



## Ontario Border Collie Club

# RULES FOR TRIALS & GUIDELINES FOR TRIAL MANAGERS (REVISED 2000)

These Rules and Guidelines as per 1995 version were revised and approved at the annual meeting in November, 1999. They become effective for the 2000 trial season and replace all previous rules or guidelines.

## RULES FOR TRIALS

### 1. CLASS DEFINITION AND ELIGIBILITY

Only three classes are recognized for OBCC annual championships: Novice, Pro-Novice and Open. Other classes may be offered at the discretion of the trial manager e.g. USBCHA Nursery, Ranch, Double Lift, Silent Gather.

#### 1.1 *Novice Class*

The Novice course shall consist of an outrun of no more than 150 yards a lift, fetch, wear and pen. No dog may be entered that has competed at any level higher than Novice.

No handler may enter who has competed in a full Open course trial (see 1.5).

No handler who actively solicits &/or charges for individual or clinic training may compete in the Novice Class.

#### 1.2 *Pro-Novice Class*

The Pro-Novice course shall consist of an outrun of no more than 250 yards, a lift, fetch, drive of approximately 2/3 of the outrun but not exceeding the length of the outrun, a cross drive of a maximum distance up to the centre line of the Pro-Novice Fetch Panels at the discretion of the Trial Manager and a pen.

Handlers that have competed in an Open trial may only run a dog that has never competed in an Open trial, or a trial that has more phases of work than the Pro-Novice course, anywhere.

Handlers that have never competed in a trial with more phases of work than the Pro-Novice class may run a dog that has run at any level (see 1.5)

### *1.3 Open Class*

The Open course shall consist of an outrun of at least 200 yards, a lift, fetch and drive of at least 250 yards, pen and shed.

### *1.4 Course descriptions guidelines*

The course descriptions shown above are guidelines only. The judge, trial manager and the Trials Committee will decide the dimensions of the course. Any course that does not meet specifications will not be recognized for OBCC year-end awards unless approved by the Trials Committee. Such approval will be granted rarely and will not be regarded as a precedent for other trials.

### *1.5 Eligibility*

The OBCC Champions and Reserve Champions in the Novice and Pro-Novice classes are required to move up a class.

OBCC eligibility will not be affected by competition in USBCHA Nursery classes provided the dog was eligible for that class.

Once a dog has moved up a class it cannot move back down as long as the same person handles it. Dogs may move down one class if they change handlers subject to the following limitations: an open dog may revert to the Pro-Novice class if the handler has never competed at a higher level, similarly a Pro-Novice dog may revert to the Novice class if the handler has never competed at a higher level.

On request, the Trial Committee may grant exceptions to the eligibility rules where, in its judgment, a dog or handler is clearly misplaced. Such exceptions are expected to be rare and handlers should not expect that they can "try out" a higher class and then revert.

### *1.6 Ranch Class*

The Ranch Class will be introduced in 1996 on a trial basis. If there are sufficient entries it will be considered for annual championship status for 1997. The course shall consist of the full open course without the shed.

## **2. COMPETITORS**

### *2.1 Conduct*

Competitors are required to demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct.

Competitors may ask for an explanation of the course only before the run starts, not after. Assistance from the sidelines is not permitted.

Competitors may walk the trial field prior to the trial, but no competing dog is permitted on the field before a run. An exception may be granted for dogs being used to spot sheep. Entries will not be accepted once a

class is underway. Competitors are responsible for being at the post at the proper time. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the entry.

## 2.2 *Care of Animals*

No dog, which is unfit, blind, lame or is suffering from an infectious disease shall be brought onto the trial ground. Abuse of sheep or dogs is forbidden on the trial field, including the exhaust pen, the release facility or any ground associated with the trial. Abuse may result in disqualification by the judge, cancellation of entry and/or disciplinary action (see 5.4). Colouring or dyeing a dog is prohibited.

Dogs may only be equipped with a standard collar. No kind of training device is permitted on the trial field. Competitors are responsible for any damage to livestock by their dog.

## 2.3 *Disqualification / Retirement*

If disqualified by the judge, the competitor will leave the field and no points will be awarded. If a competitor runs out of time before completion of the run, points earned for phases of work completed will be retained.

Should one or more sheep leave the course in any class, the competitor will retire and no points will be awarded.

If a competitor leaves the post before being permitted to do so it will be assumed that they are retiring. No points will be retained in any class included in trial.

If the judge asks a competitor to retire no points shall be awarded in any class included in trial.

## 3. JUDGES

### 3.1 *Rules*

All judges shall follow the International Sheep Dog Society's Rules for Trials.

### 3.2 *Course Description*

The judge must ensure that the course is explained to competitors before the start of each class.

### 3.3 *Reruns*

The judge will determine reruns.

### 3.4 *Decisions*

All decisions by the judge are final.

### 3.5 *Retirement*

The judge may stop a competitor at any point in a trial.

### 3.6 *Assistance*

The judge may be assisted by a clerk/secretary and a timekeeper. Other persons should not be close to the judge in order to minimize distractions.

## **4. OBCC CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

### 4.1 *Eligibility for championship points*

Only members in good standing, who have paid the current year's dues, may accumulate points for a dog toward the year-end awards.

The dog, not the handler, earns points. If the handler changes during the year, the dog will retain points earned in the class in which it has been competing up to that time. If the new handler is eligible to compete in the same class, then points will continue to accumulate. If the new handler is not eligible to run a dog in the class in which the dog has been competing, then the dog will move to a new class and start accumulating points at that level. Points are not transferable from one class to another.

### 4.2 *Points*

Please refer to the points schedule as they have been revised

### 4.3 *Tie-breaking*

In the event that two dogs are tied for a championship or reserve it shall be awarded to the dog that has the most first places. If this fails to break the tie then the award shall go to the dog with the most second places, and so on until the tie is broken.

### 4.4 *Eye Certificates*

No dog will be awarded a Championship or Reserve unless it has been certified as clear of congenital eye disease within the previous 12 months. Dogs 8 years of age and older do not require annual re-testing but the last results, which must be negative, should be submitted to the Secretary.

### 4.5 *Trophies*

The perpetual trophies must be returned to the Secretary at or before the next annual meeting.

## **5. TRIALS COMMITTEE**

### *5.1 Appointment*

The President shall appoint three members to form the Trials Committee and shall name one as Chair.

### *5.2 Sanctioning trials*

The Trials Committee shall sanction trials as venues for earning OBCC championship points. To this end it may establish forms and procedures to ensure compliance with club rules.

### *5.3 Judges*

The judges for OBCC sanctioned trials must be approved by the Trials Committee

### *5.4 Complaints and protests*

A competitor may lodge a complaint or protest with a member of the Trials Committee. If this is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, they may ask that it be laid before the full Trials Committee. Such a request must be in writing.

### *5.5 Disciplinary action*

The Trials Committee may recommend disciplinary action such as suspension from sanctioned trials for up to one year or a fine not to exceed \$200.00. The Executive Committee must confirm such penalties.

# GUIDELINES FOR TRIAL MANAGERS

## 1. OBCC Recognition

Trial managers should notify the Trials Committee at least three months before the trial using the form provided.

No trial will be recognized that has not been announced in the OBCC Newsletter at least one month before the trial date unless a special mailing is sent to all OBCC members at least one month before the trial.

## 2. Results

Trial managers must report results to the Secretary within two weeks after the trial.

## 3. Running Order

It is recommended that the USBCHA rules for running order be adopted including the following:

Any competitor running two dogs may not run their second dog until any other handler with two dogs runs their first.

## 4. Prizes

Prizes should be announced in advance with only 2 monies per handler to be awarded per class. Club ribbons are available for three places. Cash prizes may be distributed using the following formulae:

1 to 5 entries:

1st 50%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%

6 to 10 entries:

1st 40%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%, 4th 10%

11 to 24 entries

1st 35%, 2nd 20%, 3rd 15%, 4th 10%, 5th - 8th 5%

25 or more entries:

1st 30%, 2nd 20%, 3rd 12%, 4th 8%, 5th - 10th 5%