



**NEW SOUTH WALES
YARD DOG
ASSOCIATION INC.**

COMPETITION RULES

WITH ALL AMENDMENTS TO:
1 March 2024

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1. **DEFINITIONS**

1.1. “*Yard Dog Trial*”

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

1.2. “*Affiliated Yard Dog Trial*”

A Yard Dog Trial which is conducted under the Rules of the NSWYDA Inc by a Club or Body which is registered with the NSWYDA Inc.

1.3. “*The Organising Committee*”

The persons responsible for conducting the Trial.

1.4. “*Worker*” The person who:-

1.4.1. Nominates to work a dog in a particular Trial.

1.4.2. Is working a dog in a Trial.

1.4.3. Has worked a dog in a Trial.

1.5. “*Special Prize*”

A prize or trophy, offered for competition of dogs and/or workers for which no entry fee has been charged.

2. **COMPETITION LEVELS**

2.2. “*Encourage*”

2.2.1. For Workers who have never won a Yard Dog Trial except no more than two (2) Encourage Yard Dog Trials.

2.2.2. An individual worker can win up to two (2) Encourage Yard Dog Trials after which he/she can only compete at higher levels than Encourage level.

2.3. “*Maiden*”

2.3.1. All workers eligible, in accordance with Clause 2.10, may compete.

2.3.2. For dogs that have never won a Yard Dog Trial except a Beginners Yard Dog Trial or Encourage Yard Dog Trial.

2.4. ***“Novice”***

2.4.1. All workers eligible to compete.

2.4.2. All dogs are eligible to compete except dogs who have won:

2.4.2.1. An Open Yard Dog Trial.

2.4.2.2. An Improver Yard Dog Trial.

2.4.2.3. Two (2) Novice Yard Dog Trials or One (1) Novice Regional or NSW Championship Trail.

2.5. ***“Improver”***

2.5.1. All workers eligible, in accordance with Clause 2.10, may compete.

2.5.2. All dogs are eligible to compete except dogs who have won:

2.5.2.1. An Open Yard Trial; or

2.5.2.2. Two (2) Improver Yard Dog Trials.

2.6. ***“Open”***

2.6.1. All workers eligible, in accordance with Clause 2.10, may compete.

2.6.2. All dogs are eligible to complete.

2.7. ***“Local”***

2.7.1. For the competition of Local dogs and/or workers. Eligibility of dogs and workers is at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

2.7.2. No effect on status unless otherwise stated by the Organising Committee.

2.8. ***“Junior Class”***

2.8.1. For handlers under 17 years of age.

2.8.2. This class must be held separate from other classes.

2.8.3. All dogs are eligible to compete.

2.8.4. Entry to this event will be at the discretion of the handler’s legal guardian and the handler must be a financial member.

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

2.10. Any person wishing to work a dog in an Affiliated Trial conducted under these Rules must be a Financial Member of the NSWYDA Inc.

- 2.11. Any worker who works a dog in an Affiliated Trial at a level in which that dog is ineligible to compete will be disciplined by the Committee of the NSWYDA Inc at a special meeting of the Committee. The worker shall have the opportunity to defend himself in accordance with Rule 11 of the Association Act 1984 Model Rules.
- 2.12. When special prizes are offered for the competition of Encourage, Maiden, Novice and Improver dogs, the eligibility of the dogs and workers will be determined by the criteria as described in Clauses 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.
- 2.13. A dog which wins a special prize, for which no entry fee has been charged, does not affect its present status as an Encourage, Maiden, Novice or Improver dog, except in accordance with Clause 2.1.3.
- 2.14. Where there are equal winners of any competition level and a run-off cannot be held, both dogs will break status, if applicable.
- 2.15. Dogs winning any Trial open to public competition will break status whether it is an Affiliated Trial with the NSWYDA Inc or not.
- 2.16. In the event of a dog breaking status, they are eligible to compete in any Trial they have pre-entered, in the class they are now eligible for.

3. CLASSES OF DOG

3.2. "Maiden Dog"

A dog *ceases* to be a Maiden when:-

- 3.2.1. He/she has won a Yard Dog Trial (except an Encourage Yard Dog Trial).
- 3.2.2. He/She has not won a Yard Dog Trial but is eligible to compete in an Encourage class.

3.3. "Novice Dog"

A Novice dog is a dog no longer eligible to compete in a level lower than Novice and has not yet won:-

- 3.3.1. Two (2) Novice Yard Dog Trials;
- 3.3.2. One (1) Novice Regional and NSW Championship Trial
- 3.3.3. An Improver Yard Dog Trial; or
- 3.3.4. An Open Yard Dog Trial.

3.4. ***“Improver Dog”***

An Improver is a dog no longer eligible to compete in Novice level or lower and has not yet won:-

3.4.1. Two (2) Improver Yard Dog Trials; or

3.4.2. An Open Yard Dog Trial.

3.5. ***“Open Dog”***

An Open dog is a dog that has won two (2) Improver Trials or better.

4. **FINALS**

4.1. Wherever possible a Final must be conducted in all Open Trials.

4.2. A Final must be conducted in Novice and Improver Trials if time permits.

4.2.1. Irrespective of a Final being held or not in any Trial, the winning dog shall break status, if applicable.

4.3. The Finalists shall be the highest scoring dogs in the first run.

4.4. The number of Finalists is determined by the number of placings offered. One more dog is worked than placings offered. If a number of dogs are tied on the lowest score eligible for the Final, all go into the Final.

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

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

4.7. Where possible, the Final shall be conducted in the same order as the dogs were drawn in the first run. However, if a handler has more than one (1) dog in the Final his runs may be separated by other dogs.

4.8. No prize shall be awarded to a dog who, after being selected to compete in a Final, fails to participate in that Final.

5. **THE DRAW**

- 5.1. A draw must be conducted to determine the order of working prior to the start of the Trial.
- 5.2. Every worker with one or more dogs nominated in the Trial must be drawn to work a dog and then follow in rotation until all the dogs are listed. Every worker must be drawn to work a dog before any worker is drawn to work his or her second dog except for when Rule 5.7 is applied.
- 5.3. All dogs must be drawn in 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 according to the draw wherever possible.
- 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 the workers and spectators informed.
- 5.7. That all workers are permitted to have 1 dog drawn in the last round if they wish.
- 5.8. That the following Options for Restricting Entries be adopted as recommendations to Trial Committees:-
 - 5.8.1. Dogs may be restricted to their own classes as per rules.
 - 5.8.2. Postal entries with a set closing date.
 - 5.8.3. Organising Committees may restrict the number of dogs from each handler. If multiple entries are to be restricted it must be done in consultation with the handler.
 - 5.8.4. If entries are received on the day, they may have a cut off time.

5.9. Excessive entries: Trial Organising Committees can follow a list of ways to keep the balance between being able to conduct a “successful Trial” and keeping the competitors happy:-

- (a) A time budget must be done to calculate how many dogs can be run.
- (b) Restrict dogs to their class.
- (c) Consider cutting down on allocated time.
- (d) Consider re-designing part or all of the course.
- (e) Consider whether a cut-off score or a ballot would give them time to run a successful Trial.

5.10. That the NSWYDA accept the following motions on how to conduct a ballot *prior* to commencement of the Trial:-

- (a) Workers with the highest number of dogs are asked to withdraw a dog of their choice from any round. This continues until the Organising Committee has reached the number of dogs which they feel they are able to run.
- (b) Wherever a dog is withdrawn, the workers next drawn dog takes its place (provided they have one).
- (c) Workers must be addressed prior to the Final decision being made whether to implement a ballot or cut-off score.
- (d) When a ballot has been conducted and it eventuates that there is time to run one or more of the balloted out dogs, the Organising Committee must allow these dogs to run (but not encroach on the time needed to run a Final). Dogs regain entry on last dog out, first dog back in.
- (e) In the situation that a Trial Committee does not require a full round of dogs withdrawn, they must start at the first drawn handler of that round.

5.11. Affiliated Trials must be open to all competitors, providing they enter before the advertised time/date of closing, subject to any entry conditions.

5.12. Draw for the 1st Round - NSW Championship to be conducted as follows:

- (a) All handlers names in the first round draw to be placed in a hat. Handlers with more than one dog must have the equal number of names in the hat as they have dogs in the first round.
- (b) Handlers names are drawn from the hat by a person nominated by the trial committee.
- (c) As a name is drawn the handler then draws a number from a second hat.
- (d) The second hat must contain the same amount of numbers as dogs in the first round at the commencement of the draw.

- (e) Once all places have been filled and the draw is complete, any handler with 2 or more dogs has the opportunity to select the order that they would like to run their dogs.
- (f) No changes to the draw will be accepted once the draw has been announced.
- (g) If for any reason a re-run is awarded by the judges during the running of the first round the judges will then decide where the re-run is to take place in the draw..
- (h) The dogs that go on to make the top 10 of the NSW championship (Final) will run in the same order as recorded in the first round

6. **THE COURSE**

6.1. All Trials shall be run over such course as the Organising Committee determines.

6.2. Trial courses should include some of the following:-

- 6.2.1. Gather of sheep.
- 6.2.2. Drafting race.
- 6.2.3. Drenching / classing race.
- 6.2.4. Trailer / truck.
- 6.2.5. Ramp.
- 6.2.6. Fill a woolshed.
- 6.2.7. Put sheep away.
- 6.2.8. Any obstacle likely to be found in farm sheep yards.

6.3. 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 workers.

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

- 6.4.1. Affiliated Trial Committees should be aware of stressful sections of Trial courses eg. truck gateways etc. so that the public do not complain about dogs having to overwork sheep to get them through the course.

- 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 shall be that number which allows each sheep to stand comfortably. This number shall be determined by the Organising Committee in consultation with the Judge.
- 6.5.1. The drenching race – loading and unloading ramps shall be of sufficient width that will allow one sheep to pass another comfortably. Suggested minimum width – 25” (625mm). Exception: Special purpose single-file race and ramps.
- 6.5.2. All sections must contain a full compliment of sheep.
- 6.6. Any sheep to be separated from the flock during the drafting phase of any Trial must be clearly identified.
- 6.7. Prior to the commencement of the Trial, a representative of the Organising Committee should walk through the course with the workers and explain the order and content of the obstacles.
- 6.8. Prior to the commencement of the Trial, the Judge must address the workers and advise the workers how the Trial is to be worked.
- 6.9. The Association adopt a policy that encourages the least amount of man-handling or lifting of sheep as possible. Courses should be designed with this in mind.

7. THE TIME LIMIT

- 7.1. A maximum time limit 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 10 minutes.
- 7.2. The time limit will be set by the Organising Committee.
- 7.3. A bell or similar device, when sounded, shall signify the start of each run and the expiry of the time limit.

8. BITCHES IN OESTRUS

- 8.1. No bitch in oestrus is permitted to work except when Rule 18.7.1 is applicable. In the event of a disagreement, the bitch shall not work until the matter is settled by a veterinary examination. The Organising Committee is liable for all expenses incurred if the result is negative. The handler will incur the expenses if the result is positive.
- 8.2. Any worker who works a bitch in oestrus shall be disqualified from further competition at that Trial. Except when Rule 18.7.1 is applicable.

9. CANES

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

10. MUZZLES

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

11. WORKER'S ASSISTANTS

- 11.1. Prior to competing, an elderly or disabled worker **may** apply to the Judge to have an able-bodied person to *assist* him with any physically demanding task likely to be encountered in the Trial.
- 11.2. The assistant shall be selected by the worker in consultation with the Judge.
- 11.3. The assistant will assist the worker at the discretion 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 a 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.
- 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 his dog before the expiry of the time limit shall not receive a score and is not eligible for any special prizes.
- 12.5. Any dog disqualified by the Judge shall not receive a score and is not eligible for any special prizes.
- 12.6. The recipients of any special prizes shall 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.
- 12.7. Where a counter is used to score, the Judge is to be responsible for the score sheet being filled out correctly at the end of each run. The score sheet must include the handler name, dog's name and points deducted.
- 12.8. Any Trial Committee may decide to use a cut off score in a Yard Dog Trial. An announcement is to be made informing the Judge and competitors upon the decision being taken. A cut off score is when the competitor's score becomes lower than what **is** required to make the Final.
 - 12.8.1. A cut off score is to be implemented only after the first round has been completed, and must not include single entry handlers in the last round.

13. WORKING THE TRIAL

13.1. The Judge shall be in command of the Trial from the time the worker, *with his dog on or off the lead*, enters the yards. The dog must be released and under control before time commences.

13.2. Any dog leaving the yards out of control or leaving its work must be disqualified.

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.

13.2.2. Dogs leaving the job, but not the course, may incur a penalty eg. dog jumping out of the race.

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, must be disqualified.

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

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

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

- 13.4.2. All gates must be opened and closed by the worker. Failure to close or replace a gate will incur a penalty.
- 13.4.3. The worker must take up a position whilst negotiating a gateway or obstacle and not move from the position until the obstacle is negotiated. An infringement of this rule will incur a penalty.
- 13.4.4. 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.
- 13.4.5. Where the course is set incorrectly, (ie. 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 dog.
- 13.5. The worker may assist his dog to shift the sheep but will incur a penalty.
- 13.6. 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 penalize the dog if he 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 penalize the dog for overworking.
- 13.6.1. 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.
- 13.6.2. 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.
- 13.6.3. A gate should be provided through which misdrafted sheep can be placed into the correct mob, to prevent excessive stress/injury to stock, or possible injury to the handler.
- 13.6.4. Where possible, the Organising Committee should keep the same drafting sequence on all courses and all classes for the duration of the Trial.
- 13.7. A dog defending itself should not be penalised.

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

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

13.8. Any worker who handles his dog whilst in the Trial **may** be penalised or disqualified at the discretion of the Judge.

13.9. No person shall be permitted in the competition area with any dog yet to compete in the Trial.

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

13.10. That Organising Committees be aware that accommodation, travelling fee and daily fee be mutually agreed upon prior the engagement of a Judge.

13.11. That the Executive be empowered to approve use of lower classified, or unlisted Judges upon request from those Organising Committees that have been unable to obtain a qualified Judge.

14. **WELFARE OF SHEEP AND DOGS**

14.1. If in the opinion of the Judge, any worker ill-treats or mishandles his dog or the sheep, he must be disqualified.

14.2. 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.

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

14.4. 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.

14.5. Any sheep which become excessively distressed, or injured, must be replaced by fresh sheep prior to the next dog working.

14.5.1. If a sheep is unable to complete the course, the clock should be stopped and the sheep replaced.

14.6. Any worker who abuses the sheep with any gate or gates (including drafting gates) must be disqualified.

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

14.9. Hession 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 dog's run.

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

16. **PROTESTS**

16.1. Any protest or situation arising not provided for in these rules, will be dealt with by a Sub-Committee of three (3) NSWYDA Inc Committee Members, if present. If less than three (3) Committee Members are present, then those present plus a first and/or second and/or third Financial Member of the NSWYDA Inc drawn to work in the particular Trial shall form the Sub-Committee.

16.2. The decision of the Sub-Committee, pursuant to the particular incident, shall be Final.

16.3. The Members of the Sub-Committee must, within fourteen (14) days, submit a written report stating the circumstances of the protest and their decision, to the Secretary of the NSWYDA Inc. This report must be tabled at the next meeting.

17. COMPLAINTS

- 17.1. Any complaints on Trials, Judges or competitors for all levels of competition must be sent to the Secretary in writing.
- 17.2. All complaints be handled by the Committee and not dealt with at General or Annual General Meetings.

18. CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 18.1. Application must be made to the Committee for any Championships.
- 18.2. The requirements for those candidates wishing to go onto the Championship Judges List will be that they have won one (1) Affiliated Open Yard Dog Trial and judged three (3) Affiliated Open Yard Dog Trials. At the completion of both requirements their progress to be reviewed by the Committee, who will have the power to add them to the list of Championship Judges.
- 18.3. That the same criteria applies for interstate Judges.
- 18.4. That NSW Championship Judges be approved by the Committee.
- 18.5. The NSW Championship move to a new district each year.
- 18.6. That regional Championships continue and winners qualify for the *first* round of the NSW Championships.
 - 18.6.1. That there be a maximum of sixteen (16) Qualifying Championships decided upon for the NSW Championships.
- 18.7. If the same dog qualifies twice the next placed dog then qualifies.
 - 18.7.1. Pre-qualified bitches that are in oestrus over the period of any Championship for which they have qualified shall remain eligible to compete.
- 18.8. If two (2) area Championships from the same area occur prior to the NSW Championships the winner of the second Trial qualifies for the NSW Championship the following year.
- 18.9. That applications for Championship status to run as a qualifying round of the NSWYDA Inc Championships be reviewed annually at Committee Meeting

following the November 1st application close date. Application received after the November 1st close date may be considered for championship status but not as a qualifying round of the NSWYDA Inc Championships.

- 18.10. That at each Committee Meeting it be discussed and updated which dog and handler is eligible for State and area representation.
- 18.11. In the event of a tie in any Regional or State Championship, all placings must be decided. If time does not permit a runoff to be held, results shall be determined by the toss of a coin, ie. no two (2) dogs shall be awarded equal placings.
- 18.12. That a Trial may have a Championship title in name only, but not be a qualifying Regional Trial for the NSW Championship.
- 18.13. If a dog cannot fulfill its commitment as a Regional Representative, his/her handler must notify the Secretary of the NSWYDA Inc as soon as possible.
- 18.14. The Secretary must then notify the next eligible dog's handler, and also the Organising Committee of the State Trial, the names of the eligible qualifiers.
- 18.15. That the following guidelines be set for those wishing to host the NSW Open Championship.
 - 18.15.1. That a preliminary event be held and no less than ten (10) unqualified dogs gain entry into the first round of the NSW Open.
 - 18.15.2. The qualifiers from the preliminary event and the prequalified dogs go into the first round of the NSW Open on "zero" score.
 - 18.15.3. The NSW Open to be conducted over no less than two (2) rounds, including the Final.
 - 18.15.4. Pre-qualified dogs do not have to pay entry money for the first round of the preliminary event unless there is a separate event where prize money has been allocated.
 - 18.15.5. The winner of the Improver event, held at the NSW Open must be eligible to complete in the qualifying event, where possible.
 - 18.15.6. That the NSW Open Championship be judged by two (2) Judges.
 - 18.15.7. That the Judges for the State Championship Open be voted on by all members present at the AGM.
 - 18.15.8. The Judges for the NSW Championship shall be selected from either Championship Judges List or nominated interstate Australian qualified Judges.

18.15.9. Judges for the NSW Championship be voted on by secret ballot on a 3-2-1 basis, with the voters 1st choice receiving 3 points, 2nd choice 2 points, 3 choice 1 point. The two (2) nominees with the most accumulated points would be selected.

18.15.10. Judges can refuse two (2) times. Upon the third refusal they would be deemed ineligible to work the event they had been selected for.

18.15.11. Once having judged a State Title, those persons would not necessarily be required to judge another event the same for five (5) years unless they declared their availability.

19. **POINT SCORE AWARD**

19.1. That the Point Score system be as follows:-

19.1.1. To run from January to January each year and only in conjunction with Affiliated Trials.

19.1.2. Points are doubled for Australian, NSW Regional and NSW State Championships for all Classes where points are allocated.

“DOG POINT SCORE” (*Open only*)

First	= 8 points
Second	= 5 “
Third	= 3 “
Fourth	= 1 “

“BITCH POINT SCORE” (*Open only*)

First	= 8 points
Second	= 5 “
Third	= 3 “
Fourth	= 1 “

“HANDLER POINT SCORE” (*incl. LADY HANDLER*)

<u>Open</u>		<u>Improver</u>	
First	= 8 points	First	= 6 points
Second	= 5 “	Second	= 3 “

Third = 3 “ Third = 2 “

Fourth = 1 “ Fourth = 1 “

Novice

First = 4 points

Second = 2 “

Third = 1 “

Maiden

First = 3 points

Second = 2 “

Third = 1 “

“JUNIOR HANDLER POINT SCORE”

This Award is for Members under 17 years of age. Junior points are awarded for all junior “unassisted” and encourage classes at trials.

Unassisted – Competitor enters, competes, and leaves the ring without outside assistance,

Assisted – Competitor may have an adult with full or temporary membership assist at any or all times throughout the trial run.

First = 3 points

Second = 2 “

Third = 1 “

Junior classes are run in conjunction and all ages under 17 are included. Places are awarded to both unassisted and assisted junior classes at an event, with “unassisted only class” points being tallied toward the yearly Point Score Award.

“ROOKIE OF THE YEAR POINT SCORE”

This Award is for Members who have not won a Maiden or higher, also included across other interstate associations. Eligible Members must nominate themselves for the Rookie Point Score and may do so at any time during the calendar year. This Point Score can only be won once and points will be awarded for all classes except Junior and Local:-

Points are to be awarded as follows: -

First = 3 points

Second = 2 “

Third = 1 “

19.2. The Organising Committee that affiliates a Trial be responsible for sending in the results.

19.3. That Affiliated Trials are to notify the NSWYDA Inc of their results within ten (10) days of the Trial.

20. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

- 20.1. Accepting that from time to time Life Membership honours may be bestowed upon an individual whom has made an outstanding contribution to the NSWYDA.
- 20.2. Nominations for Life Membership may be put forward by any member of the NSWYDA.
 - 20.2.1. Nominations for Life Membership to be put forward on a Notice of Motion basis to a Committee Meeting.
- 20.3. Approval of Life Membership to be granted on a minimum of 75% vote of the NSWYDA Committee persons present or via proxy by secret ballot, with the exclusion of the nominee if a Committee person at the time of the AGM.
- 20.4. Presentation of Life Membership to the person approved be made no less than thirty (30) days following approval, at a time and place determined by the Executive.

21. Statement of Objectives of the NSW Yard Dog Association Incorporated

- (a) To promote public interest in dogs which work sheep in utility and yards.
- (b) To promote the holding of yard / utility dog Trials.
- (c) To make and from time to time amend rules for the conduct of Trials for yard dogs / utility dogs in the State of New South Wales.
- (d) To make and from time to time amend rules for the eligibility for entrance by both workers and dogs and Trials for yard dogs / utility dogs the State of NSW.
- (e) To determine and from time to time amend a system of classification of yard dogs / utility dogs. To collect, publish and disseminate information relating to yard dogs / utility dogs.
- (f) To establish a panel of Judges of hard / utility dog Trials to grant accreditation to Judges and to implement and operate a system of training Judges.
- (g) To raise funds for the purposes of the Association in such a manner as the Committee may from time to time determine.
- (h) To hold yard / utility dog Trials from time to time.
- (i) To establish relations and encourage exchange with other Associations throughout the world having similar objects to the Association.
- (j) To promote in all possible ways the interest of breeders and owners of working yard/utility dogs.

22. UTILITY TRIAL RULES

The following should be read in conjunction with the NSWYDA Competition Rules and Resolutions (“CRR”).

The numbers used in these Rules will correspond with the section at the same number in the CRR.

1. Definitions shall remain the same with the word “yard” replaced with “yard and utility”. In 1.1 the phrase “....confined within permanent or temporary sheep yards....” to be changed to “...confined within a specified area....”.
2. The competition levels and the progression through the competition levels, to be the same as the CRR. However, the status of a dog in Yard Trials 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 shall apply to Utility Trials.
5. The Clauses relating to the draw in Yard Trials shall apply to Utility Trials.
6. Clause 6.2 to be modified to contain two (2) sections as follows:-
 - 6.2.1 Yard section must include the following as a minimum:-
 - (a) Gather of sheep.
 - (b) Drenching / classing race.
 - (c) Drafting race.
But may also include any of the following:-
 - (d) Trailer / truck.
 - (e) Ramp.
 - (f) Fill a wool shed.
 - (g) Put sheep away.
 - (h) Any obstacle likely to be found in farm yards.
 - 6.2.2 Outside field section must include any two (2) of the following “arena type” obstacles for Nursery, 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.

Obstacles are to be separate and free standing from the yard section. A minimum distance of 20 meters between all obstacles is required.

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

- 7. Section 7 regarding time limits to apply once modified to read "CC15 minutes....", instead of "....10 minutes....".
- 8. Section 8 regarding bitches in oestrus to apply.
- 9. Section 9 regarding canes to apply.
- 10. Section 10 regarding muzzles to apply.
- 11. Section 11 regarding worker's assistants to apply.
- 12. Section 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.

12.8 Include "utility" in place of "yard".

- 13. Throughout Section 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".

13.4.3 To include in addition "...The position to be taken by the handler whilst negotiating the outside obstacles will be marked and referred to as the 'set'".

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

To include as Clause 13.10:-

"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."

14. Section 14 regarding animal welfare to apply.
15. Section 15 regarding re-runs to apply.
16. Section 16 regarding protests to apply.
17. Section 17 regarding complaints to apply.
18. Section 18 regarding Championships to apply once wording has been modified to reflect Utility Trials.

These rules were written as a guide for anyone that wishes to run a Utility Trial, wants to learn what is required when competing in a Utility Trial, or as a guide for judging a Utility Trial.

Some sections of Utility Trials can be set up differently if the committee decide that the different set up suits their situation especially if there is already a permanent yard already set up (6.2.1, 6.2.2).

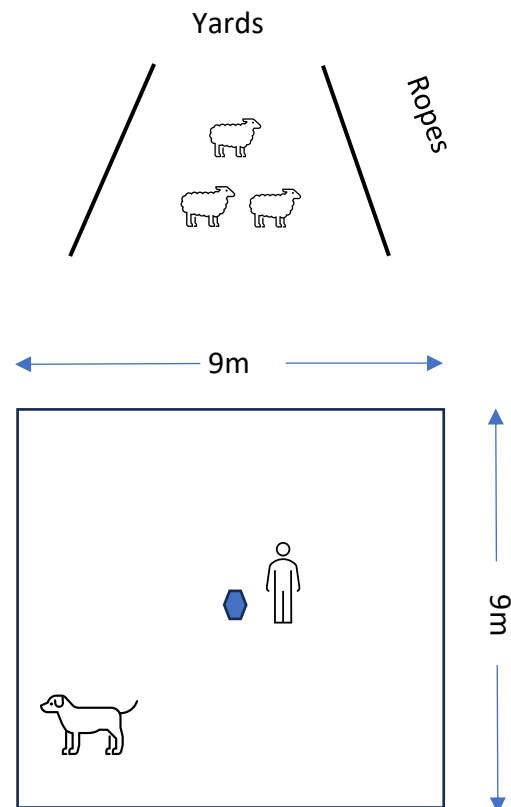
There should be a yard set up at the opposite end of the field to the yard section with a set up that allows yard assistants to easily let sheep out. The number of sheep to be worked in the field work can be three or five depending on the availability of sheep. Sheep are only to be worked once throughout the duration of the trial, except in the nursery section.

TO COMMENCE THE TRIAL the judge will signal the sheep to be released by the yard assistants. There should be two ropes extending from the let out gate and pegged to the ground at the end. These are to be used to move the sheep twenty meters away from the gate in order for the dog to safely cast around the sheep.

Once the judge is satisfied that the sheep are settled they should call for the bell to be rung to signal the start of time. The generalised time allocation for all classes is fifteen minutes. This can be varied at the discretion of the committee.

THE HANDLER should present themselves at the casting peg in the field section with their dog released off the lead. The casting peg is situated in the centre of the delivery square or circle which is 9 meters across.

Some committees will allow the delivery square or circle to be a free working area where the handler can move around inside the delivery area until the delivery is complete OR an alternate delivery area can be a gap marked with two tall pegs (iron posts) nine meters apart and the handler stands at the right-hand peg, this is their casting peg. The sheep need to be delivered through the gap before heading to the yards.



The dog is positioned behind the handler in preparation of the signal from the judge for the trial to begin. If the dog leaves on his cast before the judge signals time on and cannot be recalled, disqualification will be called for.

Once the bell is sounded for the start the dog is sent out on their cast. Dogs can cast either to left or right.

The judge is looking for a good cast for a maximum of ten points

Stopping $\frac{1}{2}$ of the way on the cast: 5 penalty points

Stopping $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way on the cast: 3 penalty points

Handler stopping the dog on the cast to avoid a cross, then recalling and recasting by the handler: 10 penalty points

A good cast with no loss of points would be the dog casting to the point of balance on the sheep (not necessarily 12 o'clock).

The first movement of the sheep should be towards the handler. A good rule is to always cast your dog to the head of the sheep not to the tail, if the sheep are facing straight down the ground then the dog can be cast either way.

Once the dog has the sheep moving this is called the lift and should be smooth calm for maximum points.

This section is worth a maximum of five points; if the sheep move towards the handler in a calm way then there would be no points off.

The “draw” involves drawing the sheep down an imaginary corridor spanning nine metres.

Each time the sheep move over the edge of the corridor there is a deduction of one point for just over the edge and an additional point for every additional nine metres off course.

If the dog works roughly at any time during the trial which causes the sheep to go off course, the judge could give a double penalty for the dog causing the break.

Once the sheep have moved out of the original corridor and points have been lost, a new corridor is formed. They are then judged on a different corridor and are not meant to be put back on the original corridor.

The sheep need to be delivered into the delivery area with all sheep coming in or through at the same time. They can be some distance apart without being pointed as long as they are in the course boundary when being delivered. At the discretion of the committee the 9mx9m delivery square can be a free working space.

Once delivered, the sheep need to be taken to the yards under control. The sheep should be ‘carried’ on the handlers right hand side and stay within the nine meter wide corridor and not deviate more than nine meters ahead or behind the handler until they arrive at the gate to the yard section.

THE YARD SECTION IS JUDGED UNDER NSWYDA YARD RULES

Once in the yards, the sheep are mixed with sheep that are already in the yards. All sheep are put through a drench race and then into the draft where the same number of sheep as those brought down the ground need to be drafted off as instructed by the judge, with the small number being drafted into a small yard in preparation for releasing back into the field. This method of taking the same number of sheep out as came in has the effect of changing the sheep in the yard over a period of time.

If any sheep jumps out when working the yard section or releasing from the yard section; the clock should be stopped. The judge can then decide as to whether the dog caused the sheep to jump due to rough work. If the dog caused the jump, the run will be disqualified, however if not, the situation should be rectified before restarting the clock and continuing the run.

When releasing the sheep back into the field the handler needs to take care that when the sheep leave the yard, the dog does not cross between the handler and the sheep, as this would result in disqualification. The handler is permitted to step away from the gate to allow the dog to safely head the sheep without crossing.

Any crossing in the field results in disqualification

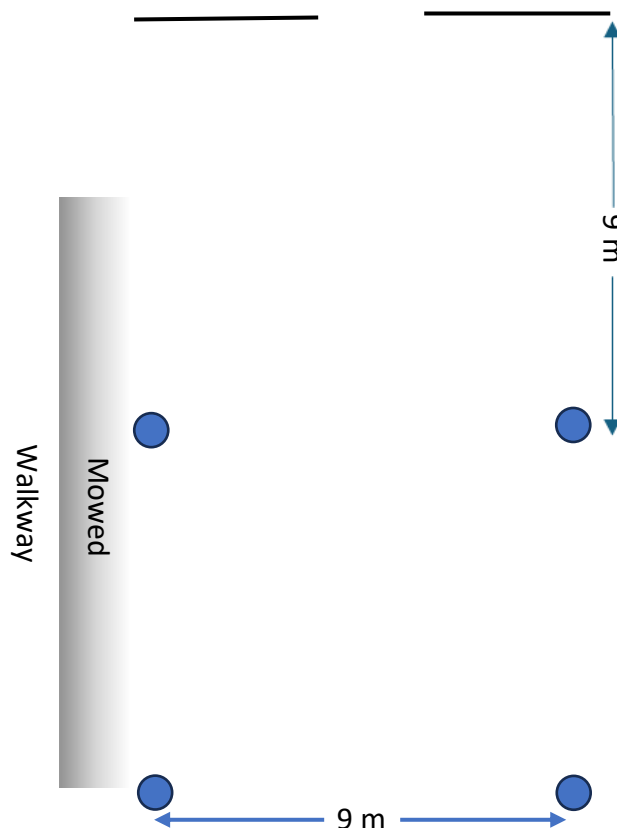
(With the exception of the Nursery section which will be described later)

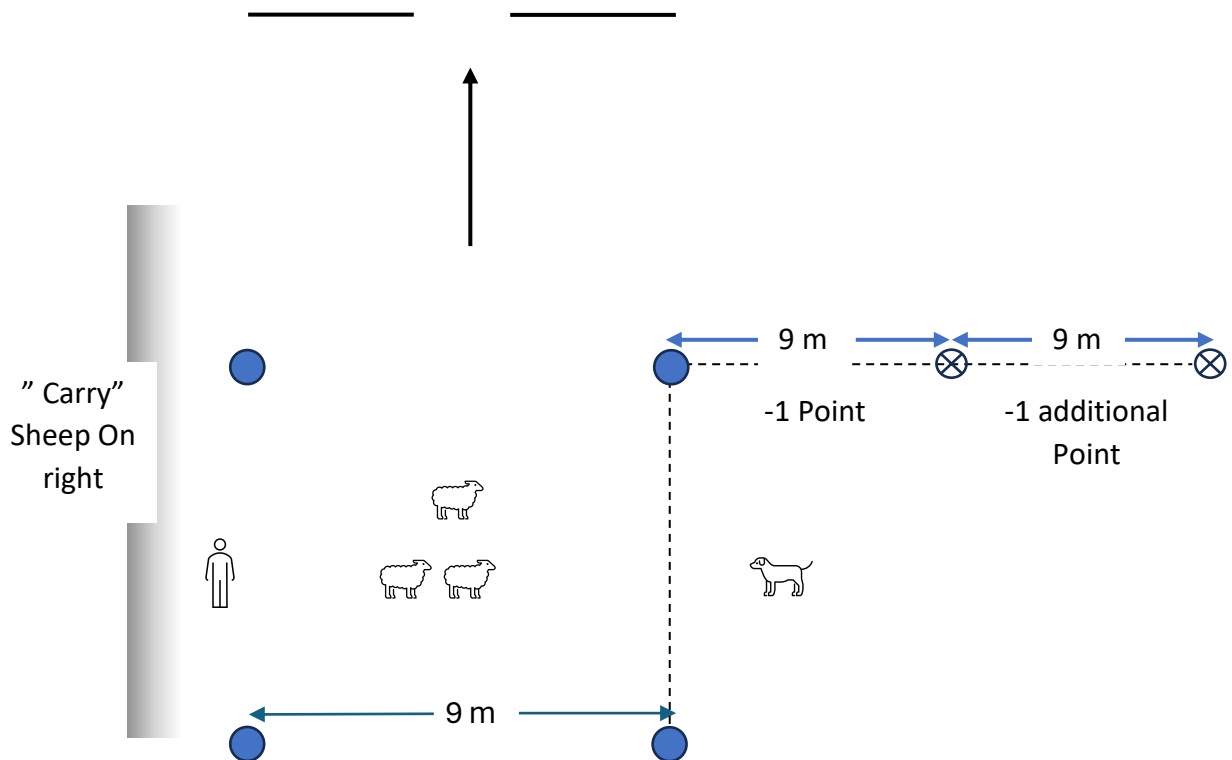
Handlers are not permitted to wave their hands about in any fashion that may influence the sheep however are permitted to use their hands above their shoulder level to direct their dog.

Once outside in the field there will be a nine-meter course marked out with mowed edges along with markers spaced at nine meters along the edges.

These markers serve 3 purposes:

- *Let the handler know if they are still on course*
- *Allow the judge to be able to tell if the sheep are on course when standing some distance away so as to not interfere with the running of the dog*
- *The markers represent a nine-meter section that the worker is working the walkways of the corridor if the sheep go off course they need to be brought back on course before the handler walks another 9 meters & if this is not done then for every marker that the handler walks past before getting the sheep back on course there is another penalty of one point.*
- *When the sheep are coming back into the corridor if they cross straight across the corridor & out the other side it is a further one penalty point for every nine meters off course.*
- *One point will be lost each time the sheep step in and out of the corridor, plus an additional penalty point for every nine meters off course*





Working the walk ways: To each outside obstacle the handler needs to walk just inside the marked walkway on the left hand side and carry the sheep on their right hand side within nine metres of himself inside the marked walkway. The handler is permitted to walk backwards for no more than eight steps at a time, facing their dog.

- *Sheep move over the edge of the walkway: 1 penalty point*
- *Every nine meters off course: 1 penalty point*
- *For every additional nine meters the sheep are off course, one additional penalty point will be deducted*
- *The handler must maintain a constant pace between obstacles (no stopping)*

In the event of the sheep going through the obstacle before the handler arrives then they need to step into the set with both feet planted for one second and then is permitted to continue.

When approaching the obstacle, if the sheep go past the obstacle it is a loss of off course points depending on how far they are off course.

Once the handler arrives at the obstacle he needs to stand in the set which is a circle on the ground 1 meter across. Then judging changes to working the obstacle:

- *If Any sheep putting any part of their body past the edge of the obstacle: 1 penalty point*

- *Race and pen: if sheep go halfway along the side of the obstacle: 2 penalty points*
- *Any sheep completely past any obstacle: 3 penalty points*
- *For every nine-meter deviation that the sheep progresses past the obstacle, one additional penalty point will be taken*

Handlers are allowed to turn around in the set to work the dog but cannot step out of the set until the obstacle is completed. If the handler steps out of the set before the sheep are clear of the end of the obstacle it will result in disqualification.

When working the obstacle and the sheep run through the obstacle and go off course before the dog has a chance to hold them then the handler has the option of staying in the set until the sheep are worked back on course without loss of points unless something goes wrong in bringing them back on course before moving on. If the judge considers the dog has been slow to react and catch the sheep there could be a penalty for off course.

WORKING THE PEN. When the sheep go into the pen and all cross the line of the closed gate, the handler is then allowed to move and close the gate for the completion of the trial. If the sheep happen to go into the pen before the handler arrives at the set then they should step into the set with both feet planted for one second and then continue on.

- *For maximum points the dog should move to a position of blocking the remaining gap as the gate is being closed by the handler*
- *In the event of sheep coming out of the pen once the handler has started to close the gate, the handler must continue to close the gate with their hand on the gate at all times or they will be disqualified*
- *With the pen being valued at 20 points, if the sheep go in the pen but then escape out of the pen as the gate is being closed: 20 penalty points*
 - o *plus there would be an additional three penalty points for the dog allowing the sheep to escape from the pen*

All handlers begin with 100 points and can only lose points, not gain points

Points allocated to the obstacles:

The full value of any obstacle not completed is deducted from the final score:

- Gap: 7 points
- Race: 8 points
- Pen: 20 points

In the event of someone else's dog interferes with any run the judge can issue a re-run at the end of that round or the end of the next round.

If the handlers other dog comes on the course and interferes with the run then that handlers run is disqualified.

The judge can end a run at any time if he thinks it is in the interest of taking care of the sheep or dog.

The handler can call a halt if any sheep is seen to be in poor health once inspected in the delivery area. It is then up to the judge to issue a re-run.

Serious biting can also be a disqualification at the discretion of the judge.

A run can be called off at any time if the judge thinks a thunder storm could put people in danger and that run given a re-run when the weather clears.

In very hot conditions there should be a water bath available for the dog at the end of the run just off the course to prevent overheating.

There are four classes in NSW Utility trials:

1. NURSERY is a trial designed especially for beginners. To be eligible to compete in the Nursery class handlers must "NOT" have won a Novice or above in ANY FORM of sheep dog trial.

Nursery workers are only permitted to win ONE Nursery Trial

The Nursery section is judged more leniently with no disqualification for crossing & the cast can be shortened & the obstacles can be widened to make them easier so as to encourage beginners. If a nursery worker steps out of a set to soon rather than disqualification it would be best if the judge asked the worker to go back to where they should be.

If the nursery run gets totally out of control then the judge should ask the worker to retire gracefully. **This applies to any section.**

2. NOVICE UTILITY dog is a dog that has not won a novice Utility Trial.
3. IMPROVER UTILITY is a dog that has won one Novice Utility Trial
4. OPEN UTILITY dog is a dog that has won an Improver or Open Utility Trial

Dogs can be entered up in class if the committee allows.

A DOG'S NOVICE IMPROVER OR OPEN UTILITY STATUS IS NOT AFFECTED BY ANY OTHER FORM OF DOG TRIAL.

THE NURSERY IS THE ONLY CLASS THAT HAS RESTRICTIONS ON OTHER FORMS OF TRIALS.