assist a dog while working in the ring will be suspended.
44. Demonstrations may be given with the permission of at least 3 members of the Management Committee.
45. Classifying Yard, Utility and Three Sheep Dogs. - Yard, Utility and Three Sheep are separate classifications and status of dogs, enabling dogs to start at the beginning of each type of trial, no matter their previous status in different trials. So, yard is yard, utility is utility, three sheep is three sheep with no reference to previous wins in other sections e.g., Open three sheep can start as a novice yard or utility dog.



## **TRIAL RULES**

46. All trials under the QWSDAI Rules shall take place on such a course as is similar to the Queensland course set out in the Rules unless specific permission is given by the Management Committee for alteration. All courses shall be marked.
47. A circle with a 9 metres radius from the centre be marked as delivery area for drawing sheep into.
48. A winding peg is standard in the Queensland course and put in such a position to facilitate the working of the sheep, but not in a direct line to the let-out area, prior to the first obstacle.
49. All trials be run over maximum fifteen minutes wherever possible two reliable stopwatches or other electronic devices per timekeeper shall be used. Only the official timekeeper's time shall be recognised.
50. A bell or electronic sound shall be sounded to signify both the commencement and the termination of a trial.
51. Three sheep shall be allotted to each dog in the first instance.
- 51A. A marker must be placed on the ground from where the sheep are released at a sufficient distance to enable the dog room to cast well behind the sheep. The sheep are to be in the proximity of the marker before time commences. The position of the marker is to be decided on by the Judge and trial committee before the trial commences.
52. The competitor shall stand in a one metre circle in the middle of the marked delivery area. Dog to be released from behind centre line of delivery area, within confines of circle back to the fence. {See diagram of Queensland Sheep Dog Trial Course in these Rules.  
  
They shall release their dog at their own discretion after the starting bell. Time shall commence upon the ringing of the starting bell by the judge. A dog leaving the start before the bell must be recalled before making contact with the sheep and failure to do so will result in disqualification. Excessive delay by a competitor to cast or release his dog may incur a penalty.
53. A competitor is obliged to inspect and accept or reject the sheep, before leaving the starting point.
54. Should a Judge deem fit, fresh sheep may be ordered at any time during the trial.
55. If at any stage during the trial the dog is between the handler and any of the sheep it shall be deemed to be a cross and the dog shall be disqualified, except, that the Judge, at their discretion, need not disqualify a dog should all or any of the sheep cross a dog in the confines of the bridge.
56. In Encourage trials, two crosses will be allowed but will incur a penalty of 20 points for each cross. A third cross shall result in disqualification.
57. The winding peg is to be negotiated by competitor and sheep as a right-hand course. Sheep must be unwound if they pass on left of peg, once only. One point deduction if competitor stops at peg.
58. All sheep must be completely through an obstacle before the worker or handler may leave the ring. Should all the sheep negotiate an obstacle before the competitor reaches the ring, they are obliged to stop with both feet in the ring before continuing to the next obstacle. Should the sheep negotiate any obstacle from the wrong side, the competitor must make sure that such sheep are fully clear of the entrance before negotiating obstacle.
59. All sheep must be completely past the front line of the pen or yard before the competitor may leave the ring to close the gate. If, however, all or any of the sheep should escape by any other means the competitor may continue to close the gate, and the sheep shall be considered penned.

60. If any sheep escape from the pen over the line of the gate after the worker has left the circle and is in the act of shutting the gate, they may re pen the sheep but not stop walking. The Trial is completed only after the gate is shut. If all sheep are not then penned, the trial terminates, and the worker forfeits the points for the pen. The dog must hold the sheep in the pen while the competitor shuts the gate. Should the dog leave this position (e.g., going behind the worker or behind the pen) there will be a loss of points.
61. Judge to sign and hand in judge's card on completion of run. Card to be supplied by the Committee running the trial.  
 Competitor > Name  
 Dog > Name  
 Score > Total  
 Judge > Signs Off  
 Committee > Ratifies
62. A ring one (1) metre in diameter shall be placed 1.8 metres [6 feet] from an obstacle and level with the face of such obstacle. The competitor must remain in this ring while directing the dog.
63. The competitor will not be allowed to assist or touch the dog in any way except by signal, whistle, or word of mouth. Any competitor who by action, sound, or unfair manoeuvre, and intentionally influences the sheep at any time during the trial including any obstacle shall have points deducted and, if an obstacle is negotiated by such action, may lose all points for that obstacle.
64. When the competitor has to move from one given point to another, they must do so in a direct line at an even pace and not stop. Infringement of this rule will entail a deduction of points.
65. If the competitor, in the opinion of the Judge, excessively works his dog, points may be deducted.
66. Scale of Points: Cast - 12                      Approach - 5                      Bring - 8  
                          Gate - 7                              Bridge - 8                              Pen - 10  
                          General Work - 50                              **Total = 100**
67. If the work of any dog is of inferior merit, the Judge has the power to terminate the trial before the expiration of the time allowed.
68. If in the opinion of the Judge, a dog bites a sheep without provocation such dog shall be disqualified. Should a dog nip in front of the shoulder of the sheep when stuck up or in defence against an aggressive sheep, or nip a sheep on the hock or below when jammed in the bridge, no points need be deducted nor the dog disqualified.
- If a dog bites a sheep after the trial is completed the Judge shall report such incident to the Management Committee, which shall take any necessary steps to prevent any similar future occurrence.
69. The competitor may use a cane without a flapper to direct the dog. Length of cane is not to exceed 460mm (18 inches). This cane must not be thrown in ring. Throwing of cane could incur disqualification or fine.
70. At the conclusion of each trial, the competitor must take the sheep to the enclosed yard as expeditiously as possible.
71. Any re-run at any trial shall be taken at the discretion of the Judge or trial committee, straight away: at the end of the round in progress: in the next available space, e.g., a scratching.  
 A re-run may be granted if any dog comes into the competition area and interferes with the trial.  
 A judge may order a rerun at any time during the trial.  
 A rerun will not be granted if the competitor has lost more points than will allow qualification for the final, or any other prize.

72. The trial committee shall invite the Judge to inspect the sheep to be used in the trials and the Judge may reject any sheep which he deems unfit. Otherwise, the selection of the sheep shall be left to the discretion of the trial committee. No sheep shall be used more than once where possible.
73. The Judge's decision shall be final.
74. Anyone who wishes to become a judge be allowed to accompany an experienced judge provided they have no more dogs to run in that trial - with the exception of the Queensland Championships.
75. Any person ill-treating a dog shall be subject to a fine (to be decided annually by the Management Committee) and may be debarred from competing again at any trial conducted under these Rules. Any complaints of this nature by a Judge or a member of QWSDAI must be lodged in the manner as set out in the Constitution.
76. Any protest against a dog or competitor must be lodged in writing with the trial committee within 30 minutes of the incident and be accompanied by a fee (to be decided annually by the Management Committee) which will be refunded if the protest is upheld. Such protest will be dealt with by a Disputes Committee which shall consist of one member of the trial committee and two members of the Management Committee. If two members of the Management Committee are not available, then two financial members of QWSDAI. The Disputes Committee shall send a written report to the Management Committee within fourteen days of its decision, and it shall take any further action it thinks necessary. Any appeal shall be dealt with by the Management Committee whose decision shall be final.
77. Any dog showing obvious signs of injury, or any bitch in advanced stage of pregnancy shall not be worked in any trial until referred to Disputes Committee by the Judge. The dog in question shall go to the end of draw.
78. Any person or persons refusing to conform with these Rules may be expelled from the ground and may be disqualified from competing at any future trials conducted under these Rules.
79. In the event of any question or situation arising during the course of a trial which is not provided for in these Rules, shall be dealt with by the Disputes Committee, and their decision shall be final.
80. These Rules shall not be altered or added to unless a notice of the proposed alteration or addition shall have been given to the Secretary and by the Secretary to each voting member of QWSDAI in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to a special general meeting or AGM at which the motion is to be considered and the motion or the motion as amended by the members during the course of the meeting, is carried by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

## **GUIDELINES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS IN QUEENSLAND**

All championship trials must be approved by QWSDAI and shall be conducted under these Rules. There must be a minimum of six dogs. Each of the 6 dogs is to receive an award (i.e., cash, and/or trophy, and/or ribbon). All placegetters must receive cash and ribbons which are suitably inscribed. Minimum prize money of \$400.00 with first prize minimum of \$150.00 plus sash and trophy. Any Championship Trial must be judged by an approved Open Judge.

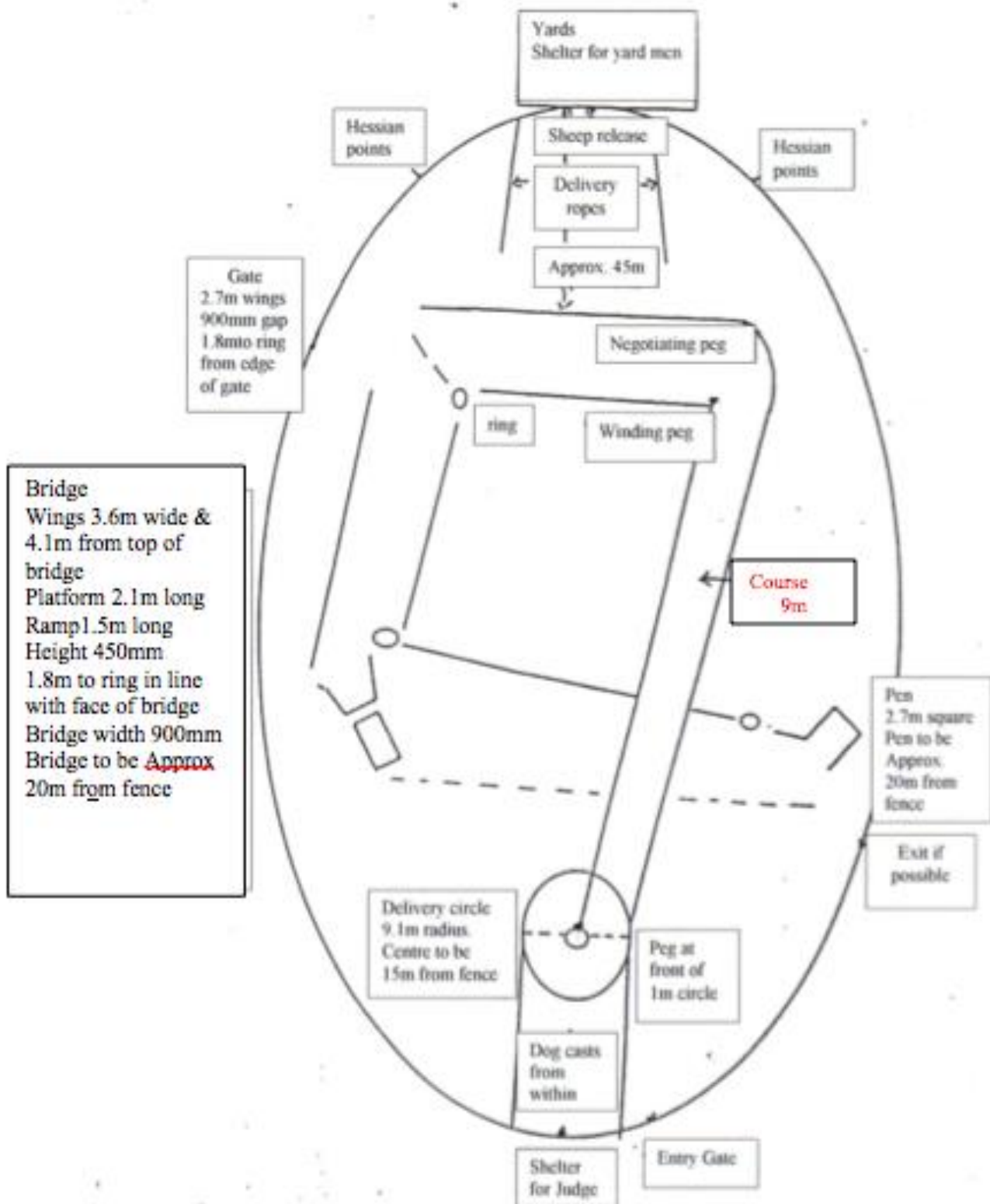
## **QUEENSLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In the Queensland Championships the top 20 dogs will go into a second round with the top six aggregate scorers from this round to go into a final round.

## **GUIDELINES FOR QLD SUPREME / TRANS TASMAN**

Run under Australian Course (AWSDAI), but under QWSDAI Rules and Constitution. The top 15 dogs will go into a second round with the top six aggregate scorers from this round to go into a final round.

### Q.W.S.D.A.I. SHEEP DOG TRIAL COURSE



## YARD/UTILITY TRIAL RULES

Yard/Utility Trials run by a sub-committee of the Queensland Working Sheep Dog Association Incorporated. These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the QWSDAI Constitution and Registration.

**SUB-COMMITTEE** - The Yard/Utility sub-committee of 4 persons (Chairperson and 3 members) to be elected annually with nominations being called for and to be included under separate heading on the QWSDAI nomination form and to be voted for on the QWSDAI Ballot Paper. This sub-committee to hold regular meetings and minutes of such meetings forwarded to Secretary of QWSDAI, so the minutes can be ratified at a QWSDAI General Meeting.

### 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 **YARD DOG TRIAL** - 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 limit.

1.2 **UTILITY TRIAL** - a competition in which a dog and its handler must negotiate sheep through both the yard and field courses within a specified time limit.

1.3 **TRIAL COMMITTEE** - the persons responsible for conducting the trial.

1.4 **WORKER** – the person who  
 (i) nominates to work a dog in a particular trial  
 (ii) is working a dog in the trial  
 (iii) has worked a dog in the trial

1.5 **SPECIAL PRIZE** – a prize or trophy offered for the competition of dogs and/or workers for which no entry fee has been charged.

## Yard Dog Trials Rules

### 2. COMPETITION LEVELS

2.1 **ENCOURAGE** - Encourage worker is a worker who has not won an Encourage or better yard trial.

2.1.1 Encourage workers are allowed to win three Encourage trials before breaking their status but not with the same dog.

2.2 **NOVICE** - All dogs are eligible to compete except dogs who have won Two (2) advertised Novice Yard Dog Trials or Improver Yard Dog Trial or Open Yard Dog Trial.

2.2.1 All workers eligible in accordance with clause 2.6 may compete.

2.3 **IMPROVER** - All dogs are eligible to compete except dogs who have won Two (2) advertised Improver Yard Dog Trials or Open Yard Trial.

2.3.1 All workers eligible in accordance with clause 2.6 may compete.

2.4 **OPEN** – All dogs are eligible to compete.

2.4.1 All workers eligible in accordance with clause 2.6 may compete.

2.5 It is not necessary to conduct separate Trials for each competition level.

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2.6 Any person wishing to work a dog in an affiliated Trial under these rules must be a financial member of the QWSDAI or a financial member of an affiliated state working sheepdog or yard association in other states.

2.7 When special prizes are offered for the competition of Encourage, Novice and Improver dogs, the eligibility of the dogs and workers will be determined by the criteria as described in Clauses 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

2.8 A dog which wins a special prize, for which no entry fee has been charged, does not affect its present status as an Encourage, Novice or Improver dog.

### 3. CLASSES OF DOGS

3.1 **ENCOURAGE DOG** - An Encourage dog is a dog who has not won at a level higher than Encourage, and has not yet won three (3) Encourage Yard Dog Trials.

3.2 **NOVICE DOG** - A Novice dog is a dog which has not won Two (2) advertised Novice Yard Dog Trials or an Improver Yard Dog Trial or an Open Yard Dog Trial.

3.3 **IMPROVER DOG** – An Improver is a dog no longer eligible to compete in Novice level or lower and has not yet won Two (2) advertised Improver Yard Dog Trials or an Open Yard Dog trial

3.4 **OPEN DOG** – Open dogs are dogs that comply with clauses 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3.

### 4. FINALS

4.1 A final should be conducted in all Open Trials where possible.

4.2 The finalists will be the highest scoring dogs in the first run.

4.3 Where possible there shall be a minimum of 6 dogs in a final of any sheep dog trial worked under the Association rules. Each of the 6 dogs to receive an award (i.e., cash, and/or trophy, and/or ribbon). The order of finalists shall be as they qualify.

4.4 A Final must be conducted in Novice, Improver and Open Trials if time permits. Irrespective of a Final being held or not in any Trial, the winning dog will break status, if applicable.

4.5 In Open Trials, if two (2) or more dogs score an equal number of points for first place, a runoff must be conducted to determine the outright winner.

4.6 The dog with the highest aggregate number of points is deemed the winner.

4.7 The final will be conducted in the same order as the dogs were drawn to work in the first run or as directed by the committee.

4.8 Any dog having divided a first prize at any advertised Trial will not lose its status.

### 5. DRAW

5.1 A draw must be conducted to determine the order of working prior to the commencement of the trial.

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5.2 Draws will be conducted as follows: Every competitor should have a run in the first round. Competitors with a bigger number of entries then go twice in subsequent rounds so they don't accumulate at the end, but still have dogs in the final rounds.

5.3 All dogs must be drawn in the order as nominated on the entry form.

5.4 Where post entries are accepted, workers must nominate all dogs before working their first dog.

5.5 All Open Trials must be run strictly according to the draw or as directed by the organising committee.

5.6 All workers must be issued either with 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 workers and spectators informed.

5.7 Excessive entries: Trial committees can follow a list of ways to keep the balance between being able to conduct a “successful trial” and keeping the competitors happy: -

5.7.1 A time budget must be done to calculate how many dogs can be run.

5.7.2 Consider cutting down on allocated time.

5.7.3 Consider re-designing part or the entire course.

5.7.4 Consider whether a cut-off score or a ballot would give them time to run a successful Trial.

### 6. THE COURSE

6.1 All Trials will be run over such course as the Trial committee determines.

6.2 Trial courses should include at least three of the following: -

6.2.1 Gather of sheep

6.2.2 Drafting race

6.2.3 Load and unload drenching /classing race

6.2.4 Load and unload trailer/truck

6.2.5 Ramp

6.2.6 Put sheep away

6.2.7 Any obstacle likely to be found in farm sheep yards

6.3 When erecting the yards, the Trial 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 workers.

6.4 Where the yards are constructed from panels or portable yards, the Trial committee must ensure that they are securely fixed to prevent any movement when pressure is applied by the sheep.

6.5 In Trial courses that incorporate a drenching race, or other confined area into which all the sheep must be forced, the number of sheep to be worked will be the number which allows each sheep to stand comfortably. This number will be determined by the Organising Committee in consultation with the Judge.

6.5.1 The drenching race – loading and unloading ramps will be of sufficient width that will allow one sheep to pass another comfortably. Suggested minimum width – 625mm (25 inches). Exception: Special purpose single-file race and ramps.

6.5.2 All sections must contain a full complement of sheep.

6.6 All sheep must be inspected prior to being worked for any physical defects or injuries. Any injured or unhealthy sheep must not be worked.

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6.7 Any sheep to be separated from the flock during the drafting phase of any trial must be clearly identified.

6.8 Prior to the commencement of the trial, the judge must address the workers and walk through the course with the workers and explain how the trial is to be worked.

6.9 The trial is deemed to be finished when or how the Trial committee decides.

6.10 It is anticipated that 20 sheep will be used for each run or as determined by the Organising Committee.

## **7. TIME LIMIT**

7.1 A maximum time limit in which to complete the course will be set before the trial commences. The composition of the course will influence the time limit. It is recommended the course be constructed to allow it to be comfortably completed within about ten to fifteen minutes.

7.2 The time limit will be set by the Trial committee.

7.3 A bell or similar device, when sounded, will signify the start of each run and the expiry of the time limit.

## **8. BITCHES IN OESTRUS**

8.1 Any worker who works a bitch in oestrus will be disqualified from further competition at the trial.

8.2 Any disagreement will be settled by a Veterinary examination conducted at the expense of the worker if the Vet exam is positive and at the expense of the Trial committee if negative.

## **9. CANES**

9.1 Workers may use a cane not exceeding 46cm (18 inches) in length.

## **10. MUZZLES**

10.1 A dog may work in a muzzle, but will be penalised 10 points per round.

## **11. WORKER'S ASSISTANT**

11.1 Prior to competing, an elderly or disabled worker may apply to the Judge to have an able bodied person assist them with any physically demanding task likely to be encountered in the trial.

11.2 The assistant will be selected by the worker in consultation with the Judge.

11.3 The assistant will assist the worker at the direction of the worker. The worker will be penalised for any infringement of the rules by the assistant.

## **12. SCORING**

12.1 Each dog will start with the maximum of 100 points.

12.2 Section points must be allocated to each section according to the degree of difficulty of the obstacles within the section.

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12.3 In the event of the competing dog not completing the course before the expiry of the time limit, the section points pertaining to the sections not negotiated must be deducted.

12.3.1 If a section is partly negotiated the Judge may deduct a portion of the section points relevant to how much of the section was completed; minimum deduction ten (10) points.

12.4 Any worker retiring their dog before the expiry of the time limit or disqualified will not receive any score and is not eligible for any special prize.



12.5 The recipients of any special prizes will be determined by the performance of the dog in the first run unless a special prize is designated as only for the competition of the Finalists.

### **13. WORKING THE TRIAL**

13.1 The judge will be in command of the trial from the time the worker with his or her dog, on or off the lead, enters the trial arena/yard and until they exit the arena. The dog must be released and under control before the time commences.

13.2 Any dog leaving the yards/arena out of control or leaving its work may be penalised.

13.2.1 If the working of a dog is of inferior merit, the Judge may terminate the trial before the expiration of the allocated time.

13.3 Dogs overworking sheep must be penalised. Any under working of sheep by the dog may be penalised.

13.3.1 Any dog which, in the opinion of the Judge, deliberately chases sheep into fences without genuinely trying to head and turn the sheep maybe penalised or disqualified.

13.3.2 Dogs biting excessively and to the detriment of sheep must be disqualified.

13.3.2A Any worker disqualified for biting or mistreating stock must leash their dog and exit the trial arena/yard immediately.

13.3.3 In the event of a sheep escaping, the Judge will decide if he considers the dog caused it. If so, he will be disqualified. If not, the clock will be stopped and the sheep replaced.

13.3.4 A dog that comes up to start sheep and is ineffective should be penalised.

13.3.5 A dog that does not come up to start sheep when necessary and contribute to flow should be penalised.

13.3.6 A tail turn by the dog may be penalised.

13.3.7 If a dog loses ground with his sheep he will incur a penalty.

13.3.8 Dogs out of position may incur a penalty.

13.3.9 No cross in cast or a penalty will be incurred.

13.3.10 Incur a penalty if sheep are not brought in as straight a line as possible to the obstacle.

13.3.11 If a sheep breaks back, a penalty will be incurred.

13.4 All gates must be opened and closed by the worker. Failure to close or replace a gate will incur a penalty.

13.5 The worker must take up a position whilst negotiating a gateway or obstacle and not move from that position until the obstacle is negotiated. An infringement of this rule will incur a penalty.

13.6 When opening gates the full arc of the gate should be cleared of sheep by the dog.

13.6.1 The handler is not to move until the line of the gate (when closed) is crossed by all sheep or he/she will incur a penalty.

13.6.2 In general circumstances, a handler, where possible, should walk in a direct and uninterrupted line between obstacles, i.e., not through or around sheep (the dog is to clear his path).

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13.7 Where the course is set incorrectly, (i.e., gate left open in draft) or the "run" is interfered with, the Judge may stop the clock, rectify the problem, and replace the sheep to the exact position so that there is no advantage or disadvantage to the competitor or his/her dog.

13.8 The worker may assist their dog to shift the sheep but will incur a penalty.

13.9 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 the handler may turn the sheep back without a loss of points for handling the sheep. However, the Judge may penalise the dog if the judge considers overwork by the dog caused the situation. Similarly, when the nominated sheep are at the back of the mob and being drafted, handlers may use their hand to avoid jamming the sheep's head, although the Judge may penalise the dog for overworking.

13.9.1 If two (2) sheep become wedged in the race, mouth, or neck of the draft after the dog has proven they are unable to be moved, the worker may turn the sheep back without losing any points.

13.9.2 When a misdraft occurs, appropriate points should be deducted by the Judge(s). The handler will incur no further loss of points if he/she rectifies the error by: -

(a) Substituting the misdrafted sheep before the entire mob has passed through the drafting race. Beyond this point, if corrections are possible, the misdraft is to be rectified by: -

- (i) Redrafting; or
- (ii) Manually placing the misdrafted sheep in the correct pen(s).

This will be done in consultation with the Judge.

13.10 Where possible, the Trial committee should keep the same drafting sequence on all courses and all classes for the duration of the trial.

13.11 A dog defending itself should not be penalised.

13.11.1 Dogs should not incur a penalty if sheep jam through no fault of the dog.

13.11.2 A dog must contribute to the starting of unloading of the race.

13.12 Any worker who handles his/her dog whilst in the trial may be penalised or disqualified at the discretion of the Judge.

13.13 No person will be permitted in the competition area with any dog yet to compete in the trial.

13.14 All dogs tied up around the trial ground must be kept quiet and well away from the competition area.

13.15 The Judge's decision is final on all matters concerning the working of dogs and stock.

#### **14. WELFARE OF SHEEP AND DOGS**

14.1 If in the opinion of the judge, any worker ill-treats or mishandles their dog or the sheep, they must be disqualified.

14.2 Wherever 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 excessive stress.

14.3 Any sheep which becomes excessively distressed or injured must be replaced by fresh sheep prior to the next dog working.

14.4 Any worker who fails to make an effort to stand up a sheep which goes down in a race or other confined area, 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.

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14.5 Any worker who abuses the sheep with any gate or gates (including drafting gates) may be penalised.

14.6 The worker will not be penalised for handling the sheep if he/she is aiding a distressed sheep.

14.7 All sheep must be inspected prior to being worked for any physical defects or injuries. Any injured or unhealthy sheep must not be worked.

14.8 Hessian or the like should be used at all trials where possible, so as the sheep being worked cannot view sheep in holding yards.

#### **15. RE-RUNS**

15.1 A re-run will be granted if any dog, not belonging to the worker comes into the competition area and interferes with the trial.

15.2 The Judge may order a re-run for the dog competing at any time during that's dog's run.

15.3 Re-runs will be conducted at the discretion of the Trial committee in consultation with the worker, preferably in the round in which they were drawn.

#### **16. PROTESTS**

16.1 Any protest must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the Trial committee within two hours of the misdemeanour and be accompanied by a fee to be determined annually which is refunded if the protest is upheld.

16.2 Any protest or situation arising not provided for in these rules will be dealt with by a subcommittee of three QWSDAI committee persons if present. If less than three committee persons are present, then those present plus the first and/or second and/or third financial member of the QWSDAI drawn to work in the particular trial will form the sub-committee.

16.3 The decision of the sub-committee pursuant to the particular incident will be final.

16.4 Any action taken under clause 16.1 hereof will be reported to the Association within fourteen days and the Management Committee, if it deems fit, make any alteration to cover such contingency in the future.

#### **17. REPRESENTATION**

17.1 Representatives are chosen from Greenwood Family Open Yard Dog of the Year placing. The top 2 highest scoring dogs (points total) will be chosen to represent Queensland at the next Australian Yard Dog Championships.

Two Representatives with one dog each or;

One Representative with 2 dogs.

**A Representative** must be a full Association Member and either,

(i) A resident of Queensland or

(ii) Has not been a member of any other State Working Sheep Dog Association in the past twelve months.

To be chosen as a Representative of Queensland, competitor must be prepared to represent Queensland at any official function, meeting, etc which may occur during their representation.

Once chosen, a handler, if they wish, may withdraw an eligible dog to make another of their dogs, which has a lesser score, eligible for selection. The lesser scoring dog only becomes eligible if it has a score greater than all other available dogs that have not already been selected.

Should any representative dog not be able to participate for any reason, the handler must advise the Yard/Utility Sub Committee in writing and supply veterinary certificate stating reason. Dog may be substituted at the discretion of the Yard/Utility Sub Committee.

**18. TROPHIES** 18.1 Trophies available are:

**Greenwood Family Yard Dog of the Year Trophy**

Points to be awarded on all advertised State Open Yard Dog Trials in Queensland

**Halliday Family Novice Yard Dog of the Year Trophy**

Points to be awarded on all advertised State Yard Dog Trials in Queensland

**Kellaway Family Yard Dog Handler of the Year Trophy**

Points awarded on all advertised Yard Dog Trials in Queensland

18.2 A points system to be used in all advertised sheep dog trials in Queensland on basis of:

1st – 6 points 2nd – 5 points 3rd – 4 points 4th – 3 points 5th – 2 points 6th – 1 point

In the event of a tie, points are added together and then halved.

Trophy year from 1st January to 31st December annually. All trials must be completed by 31st December to be included in points.

Points only awarded to dogs owned and worked by handler. Should a dog be sold during the season, points do not go with the dog. To accrue points in the annual trophies the dog must be registered in the handler's name. Perpetual trophies, together with a replica trophy for recipient to keep are awarded yearly.

## **Utility Dog Trials Rules**

The following should be read in conjunction with the QWSDAI Yard Dog Trial Rules.

1 The numbers used in these Rules will correspond with the clause at the same number in the QWSDAI Yard Dog Trial Rules.

2. The competition levels and the progression through the Utility competition levels to be the same as the QWSDAI Yard Dog Trial Rules. However, the status of a dog in Yard Trials (and 3 sheep) is to be completely independent of that dog's status as a utility dog and vice versa.

The same will apply to handler status.

3. Classes of Dog will apply to utility dogs as it applies to yard dogs. The wording of the four (4) classes to be changed to reflect utility dogs.

4. The Clauses relating to the running of Finals in Yard Trials will apply to Utility Trials.

5. The Clauses relating to the draw in Yard Trials will apply to Utility Trials.

6. Clause 6.2 to be modified to add as follows: -

6.2.8 Outside field section must include any two (2) of the following "arena type" obstacles for Encourage, Novice events, and any three (3) for Improver and

**Open Trials: -**

(a) Winding peg. (b) Gap. (c) Race. (d) Bridge. (e) Pen.

(f) Any obstacle likely to be found in a paddock situation on a livestock property.

6.2.9 Obstacles can be separate and/or free standing from the yard section. A minimum distance of 20 metres between all obstacles is required.

The remaining Clauses in Clause 6 to apply with the exception of 6.3 and 6.4, which should refer to the "course" instead of the "yards."

Add following clause;

6.11 Each competitor be provided with a minimum of three (3) sheep for the outside section of the course and a minimum of (10) sheep for the yard section of the course.

7. Clause 7 regarding time limits to apply.

8. Clause 8 regarding bitches in oestrus to apply.

9. Clause 9 regarding canes to apply.

10. Clause 10 regarding muzzles to apply.

11. Clause 11 regarding worker's assistants to apply.

12. Clause 12 regarding scoring to apply with the following additions: -

12.3.2 There is no limit to the number of points that may be lost on any one section of the Trial.

12.3.3 The Judge will determine and notify the handlers prior to the beginning of the Trial if a "move on" rule is to be applied.

13. Throughout Clause 13, the term "yards" to be replaced with "course".

13.3.9 To include in addition "In Utility Trials, dogs crossing whilst attempting the outside obstacles may be disqualified at the Judge's discretion. The Judge must notify handlers prior to the beginning of the Trial if crossing outside will result in disqualification."

13.6.1 To include "...the line of the gate or in utility Trials, all sheep through or over the obstacle...."

Add following clause;

13.6.3 The position to be taken by the handler whilst negotiating the outside obstacles will be marked.

14. Clause 14 regarding animal welfare to apply.

15. Clause 15 regarding re-runs to apply.

16. Clause 16 regarding protests to apply.

17. Clause 17 regarding Representation not applicable.

18. Clause 18.2 regarding point scores to apply.

## **SHORT COURSE RULES**

(A guideline for competing and judging a short course)

The arena is to be a fenced off enclosed area a minimum of 45 metres square. The course layouts are to be similar at each event but will be set out to best suit the arena.

The course should be six metres wide.

Time allowed is to be a minimum of six minutes and maximum of ten minutes (depending on time, sheep, and course layout)

Time and judging commence once the sheep have cleared the gap (first obstacle). The judge is to call "time." The Judge may use their discretion if the competitor is not making a concerted effort to get the sheep through the gap.

The competitor must stay inside the free working area as defined before start time of trial ie. The sheep must clear gap or first obstacle before advancing.

The competitor must not go past the line of obstacle in each section until all sheep are clear. If the competitor crosses the line prior to all stock having cleared the obstacle/line this will result in loss of the whole section's points.

The competitor can walk through the obstacles. If the sheep are touched during the run the competitor may be penalized.

The competitor has freedom of movement between obstacles i.e., Drive or pull between obstacles or do both. Either on the left or right side.

Ideally stock will progress in straight lines. No turn backs or loss of points will result.

A deduction will occur if stock stray offline of the six-metre course.  
Dog must be under control at all times and showing control of sheep.

Any dog biting (as set out in Rule 68 of the Three Sheep Trial Rules) or chasing the sheep shall be disqualified (Severe bite or dog chasing sheep will be disqualification).

It is optional for the organizing committee whether the gate has a latch or not, but the competitor's hand must be at the head of the gate and remain there until the gate is closed. The gate may be swung at the discretion of the trial committee running the event off either left or right post but must be opening out from the yard. If the competitor takes his/her hand off the gate will be loss of points. A rope can be attached to the gate and the handler is allowed to move within the confines of the rope but once picked up the rope cannot be dropped without loss of points.

All sheep must be completely past the front line of the pen or yard before the competitor may close the gate. If, however, all or any of the sheep should escape by any other means, the competitor may continue to close the gate, and the sheep shall be considered penned.

If any sheep escape from the pen over the line of the gate after the worker has commenced to close the gate, they may re pen the sheep but not stop walking. If the sheep are not then penned, the worker forfeits the points for that section.

Should the dog leave his position at the pen (e.g., going behind the worker or behind the pen) there will be a loss of points.

A cross (as set out in Rule 55 of the Three Sheep Rules) will be a loss of section points.

A competitor can only lose twenty points per section.

A competitor may not move on to another section until the section being worked is completed.

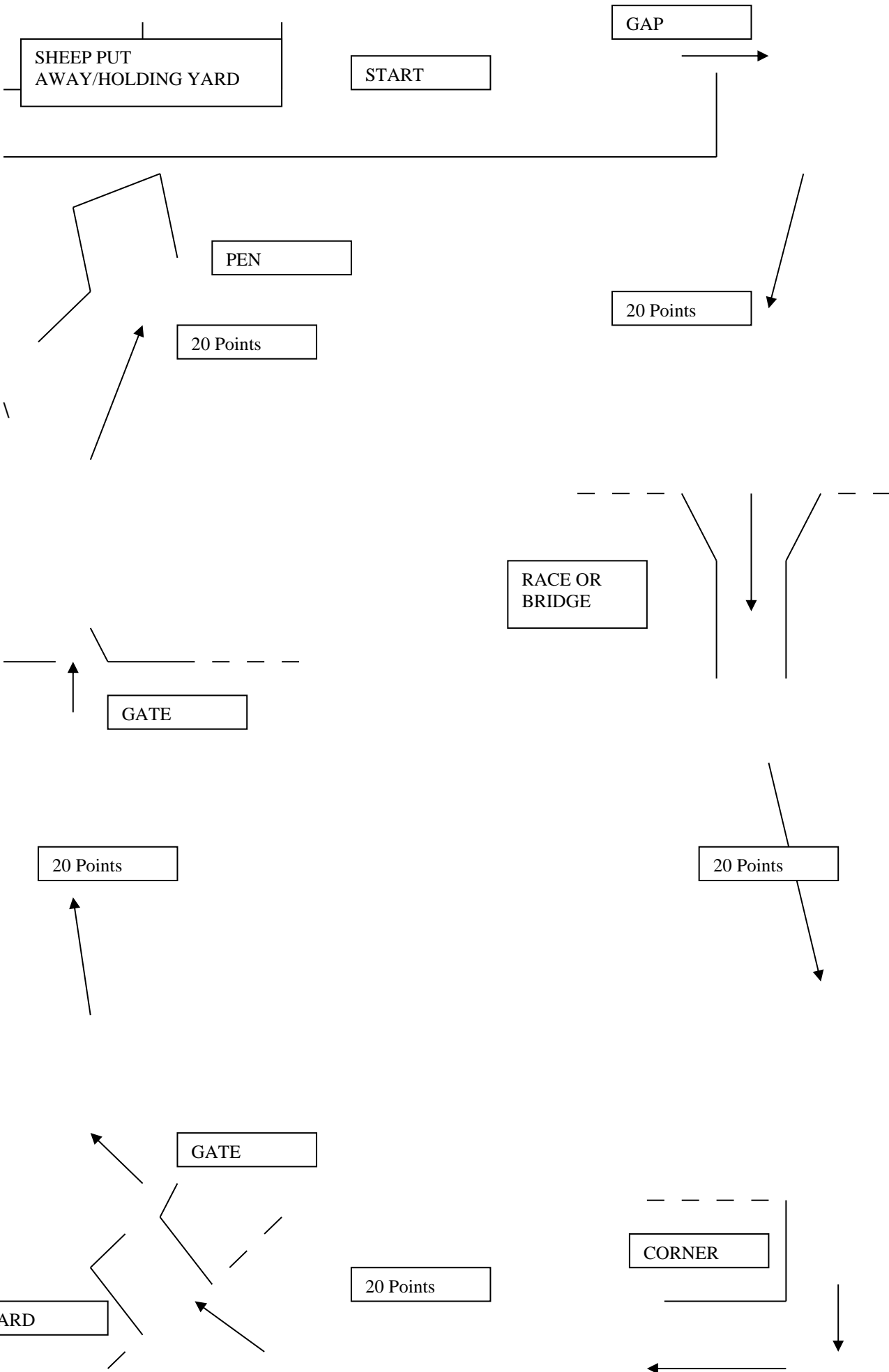
If there is a tied score the competitor with the fastest time out of the tied scores is the winner.

**20 POINTS ALLOCATED PER SECTION – TOTAL 100 POINTS**

GAP TO RACE	20
RACE TO CORNER	20
CORNER TO YARD	20
YARD TO GATE	20
GATE TO PEN	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

Handler and dog status shall be that which has been attained in either a Three Sheep Trial or Short Course. However, a dog winning a Short Course will not break its Three Sheep Trial status.

(i.e., If a dog wins a Novice Three Sheep Trial it can no longer compete in a Novice Short Course but if a dog wins a Novice Short Course it is still able to compete as a Novice in a Three Sheep Trial.)



QUEENSLAND WORKING SHEEP DOG ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

# HEAT STRESS POLICY

**Effective:** (date)

**Revised:** To be revised annually

**Subject:** Queensland Working Sheepdog Association Incorporated Heat Stress Policy

**Reference:** Animal Care and Protection Act 2001

**Background 1.1** *This policy is in place to protect the welfare of dogs and sheep to minimise heat related effects during hot days at all QWSDAI trial events. This policy will apply on all trial days where the forecast or ambient temperature is 32 Degrees Celsius or above.*

## GUIDELINES:

- The competitor is ultimately responsible for the welfare of their dog and sheep during the run.
- The trial committee are responsible for the welfare of the sheep when not in use and sheep must have access to water at all times.
- The judge can, if they see fit, end a run if the dog or sheep are considered to be at risk of heat-related stress and continue to run would not be in the best interest of the animal's welfare.
- The trial committee must have available water sources in the form of a tub/container/trough that can be used by competitors to cool their dogs within a suitable vicinity of the trail ring/s.
- The trial committee must take into consideration dogs that have consecutive runs during finals, as they may need a cool down period (this happens sometimes during finals, heat runs to be managed by judge and committee).
- At the beginning of each day the judge or a representative of the trial committee must remind competitors of the predicted hot temperatures and that the *Heat Stress Policy* is in place.

UPDATED April 2021