



NSW Working Stock Dog Association

NSW TRIAL RULES

Adopted 4 July 2019 updated March 2024

1. Each competitor shall have three head of stock (weaners where possible).
2. The judge in his talk will explain to the competitors what is expected of them during the trial. The judge must stay in the same position for the entire trial and must be positioned away from the competitors. At trials which have two judges, the judges should be seated independent of each other.
3. Should the judge deem necessary, he/she may order fresh stock if they believe the stock to be sick, injured or a danger to the competitor or themselves. The competitor must bring to the attention of the judge any problems with the stock while the stock are in the delivery area.
4. The competitor at any time during their run may inform the Judge that they do not feel safe with the stock they are working, with the judge having the final say on whether to terminate the run and give the competitor a rerun.
5. The competitor with their dog will stand inside the delivery area which the stock must enter before the competitor progresses to the next obstacle. If the competitor leaves the delivery area before all the stock have entered the delivery area, they must go back and deliver the stock properly. The delivery area is a free working area.
6. The competitor shall not be allowed to assist their dog in any way except by signal, whistle or word of mouth. All competitors may carry a whip or drafting cane but it must not exceed 24 inches or 60 cm in length. All competitors may use a walking stick of any length, but it must not be used to assist the dog.
7. The competitor must walk at a constant pace in a direct line from one obstacle to the next and must not stop to work their dog. The competitor must touch the peg and take up a position within one arm's length of the peg and hold that position.
8. Points will be deducted if a competitor shifts from their position at the obstacle, moves off course or assists their dog by an unfair manoeuvre.
9. After the expiration of half time, the judge has the power to inform the competitor that they have no chance of making the final.
10. A dog will be disqualified for rough work or if it is considered by the judge to be out of control.
11. The judge's decision is final within the rules.

12. During a trial the judge will notify the competitor at the expiration of time or disqualification if necessary.

13. The organizing committee in consultation with the judge will be responsible for setting the obstacles, the course and the running of a high standard trial.

14. Recommended course:

- a) The designated delivery area, minimum size 8mx8m which the stock must enter.
- b) The gate is to be a minimum of 3m wide with 2.4m wings.
- c) The race is to be a minimum of 3m wide, length 4.8m, wings 2.4m, and the opening 5m.
- d) The pen, if it is in the arena, is to have a depth 5m, rear 3m, opening 3m, wing 3m on the near side
- e) The course can be either clockwise or anti- clockwise.
- f) The designated position for the competitor's peg at each obstacle is 2m from the inside wing.
- g) The corridor starting from the delivery area is the outside width of the wings from obstacle to obstacle.

15. Time starts when the competitor casts their dog. Time allowed: one day trials only – 4 minutes if necessary, depending on the number of entries; two day trials - 5 minutes or longer with extra obstacles.

16. The dog is being judged from the time it enters the arena until the time it leaves the arena.

17. If the stock have entered the obstacle before the competitor has touched the peg, the obstacle must be reworked except at the pen. If the stock enter the pen before the competitor is at the peg, the competitor must touch the peg while holding the gate then close the gate to complete the course.

18. The dog will not receive a score unless the course or time is completed. Points may be deducted for:

- a. A tail turn - under pressure 3 points, no pressure 5 points
- b. Each time the stock go past the line of the obstacle – 1 point per beast
- c. A show of disinterest by the dog – maximum 3 points
- d. Stock going off course – 1 point per beast
- e. Urinating or defecating on the course – 10 points
- f. Once you take up your position in the delivery area you must not touch your dog until the completion of your run or time is up - 10 points per incident.
- g. Lack of forward movement by the stock – 1 point every 6 seconds.
- h. Contact between the handler and the stock in the corridor should be within a reasonable distance.
- i. Stock turning back or splitting caused by the handler or the dog – 1 point per beast
- j. From the time the first beast enters the pen until the gate is shut, if the dog enters the pen - 10 points

19. Points

- a. Cast 5 points - the cast should put the dog in a position to control the stock without upsetting them and to maintain the judges preferred line.
- b. Draw 5 points - the dog should bring the stock in a straight line to the delivery area.
- c. Gate - 10 points
- d. Race - 10 points
- e. Pen - 10 points
- f. General work - 60 points
- g. No delivery no score

20. Crosses

- a. Only one cross allowed in open events.
- b. Only two crosses allowed in maiden and novice events.
- c. A cross in the cast - deduction of 10 points
- d. A cross in general work - deduction of a minimum three points, maximum 5 points.

21. There is no cap on the number of wins that a competitor under 12 years may have in the encourage events.

22. If you win an event at an association-run cattle trial Australia wide you break status:

- If a dog wins a maiden or novice event they become a novice dog
- If a dog wins two novice events or an open event, they become an open dog.

23. There should be a minimum of six competitors in a final.

24. For NSW and Australian titles there should be a minimum of 20 runs in the second round of the open event, and a minimum 10 runs in the final.

25. With the approval of the NSW executive, a committee may vary the course and the number of stock used.

26. The abuse of judges, committee members and stock donors will not be tolerated and upon receiving an official written complaint the executive of the NSW Working Stock Dog Association will deal with the complaint.

27. Bitches in oestrus will not be allowed to compete and ideally should not be taken to a trial.

28. Code of conduct:

1. All competitors are required to show sportsmanship and conduct themselves with honour, integrity, and decorum while at a trial.
2. Competitors are prohibited from using foul language while competing. Anyone using foul language while on the course will be penalised through the loss of points (at the judge's discretion) and an official warning.
3. The use of physical force against any dog at a trial, whether the dog is working or not, is prohibited
4. The use of training collars on any dog at a trial, whether the dog is working or not, is prohibited.
5. All competitors must ensure the comfort of their dogs while at a trial and ensure they have sufficient shelter and water.
6. All competitors must treat the judge with respect.

7. All competitors to acknowledge that the judge's decision is final and that competitors are not to approach the judge unless at the request of the judge. Any appeal or complaint must go through the executive of the NSW Working Stock Dog Association.