

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEPDOG
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**



CONSTITUTION

GENERAL REGULATIONS

REGISTER RULES

TRIALS RULES AND GUIDELINES

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSTITUTION

	Page:
1. Name	1
2. Objects of the Association	1
3. Interpretation	1
4. Powers of the Association	1-2
5. Membership	2-3
6. Effect of membership	3
7. The Council	3-4
8. Discipline	4
9. Meetings	4-5
10. General meetings	5
11. Finance	5-6
12. Club affiliation	6
13. Allocation of trial dates	7
14. Use of technology	7
15. Dissolution	7
16. Alteration of Constitution	7-8

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Code of conduct	9
2. Violation of the code of conduct	9-10
3. Appeal process	10
4. Alteration of general regulations	10

REGISTER RULES

1. The Register	11
2. Persons eligible to register dogs	11
3. Dogs eligible for registration	11
4. Naming of dogs	12
5. Notification of litters	12
6. Individual registrations	12
7. Transfers	13
8. Lease agreements	13
9. Forms	13
10. Penalties	13
11. Alterations of Register Rules	13

TRIAL RULES & GUIDELINES

1. Competitors	14-15
2. Trials	15-16
2.1 Encourage trials rules	15a
3. Dogs	16-17
4. Sheep	17
5. Arena Trials	17-21
6. Field Trials	21-22
7. Trans Tasman course	22
8. Judges	22-23
9. Entry forms	23
10. The Draw	23-24
11. Finals	24-25
12. Dog of the Year Award	25
13. Selection of State Representatives	25-26
14. Protests and penalties	26
15. Hot weather policy	26-27
16. Alterations to Trial Rules	27

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED CONSTITUTION

1. Name: the name of the society shall be The South Australian Working Sheepdog Association Incorporated. The name and the abbreviation, 'SAWSDA' will be used for documentary and trading purposes and have full equivalence.

2. The objects of the Association are:

- 2.1 To promote amongst the sheep breeders and general public a wide human interest in the working sheepdog and its work,
- 2.2 to encourage, develop and maintain a high standard of working sheepdog,
- 2.3 to establish and maintain a sheepdog register,
- 2.4 to foster and promote competitive trials,
- 2.5 to support and foster the concept of the Australian Sheepdog Workers' Association Incorporated.

3. Interpretation

- 3.1 The words 'the Association' refer to the 'South Australian Working Sheepdog Association Incorporated'.
- 3.2 'Member' means any form of financial member of the Association, including individual, associate, life members and affiliated clubs.
- 3.3 'Council' means the body managing the Association and consisting of elected Officers referred to as Councilors.

4. Powers of the Association

- 4.1 For the purpose of carrying out its objects, the Association may, subject to the Associations Incorporation Act, 1985 and its rules;
 - (a) acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of, any real or personal property
 - (b) administer any property on trust
 - (c) open and operate authorised deposit taking institution accounts
 - (d) invests its moneys –
 - (i) in any security which trust moneys may, by Act of Parliament, be invested; or
 - (ii) in any other manner authorised by the rules of the Association; and

- (e) borrow money upon which terms and conditions as the Association thinks fit
- (f) give such security for the discharge of liabilities incurred by the Association as the Association thinks fit
- (g) appoint agents to transact any business of the Association on its behalf, and
- (h) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.

4.2 SAWSDA is a not for profit organisation. The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.

5. Membership

5.1 The members of the Association shall consist of:

(a) full members, who shall have the right to receive notice of general meetings and to be present, to debate and to vote at general meetings; the right to compete at trials as recognised by this Association; and the right to register dogs in the Association's Register.

(b) associate or supporting members, who shall not have the rights of full members, but shall receive information (including newsletters) about the Association's trials and activities.

(c) honorary life membership may be bestowed upon members who have made an outstanding contribution of service to the Association or sport of sheepdog trialing.

Honorary life members shall have all the privileges and voting powers of full members, and may serve on Council if elected.

(d) junior members, who will be registered up to the age of 16 years without any membership fee. They will be allowed to compete in all trials subject to their dogs being appropriately registered. They will receive all benefits attributed to full members, with the exception of voting rights.

(e) family membership, which shall consist of membership for two adults, both of whom will have the rights of a full member as stated in 5.1(a). Juniors will not have voting rights as per 5.1(d).

5.2 Every applicant for full or associate membership shall at the time of application, pay the appropriate annual subscription, as determined by Council.

5.3 Annual membership subscriptions are due and payable after the first day of January each year, and within two calendar months.

5.4 No member shall be entitled to the privileges of membership whilst their subscription is unpaid.

5.5 The Council may refuse, or otherwise, the acceptance of a membership application and return the subscription to the applicant.

5.6 Every person who is a full financial member shall be entitled to one vote on each motion at any general meeting.

5.7 A register of members must be kept.

5.8 Patron: the Patron is a senior and respected person who understands and publicly supports the role of the Association. They have consented to be identified with the Association and to assist in promoting the objects of the Association. The Patron shall be deemed to be an Honorary Officer of the Association, but shall not have voting rights unless already a full financial member.

6. Effect of Membership

6.1 Members acknowledge and agree that:

(a) this constitution forms a contract between each of them and the Association and that they are bound by the Constitution, Regulations and Rules of the Association,

(b) they shall comply with and observe the Constitution, Regulations and Rules, and any determinations, resolution or policy which may be made or passed by the Council,

(c) by submitting to the Constitution, Regulations and Rules, they are subject to the jurisdiction of the Association,

(d) the Constitution, Regulations and Rules are necessary and reasonable for promoting the aims and objects and particularly, the advancement and protection of sheepdog trialing,

(e) they are entitled to all benefits, advantages, privileges and services of membership.

7. The Council

7.1 There shall be a Council consisting of the President, one (1) Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and four (4) other members, who shall be elected in the manner herein provided, and who are in these rules referred to as Councilors.

7.2 Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Publicity Officer/s.

The Patron, Auditor and Public Officer shall be deemed to be honorary members of the Association, but shall not have any voting rights as such.

7.3 The Councilors shall hold office for one year, but those retiring shall be eligible for re-election.

7.4 Councilors shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting from full financial members who are in attendance at the Annual General Meeting, unless permission for re-election to Council has been received in writing by the Secretary at or before the meeting.

7.5 Should any vacancy occur in the office of Councilors between Annual General Meetings, such vacancy shall be filled by the Council and the substituted Councilor shall hold office for the unexpired period of their predecessor's term of office.

7.6 If the Secretary/Treasurer is not a member of the Association, then they shall be 'ex officio' members of the Association. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be entitled to such remuneration as the members of the Association shall determine at each Annual General Meeting.

7.7 The management of the Association is vested in the Council.

8. Discipline

8.1 The Association may commence, or cause to be commenced, disciplinary proceedings against a member or an affiliated club, who has allegedly;

(a) breached, failed, refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this Constitution, Regulations, Rules or any resolution or determination of the Council or any duly authorised committee,

(b) acted in a manner unbecoming of a member, or prejudiced to the purpose and interest of the Association or sheepdog trialing,

(c) brought the Association, any other member or sheepdog trialing into disrepute.

8.2 That member or affiliated club will be subject to and will submit unreservedly to the jurisdiction procedures, penalties and the appeal mechanism of the Association set out in the Regulations.

8.3 The Council will appoint a disciplinary committee of three Council members to investigate any disciplinary matters referred to it and report back to Council.

9. Meetings

9.1 The Council shall hold meetings as deemed necessary by the President and/or Secretary, according to the volume of business and shall include an annual summit.

9.2 The President (if available) shall Chair all meetings, except the election of officers at the AGM. In their absence, a Chairperson shall be elected from Councilors present at the meeting.

9.3 The quorum at all Council meetings shall be five (5).

9.4 Questions arising at any meeting of the Association or Council shall be decided by a majority of votes at such meeting. In the case of equality in votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to their deliberative vote.

9.5 The Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of accurate minutes of each meeting of the Association or Council.

10. General Meetings

10.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year within three months of the close of the Association's financial year.

10.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meeting held since that meeting; to receive and consider the audited Treasurer's report plus any reports of the Council; the election of the Council; and any other business requiring consideration by the Association in a general meeting.

10.3 Current full financial members shall be entitled to one vote at any general meeting.

10.4 The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting upon request made to them by the President, or by the Council, or upon receipt of a request made in writing and signed by ten (10) full financial members.

10.5 Fourteen (14) days notice of every General Meeting, setting forth the purpose for which it is convened and the time and place at which it is to be held, shall be forwarded to every full financial member.

10.6 The quorum at all General Meetings shall be ten (10) full financial members.

10.7 Proxy voting shall not be permitted at any general meeting.

11. Finance

11.1 The financial year of the Association is from 1st January to the 31st December.

11.2 Cheques are to be signed by any two of four bank operators as nominated at an Annual General Meeting.

11.3 The Treasurer of the Association shall:

(a) collect and receive all monies due to the Association and make all payments authorised by the Association,

(b) keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Association,

(c) have the accounts and books of the Association available for inspection by members,

(d) present an audited report of the business of the Association over the past year to members at each Annual General Meeting.

11.4 The common seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary/Treasurer.

12. Club affiliation

12.1 Any Club, Association, Agricultural Society, or other body established for the purpose of conducting sheepdog trials or training schools may apply for affiliation with the Association.

12.2 Such application shall be made to the Secretary and the Council may grant or withhold affiliation. The Council, at its discretion, may also cancel or suspend the affiliation of any affiliated body.

12.3 An affiliation fee and a levy fee for each entry received shall be charged at a rate as determined by Council each year for the following year.

12.4 All affiliation fees must be paid within one month of the running of the said trials and accompanied by a copy of the results, which shall be placed on record.

12.5 All affiliated bodies shall:

(a) conduct their trials under the Rules of the Association,

(b) enlist the services of judges approved by the Association,

(c) receive benefits of insurance cover held by the Association,

(d) receive promotion of the dates of their trial through the newsletter and other activities of the Association.

12.6 All affiliated bodies, in respect to conducting a trial, shall at all times abide by the Constitution, Regulations and Rules of the Association, except in very special circumstances.

These circumstances will be dealt with on the spot by a subcommittee appointed at each trial to co-operate with the local trial committee and consisting of the first three members of the Council in the Open draw. This subcommittee's decision as a result of their interpretation of these rules shall be final.

Affiliated bodies have a responsibility to provide a duty of care to all persons involved in the running of the trial.

13. Allocation of trial dates

13.1 The declaration of dates for trials shall be from 1st January to the 31st December each year.

13.2 Any affiliated body desirous of having a fixed period or date within any month to run their trial shall be granted same, provided the time applied for has not been granted to another body previously, and at the time of application is still available.

13.3 The Secretary to have the power to allot dates where circumstances are clearly defined, giving consideration to any Club or Clubs which have held trials on that date the previous year.

13.4 Any anomalies shall be dealt with by the Council and its decision shall be final.

13.5 For the benefit of competitors and committees alike, neighbouring Clubs to consider grouping their dates where possible.

14. Use of technology

(a) The business of the Association, including banking and the convening or holding of meetings, may be carried out using any technology consented to by Council.

(b) For the purposes of these rules, a member participating in this manner is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes (by any method available using the relevant technology) at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

15. Dissolution

15.1 The Association shall not be dissolved except by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than three quarters of such members of the Association voting at a Special General Meeting, called for the purpose of considering dissolution.

15.2 At least twenty one (21) days written notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution at a Special General Meeting must be given to all members of the Association.

15.3 Should such resolution be passed by the required majority, the Council shall proceed forthwith, and after the payment of all outstanding debts and liabilities, transfer the balance to another Association having similar objectives or to a charity, as a majority of members may determine.

16. Alteration of Constitution

16.1 This Constitution shall not be altered or added to unless notice of the proposed alteration or addition shall have been given to the Secretary and by them to each member of the Association in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the General Meeting at which the motion is to be considered.

16.2 Constitutional changes must receive a two thirds majority of votes to be accepted. In the case of equality in votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to their deliberative vote.

16.3 This Constitution shall be reviewed by Council (or subcommittee thereof) at least every five (5) years and a suitable recommendation be presented to the following AGM.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

GENERAL REGULATIONS

These general regulations of the Association are designed to provide all members and affiliated clubs with the standard of behaviour that is expected in all activities of the Association, its members and affiliated clubs.

It is the aim of the Association that disputes are resolved with mediation wherever possible, and the imposition of penalties by way of monetary fines or the suspension or termination of membership will only be applied where meaningful mediation was not applicable or successful.

1. Code of Conduct

1.1 A member must treat all other competitors, spectators and officials with respect, not engaging in any derogatory verbal or physical exchanges.

1.2 A member must take adequate care to ensure that the health and well-being of all animals is the utmost priority at a sheepdog trial.

1.3 A member must not engage in any action or dialogue which results in sexual harassment or discrimination.

1.4 A member, upon entering the trial venue, must conduct themselves in a fair and sportsman-like manner.

1.5 A member is required to present themselves for competition and official business in a state of sobriety.

1.6 A member shall wear appropriate clothing and footwear with regard to personal safety, and taking into consideration insurance requirements, during all aspects of the sheepdog trial.

1.7 It is incumbent on all members to take responsibility for their dogs' actions at all times.

1.8 Any member who takes legal action against the Association, another member or club such as to negatively affect or go against the purposes of the Association, shall forfeit their membership rights during that process.

1.9 All members and/or competitors accept membership and/or enter a trial conditional upon accepting this Code of Conduct and its provisions.

2. Violation of the Code of Conduct

2.1 Any complaint against any member or affiliated club must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Association detailing the alleged facts pertaining to the complaint including the names of any witnesses to the substance of the incident, within one month of the violation occurring.

2.2 On receipt of the written complaint, the Association will convene a meeting of the Council within fourteen (14) days to examine the nature of the complaint. Subject to circumstances, this initial contact may be made by telephone.

2.3 Within fourteen (14) days of Council having met, a nominated Committee comprising of three (3) Councilors will make contact with all parties associated with the complaint. This contact will seek to obtain the relevant facts and circumstances associated with the complaint.

2.4 Once all the relevant facts have been collated and discussed by the investigating Committee, a letter will be sent to all parties outlining the findings with respect to the complaint and any penalties that will be imposed on the member or club against whom the complaint was made.

2.5 Penalties shall be imposed by the full Council. The letter referred to in 2.4 (above) shall be sent by the President on behalf of the Council.

2.6 Outside investigators or mediators may be approached to assist in the investigation or the resolution of any issues arising as a result of the complaint.

3. Appeal Process

3.1 Where any member believes they have been unfairly treated in relation to any determination or action by the Association in the above detailed process, they are able to seek a full hearing with the Council.

3.2 At this hearing the accused member or representatives from a club can present for consideration any evidence or witnesses to refute the allegations that have been made. They may also have representation if required.

3.3 The full Council verdict at this hearing will be considered final and no further communication or correspondence will be entered into after this time.

4. Alteration of General Regulations

4.1 These General Regulations shall not be altered or added to unless notice of the proposed alteration or addition shall have been given to the Secretary and by them to each member of the Council in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Council meeting at which the motion is to be considered.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

REGISTER RULES

1. The Register shall be known as the South Australian Working Sheepdog Register, and shall be kept by the Secretary of the Association.

1.1 The aim and purpose of the register is to provide an accurate, documented history of working sheepdogs which will allow for a greater development through selective breeding of the characteristics required by the working sheepdog.

1.2 The Association through the duly elected Council reserves the right to reject any registration of dogs or litters from financial members where it believes they do not comply with the aims or objectives of the Association, and, in particular, where it is evident that a factory-type approach is being adapted to the breeding of litters.

2. Persons eligible to register dogs

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

2.2 The breeder of a dog is the owner or lessee of its dam at the date of its birth.

2.3 The name and address of the breeder of each animal must be given.

3. Dogs eligible for registration

3.1 As a general rule, only sheepdogs with a documented or known history of pedigree can be registered.

3.2 Where application is made to register a dog or dogs where there is no documented history of breeding, the Secretary must assess the appropriateness of the dog(s) being registered by taking the following course of action:

(c) make appropriate enquiries with the assistance of the owner of the dog(s) to establish their breeding history which would indicate that registration is appropriate. If the immediate sire and dam of the dog(s) to be registered can be identified and their working history and characteristics are consistent with the aims of the Association, the dog(s) should be formally registered.

(d) If there is no documented or proven history of the dog(s) for which registration is being sought it will be necessary for the working ability of the dog(s) to be assessed by three Council members at a convenient time, taking into consideration the age of the dog(s) for which registration is being sought. No registration can take place without this assessment.

(e) Any decision made by the Council in relation to the registering or non-registering of dogs or litters of dogs is final and not reviewable.

4. Naming of dogs

4.1 Each breeder must register a separate stud or kennel prefix for use exclusively in connection with the names of dogs bred by them. Where a family connection is clearly established, a common stud or kennel prefix may be used.

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

4.3 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.

4.4 Names once used for registered dogs can not be used again, and can not be changed.

5. Notification of litters

5.1 The birth of each litter should be notified by the breeder within two calendar months.

5.2 A fee shall be charged to notify a litter as determined by Council each year.

5.3 Particulars as to the number of each sex and their colour (and markings if distinctive) must be supplied.

5.4 If the sire and/or the dam of any litter are not already individually registered, application for their registration must be made at the time the litter is notified.

5.5 No litter will be registered where there is no documented or known history of breeding known to the Association, where no such evidence is available, enquiries consistent with 3.2 of these Register Rules should be applied prior to any registration taking place.

6. Individual registrations

6.1 A fee (as determined by Council each year) shall be charged for the individual registration of dogs in the following categories:

(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 above

6.2 On receiving any application, the Secretary shall issue to the applicant a certificate of registration subject to the criteria of registration as outlined in Section 3 of this Register Rules.

6.3 No certificate shall be issued by the Secretary until the appropriate forms are duly completed and the registration fees paid.

6.4 Duplicate certificates may be supplied for a fee as determined by Council each year.

7. Transfers

7.1 The vendor must officially transfer to other registered breeders or competitors, every registered dog or pup from a notified litter sold.

7.2 Such transfers must be made within two calendar months from the date of sale. A late fee shall apply as determined by Council each year.

7.3 A fee for the transfer of registration shall be charged as determined by Council each year.

7.4 The certificate belonging to a registered dog is to be returned to the Secretary for endorsement and forwarding on to the new owner.

7.5 Should there be any special conditions applying to the sale of any registered dog, such conditions should be clearly stated, signed by both parties involved and a copy forwarded to the Secretary and duly recorded.

8. Lease agreements

8.1 Notification of a lease agreement must be recorded with the Association and the letter 'L' added beside the dog's name on any official documentation.

8.2 A fee shall be charged for ratification of a lease agreement as determined by Council each year.

9. Forms

9.1 All transfers, litter notifications and individual registrations must be made on official forms obtainable on application, free of charge to members, from the Secretary.

10. Penalties

10.1 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. If they are a member of the Association, they may have the registration of any dogs then owned by them cancelled.

11. Alteration of Register Rules

11.1 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 by them to each member of the Council in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Council meeting at which the motion is to be considered.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WORKING SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

TRIAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. Competitors

1.1 Owners of all dogs competing in trials must be financial members of the South Australian Working Sheepdog Association Incorporated or of the Working Sheepdog Association in the State in which they reside. Their dogs must be registered.

1.2 Deleted – refer to section 5.9 of the Constitution.

1.3 Deleted – refer to section 5.9 of the Constitution.

1.4 An owner may appoint a nominee to work their dog or dogs in a trial. Such nominee must be a member of a recognised Association and accept full responsibility during the currency of the trial. If a nominee is appointed they must work that dog in both preliminary and final trials, should finals be held. Such nomination must be made before the commencement of the trial.

1.5 Notification of a lease agreement must be recorded with the Association and the letter 'L' added beside the dog's name on nomination forms.

1.6 The competitor will not be allowed to assist the dog in any way, except by signal, whistle or word of mouth.

1.7 Any stick used by competitors shall be solid and not be more than 46cms long and without flaps.

1.8 Any competitor who handles their dog during a trial shall be disqualified, unless permission has been granted beforehand by the judge.

1.9 Any competitor who by action, sound or unfair manoeuvre stops or turns sheep at any time during the trial shall have points deducted. If the obstacle is negotiated by such action, full obstacle points shall be deducted.

1.10 'One Dog Workers':

(a) a competitor who only competes with one dog may nominate a chosen day of a trial on which they wish to compete,

(b) eligible competitors to notify Council in writing of their intention to be a 'One Dog Worker' at the beginning of each year.

1.11 'Two Dog Workers':

(a) in an attempt to encourage new members and to help existing members (due to work commitments, health issues, or as Council deems fit), competitors may make application to become Two Dog Workers at any time and be able to nominate no more than two dogs in the last two rounds of the Open/Improver draw. If the Improver event is run separately, their dogs are to be entered in the last two rounds of the Open draw.

(b) competitors are to make application to Council in writing,

(c) any member accepted as a two dog worker will retain this status unless their circumstances change. The applicant must inform Council of any changes in writing.

(d) 'Two Dog Workers' will not lose their status if they are able to attend an entire trial and compete with more than two dogs.

1.12 **Novice competitors** are to be allowed to complete their trial even if the dog crosses during the course, unless this is deemed (at the judge's discretion) to be detrimental to the dog and/or the sheep. A novice competitor is defined as a person who has not won a novice competition (or higher) at any time.

2. Trials

2.1 The various trials recognised by the Association shall be the:

(a) **Encourage Trial:** for competitors who have never won a higher, recognised trial. Encourage competitors may win two encourage events before they must proceed on to novice status and may compete with dogs that have won trials at a higher level.

Refer to attached Encourage Trial Rules, page 14 A.

(b) **Novice Trial** - for registered dogs that have never won a trial other than up to two Encourage trials.

(c) **Improvers trial** - for registered dogs that have never won a trial other than up to two Encourage trials or a Novice trial.

(d) **Open Trial** - for all registered dogs owned by financial members of a recognised Working Sheepdog Association.

(e) **Short Course:** for all registered dogs owned by financial members of a recognised Working Sheepdog Association, this course has been especially adopted to suit the limited space available on the Karoonda Farm Fair Grounds. The course is based on the short courses used in New Zealand and incorporates obstacles such as a key-hole race and the Maltese Cross. A final will be held.

Dog of the Year Award points are to be allocated to this trial. The winning dog will break its Novice or Improver status, if applicable. Time restraints may restrict this trial to limited entries or to being an Open Trial only.

2.1 (a) ENCOURAGE TRIAL RULES

1. The encourage trial is to be run at a time when there are minimal spectators present, either early morning or last thing at night.
2. All encourage trials should be of twelve minutes duration to avoid unnecessary stress on both the sheep and/or the dog.
3. To compensate for the shorter time, the course can be altered (eg. remove the requirement to work the bridge).
4. The competitor must be able to walk their dog to the peg unleashed and under no other restraint. This should be the minimum standard to indicate the degree of control the handler has over their dog.
5. The competitor will not have anyone accompany them on the ground. An appropriate, experienced open judge must be appointed who can advise the handler during the course of the trial when needed.
6. Encourage dogs will be allowed to cross once on the cast. Any further crosses after that point will automatically result in disqualification. However, they may continue to work their twelve minutes, subject to the judge's discretion.
7. Where possible a sweeper dog should be available to assist an encourage worker.
8. Where the encourage trial is run in conjunction with the novice event, the same conditions will apply.
9. Competitors may compete in encourage events for one year as an Associate member or by paying the daily insurance fee. After this time, if they wish to continue competing, they must become a full member and their dog/s must be registered. If they wish to compete in novice, improver or open classes at any time during that first year, they must become a full member and their dogs must be registered.

(f) **Restricted trials:** for all registered dogs owned by financial members of a recognized Working Sheepdog Association, these trials include deviations to the standard course, such as the Speed Trial and the Points Trial and are intended to provide extra entertainment for spectators.

Dog of the Year Award points are not to be allocated to these trials.

The winning dog will not break its Novice or Improver status, if applicable.

2.2 A dog that has only divided a first prize competing as one of a pair shall not be deemed to have won a trial.

2.3 Token trophies are not deemed as winning a trial and therefore will not affect the status of a dog.

2.4 The annual South Australian State Championship Trial shall be considered to be an Open Trial and is to be arranged and conducted by the Council.

2.5 If a novice or improver dog wins a trial run over the Trans Tasman, short or field trial courses, it will lose its status.

2.6 Change of status of dog:

(a) If a dog wins a Novice class after the entries for the next trial are closed and it is not entered in the Improvers class at that trial, it may be entered in the Improver class.

(b) This dog is to be placed at the end of the draw and must be entered before the Improver class begins.

(c) In similar circumstances, an Improver dog shall automatically retain its position in the draw and become eligible for the Open class, but must be entered before the Open class begins.

(d) If applicable, the competitor must pay the appropriate entry fee.

(e) In the event of a dog winning either a novice or an improver class after the close of entries for a forthcoming trial for which it is nominated, the competitor has the right to directly replace the dog with another eligible entry without further fee. If no suitable substitute is available, the entry fee is refundable.

2.7 A dog may be scratched from the Improvers and/or the Open section (run in conjunction) before the trial has commenced. Once the trial has commenced, a dog may be scratched, but must be scratched out of both sections.

3. Dogs

3.1 Dogs competing at trials must be registered and the bona fide property of the competitor.

3.2 If, in the opinion of the judge, or Committee of any body conducting a trial under these rules, any person ill uses their dog, they will;

- (a) be subject to a fine to the amount as determined by Council each year, and
- (b) forfeit all prize money.

Such competitor may be barred from competing again at any trial conducted under these rules.

3.3 No dog shall be permitted to compete in a trial or be brought near a trial ground if it has a contagious disease such as distemper, hepatitis or parvovirus or has been exposed to the risk of a contagious disease during a period of seven weeks prior to the date on which the trial is to be held. Owners of dogs may be asked to sign a declaration to this effect before being allowed to compete in a trial.

3.4 No dog shall be permitted to compete in a trial whilst wearing a muzzle.

4. Sheep

4.1 Sheep may be inspected by the subcommittee of Councilors for defects and culled before the trial commences.

4.2 Selection of sheep:

- (a) No competitor shall be allowed fresh sheep except in extraordinary circumstances, and then only at the Judge's discretion.
- (b) No competitor shall be allowed to select or influence in any way, the selection of trial sheep.

4.3 In the event of a re-run being awarded, the run will occur at the end of the original draw.

4.4 If a dog (as the aggressor) should bite or in any way injure a sheep, such dog shall at once be disqualified and the competitor held responsible for any damage done to the sheep.

4.5 If a sheep charges a dog and the dog (in self defence) then snaps at and nips the sheep (although a bark is preferred) the dog should not be disqualified. However points may be deducted at the Judge's discretion.

5. The Arena Trial Course

5.1 Recommended dimensions of obstacles for standard arena trial:

- (a) **Gap:** 0.9m opening with 2.7m wings
- (b) **Race:** 2.7m long, 0.9m entrance and 76cm outlet. 2.7m wings with 1.8m opening at the mouth.
- (c) **Bridge:** 2.7m long, 0.9m wide, 2.7m wings with 1.8m opening at the mouth. Ramp onto the bridge to be 1.35m long to allow room for the sheep to stand before going on to the bridge. Platform to be 0.6m from the ground.

(d) **Pen:** 2.7m by 1.8m

(e) **Working pegs/rings:** to be placed in a direct line from the front of the obstacle and to be 2.4m from the outside of the obstacle to the closest edge of the ring.

(f) **Corridor:** a 9 metre corridor between obstacles will be marked on the course

5.2 Variations to the courses and the obstacles may be considered by Council, but must be consistent with the aims of the Association.

5.3 Encourage events may be run over modified courses (eg. delete one obstacle, widen the obstacles, add panels to the obstacles, shorten the cast, use of previously worked sheep).

5.4 Scale of points for obstacles: gap 3, race 4, bridge 8, pen 10. These points are to be deducted if the competitor fails to negotiate the obstacle within the time limit allowed for the trial.

5.5 No competitor shall be allowed on the trial course with any dogs prior to or during the currency of the trial except when directed by the judge or trial steward.

5.6 The owner or nominee of any dog allowed to run loose by mistake (or otherwise) while a trial is in progress or causes any other interference, may be fined to the amount as determined by Council. If the loose dog is entered in the trial it shall be disqualified from competing. The competitor who suffered the interference shall be awarded a re-run which will take place at the end of the draw. No re-run will be awarded if their score at the time of the interference is deemed to be out of final contention.

5.7 The maximum time allowed to competitors will be fixed by the local trial committee at their discretion and before the trial commences.

5.8 The starting and finishing time of each trial will be clearly signalled by

5.9 Competitors shall be permitted to retire at any time during a trial.

5.10 Any competitor withdrawing their dog before the expiry of the full time allowed or being disqualified shall not be entitled to any prize other than when competing in a final where the total points of two runs are combined to determine the placings. No second score shall be allocated to a competitor who retires or is disqualified during a finals run.

5.11 Trials are to be run anti-clockwise.

5.12 Dogs shall be released from any restraint (including removing their collars) at the commencement of the walk to the starting peg.

5.13 The cast:

(a) The dog may be cast from a position reasonably close to a line between the competitor and the judge.

(b) The competitor shall stand at the starting point and shall not cast the dog before the bell or siren.

(c) Should the dog break away before the sheep release signal has been given, the competitor may move away from the peg, but not forward of it, to recall the dog.

(d) After the release signal has been given, if the dog leaves before the starting bell signal it must be recalled from the peg. If the dog can not be recalled it must be disqualified.

(e) If, in any trial a dog fails at the first attempt to sight its sheep on its cast, it may be recalled and re-directed.

(f) The competitor may command by word, or whistle the dog on while casting without losing points provided the dog moves freely to the point of balance.

(g) Should the dog at any point of its cast break its free run points must be deducted.

(h) The dog has stopped at the correct position if it approaches and 'lifts' the sheep straight towards the worker without having to move more than a reasonable distance to cover three sheep and commence its bringing.

(i) A shorter cast shall be adopted for novice and encourage events. The worker shall move off from this peg, directly to the first obstacle.

5.14 The lift:

(a) The 'lift' or approach begins from the point that the dog turns toward the sheep and goes in to shift them.

(b) Points may be deducted if the dog does not stop at the end of its cast, or if it 'hunts' the sheep off course.

5.15 The bringing or draw:

(a) The bringing or draw of the sheep to the competitor begins when the sheep move away from the dog's approach.

(b) The ideal draw is in a straight line from the point of lift to the left side of the competitor at the peg.

(c) The dog should balance the sheep to keep them on course.

(d) Points should be deducted if the dog brings the sheep too fast, also for hunting them or letting them drift more than approximately 5 metres from the line of bringing.

(e) The sheep must be taken around the starting peg anticlockwise and should be kept within the 9 metre corridor of it.

(f) The bringing is to be considered as completed when the sheep pass over an imaginary line between the competitor and the judge before continuing on the course.

(g) If the sheep first pass over this line in the wrong direction, they must be taken back over the line and then around the peg the right way (ie. unwound).

(h) The sheep only need to be unwound once.

5.16 Moving between obstacles:

(a) When a competitor has to move from one given point to another, they must do so maintaining a constant speed and in as direct a line as practicable on the left hand side of the corridor. The competitor must not stop to work the dog during this time. Infringement of this rule will entail a deduction of points for each offence.

(b) The sheep should travel within the 9m corridor.

(c) Points will be also be deducted if the sheep are outside of the 9 metre corridor between obstacles or further from the worker than 9 metres.

5.17 Negotiating obstacles:

(a) When negotiating obstacles, points may be deducted if sheep are allowed to circle the obstacle or if they pass the wing and are brought back. The temperament of the sheep must be taken into consideration.

(b) Should the sheep enter any obstacle before the worker reaches the set, the worker may step into the set and complete the obstacle. However, if the sheep have negotiated or completed any obstacles under the circumstances, such obstacle must be re-worked, with the exception of the pen, in which case the worker must step into the set and then close the gate.

(c) If the competitor leaves the ring or peg before having completely negotiated an obstacle with all three sheep, they must be disqualified.

5.18 The pen:

(a) preferably shall have a gate.

(b) The gate should be closed in one fluent, workman-like movement.

(c) If one or more sheep have entered the pen before the competitor is at the ring or peg, the competitor must step into the ring and then proceed to shut the gate.

(d) If any sheep escape from the pen after the competitor has left the ring or peg and is in the act of closing the gate, the competitor shall continue to close the gate. If they are able to return the sheep to the pen before the gate is closed, the points for the pen will be awarded. If by the time the gate is shut the sheep are still out, then the points value of the pen will be deducted and the trial ended. Failure to shut the gate shall be taken as retiring.

(e) If any sheep escape over the sides or back of the pen after the competitor has left the ring or peg and is in the act of closing the gate, the pen may be deemed by the judge as having been worked and the points allowed.

5.19 Crossing:

(a) Any dog that comes between the competitor and the sheep at any time during the trial shall be disqualified.

(b) However, the judge (at their discretion) need not disqualify a dog getting between the competitor and the sheep provided the dog is forcing in an appropriate manner at an obstacle.

(c) Novice competitors are to be allowed to complete their 15 minute trial even if the dog crosses during the course unless this is deemed (at the judge's discretion) to be detrimental to the dog and/or the sheep. A novice competitor is defined as a person who has not won a novice competition at any time.

(d) Dogs competing in encourage events shall be allowed to cross without being disqualified, but for a loss of points as determined by the judge.

5.20 Lack of force at obstacles: a dog which holds sheep in front of an obstacle for long periods and fails to force the sheep through should be penalised.

5.21 Turning tail: points are to be deducted each time the dog turns tail, that is, turns off its work. The number of points will be determined by the circumstances; generally, it will be two points each time.

5.22 At the conclusion of each trial, the competitor must **remove the sheep** from the arena, taking them to a point indicated by the trial committee.

6. Field Trials

A copy of the field trial course with dimensions and the general layout is to be sent to all competitors and the judge before commencement of the competition.

6.1 The competitor casts the dog from a 9m circle, draws all 5 sheep through the circle and remains in it until the first obstacle, the gap, is negotiated. During this time, the competitor is permitted to move within this circle.

6.2 They then proceed to go around the flag in an anticlockwise direction without stopping and keeping the sheep on their right hand side. Points will be deducted if it is necessary to stop at the flag to negotiate it correctly.

6.3 At the second obstacle, the race, the competitor remains in a 1.8m circle until the sheep are well clear of the longest rail at the exit after which they approach the third obstacle.

6.4 At the third obstacle, the yard and bridge, they firstly open the yard gate, keeping the sheep and dog under control, and then move to the 1.8m circle where they stay until the sheep are in the yard. They then shut the yard gate, open the bridge gate and stand back in the circle at the bridge until the sheep are worked over. They shut the bridge gate (keeping the sheep and dog under control) and then proceed to the fourth obstacle.

6.5 When the sheep are in the pen, the worker steps out of the circle and closes the gate. If a sheep escapes before the gate is closed it must be opened again and the competitor must return to the circle and negotiate the obstacle again.

6.6 Five sheep are to be used for each run.

6.7. A maximum of 16 minutes is to be allowed for each competitor to complete the course.

6.8 Scale of points: Gap – 3
Race – 4
Yard and bridge – 8
Pen - 10

6.9 Recommended dimensions of obstacles for the field trial:

(a) **Cast:** 270m (to be shortened for the Novice event)

(b) **Competitor's circle:** at the beginning of the course, 9m

(c) **Gap:** 1.2m opening with 5.4m wings, to be placed 9m from the competitor's circle

(d) **Zigzag Race:** 1.2m entrance and outlet, 5.4m side panels, 1.8m wide, 2.7m wing at the entrance, 3m from the edge of the wing to the competitor's circle (1.8m)

(e) **Yard:** 5.4m panels, 1.2m opening, 3m from the edge of the gate to the competitor's circle (1.8m)

(f) **Bridge:** 2.7m long, 0.9m wide, 2.7m wings with 1.8m opening at the mouth. Ramp onto the bridge to be 1.35m long to allow room for the sheep to stand before going on to the bridge. Platform to be 0.6m from the ground.

(g) **Pen:** 2.7m by 1.8m, 2.4m between the end of the gate and the competitor's circle.

7. Trans Tasman Course

7.1 The rules of the Trans Tasman Course are governed by the Australian Sheepdog Workers Association.

7.2 Dog of the Year points will be awarded to competitions where this course is used.

8. Judges

8.1 The Judge's decision shall be final.

8.2 If the working of any dog is of inferior merit, the Judge has the power to terminate the trial before the expiration of the time allowed.

8.3 Judge's cards as drawn up by the Association are to be used at all trials.

8.4 Cards may not be inspected by competitors until after the winner has been determined and the trial has been completed. Under no circumstances can a competitor examine the card of another competitor.

8.5 A panel of judges is to be maintained.

8.6 A person will not be eligible for appointment to the judges' panel unless they are a financial member of the South Australian Working Sheepdog Association Incorporated.

8.7 Nominees to the judges' panel are to be suggested and their acceptance determined at the Annual General Meeting.

8.8 Members newly appointed to the judges' panel will be bound to judge at least 20 scoring dogs (including finals) at South Australian trials or three Novice classes before being considered by Council to be eligible to judge Open classes.

8.9 Any judges who have resigned, are non-financial members or who have not judged a trial in South Australia for the past two years are to be removed from the panel.

8.10 Re-instatement to the panel requires the following of rules 8.6 to 8.8 above.

8.11 Whilst Clubs may select their own judges, a roster of judges is to be completed by Council at the beginning of each year and suggested to Clubs.

8.12 It is recommended that Clubs make recognition to judges for the important role they play in a trial (eg. by providing meals and accommodation).

9. Entry forms

9.1 The following is to be included on all entry forms:

This trial is conducted under the rules of the SAWSDA, including the Code of Conduct as outlined in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the General Regulations. A copy of this Code of Conduct is available from the SAWSDA Secretary, and will also be displayed at the Timekeeper's location at the trial.

The payment by a competitor for entry into this trial is an indication of their acceptance of the SAWSDA Constitution, Regulations and Rules including the Code of Conduct, which is applicable to all activities and areas of the venue location, and any specific regulations governing the use of the grounds and buildings associated with the Trial.

10. The Draw

10.1 Competitors shall take their place in the trial according to the draw.

10.2 Any competitor absent shall not be allowed to compete at a later time, except under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Council subcommittee and the Club conducting the trial.

10.3 If under the provisions of rule 10.2 (above), a competitor was granted permission to run in a trial after having missed their proper place in the draw, this run will take place at the end of the original draw.

10.4 Competitors are required to advise trial organizers of any scratching or any dogs that are no longer eligible to compete in the novice or improver sections before the trial begins.

10.5 Guidelines to conducting the draw:

- (a) Dogs shall be placed in the order indicated by the competitor on their entry form.
- (b) The basis of the draw shall be five (5) rounds.
- (c) Competitors shall have their names drawn at random just once and this will then become the order for any further rounds that the competitor is involved in.
- (d) Competitors with six (6) or more dogs shall have their next dog placed half way between their second and third runs, then third and fourth runs and fourth and fifth runs depending on the total number of dogs they have entered.
- (e) Those competitors competing as a 'One or Two Dog Worker' shall be placed randomly in the draw on their nominated day.
- (f) Common sense is to prevail and those competitors with multiple entries are to be spread throughout the draw.
- (g) Preferably, no competitor shall have consecutive runs throughout the draw.
- (h) A copy of the draw will be provided for each competitor before the trial begins.

11. Finals

11.1 Should there be a final trial, the highest scoring dogs shall be selected, one more in number than prizes offered, this being raised only to include a duplication in score of the last selection.

11.2 The judge shall give awards to those gaining the highest aggregate number of points.

11.3 No prize shall be awarded to a dog which, after selection, fails to participate in a final trial.

11.4 Dogs will take their place in the finals according to their place in the original draw, except in the event of a re-run being awarded when they will take their place in the order they qualified.

11.5 Where a competitor has more than one dog in the final, runs should not be consecutive where possible.

11.6 In the event of a tie for first place in a Novice, Improvers or Open Trial, a winner must be arrived at by working off the dogs involved. The first placing to go to the dog with the highest aggregate score.

11.7 A final will be held for all Novice trials, following the completion of the first round of the Novice.

11.8 Where possible, the Improver Final will be held separately from the Open Final. Where the Improver final is run separately from the Open final, it shall follow the completion of the first round of the Improver event.

12. Dog of the Year Award

12.1 A perpetual trophy plus a trophy for the competitor is to be made available by the Association and presented to the successful competitor at the Annual General Meeting each year.

12.2 To be eligible for this award, competitors must be members of the South Australian Working Sheepdog Association Incorporated; their dogs must also be registered with that Association (or transferred to our register); and points may only be gained at open and unrestricted trials held by Clubs affiliated with that Association.

12.3 Placings are to be awarded to fifth place in Open Trials.

12.4 Points are to be allotted for placings as: 1st - 5, 2nd - 4, 3rd - 3, 4th - 2, 5th - 1

12.5 In the event of a tie being award for a placing, the points for that placing will be awarded to both dogs. No points will be then allotted for the next placing down.

12.6 Points may not be accrued at restricted trials such as at the Adelaide Show.

12.7 Points will be accrued at trials run on different courses, such as the field course, Trans Tasman course and short course, unless other restrictions are applied (eg. number of entries accepted).

12.8 If two open trials are run in succession at the same venue, Dog of the Year points will only be awarded to the place getters of one of those open trials.

13. Selection of state representatives

13.1 Selection of state representatives at national competitions is to be based on a dog's success twelve months prior to the request for representatives being received by the Association unless clearly directed otherwise by the body convening the event.

13.2 One handler is to be a representative with only one dog in a competition.

13.3 Dogs will be chosen from the highest scoring dogs available to compete.

13.4 The representative must be a member of the Association and a resident of South Australia.

13.5 To be chosen as a representative for South Australia, the competitor must also be prepared to be an ambassador for the state at any official function, meeting etc. which may occur during the competition. Their dog must also be presented in acceptable condition at the time of the competition.

13.6 Should any representative dog not be able to participate for any reason, the handler must advise Council in writing and supply a veterinary certificate stating the reason. The next highest scoring, available dog and handler will then be eligible to compete.

13.7 Council has the right to determine the suitability of the representative and their dog.

13.8 Competitors representing South Australia will be supplied with an Association shirt, tie and navy blue blazer with pocket embroidered with our logo and the appropriate wording (eg. Team Member – 2009). Competitors will be required to pay half the purchase cost of the blazer only. Competitors will be required to wear this clothing when competing or promoting the Association.

13.9 A formula to compensate competitors who take their turn judging has been devised in regard to Dog of the Year points and the selection of state representatives.

14. Protests and Penalties

14.1 Any protest must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the local trial committee and be accompanied by a fee as determined by Council each year which shall be returned if the protest is upheld.

14.2 Such protest shall be dealt with by the Council subcommittee whose decision shall be final.

14.3 In the event of any question or situation arising not provided for in these rules, the matter in question shall be dealt with by the Council subcommittee and any action taken shall be reported to the full Council within 14 days.

14.4 Council may suspend or disqualify for such period as it deems proper or fine any member who commits any breach of these rules; or refuses to obey the Council; or of abusing or disputing a judge's decision; or of improper, unfair or other than sportsmanship-like conduct; or who may be the cause of any disturbance which may take place at any ground during the holding of any sheepdog trial.

14.5 Any member so suspended or disqualified shall not be entitled to enter any ground or area where a sheepdog trial is in progress while he is under suspension and may be disqualified from competing at any future trials conducted under these rules.

15. Hot Weather Policy

Animal and human welfare needs to be considered as a priority.

If the predicted temperature is above 30°C on the day of the trial, the convener must consider making adjustments to the structure of the trial. Any decision to make changes must be finalised by noon the day before the trial is due to start and made know to competitors. Competitors must also monitor the forecast and contact the conveners to confirm any possible changes.

The temperature at the venue on the day also needs to be taken into consideration, including wind factors. All Councilors present at the ground to liaise with the trial convener and the judge to decide if an adjournment is necessary until it is cool enough for trialing to re-commence.

The following will be enforced:

- seats, shade and cold water will be provided for the judge and all volunteers helping to run the trial
- all participants will be encouraged to wear hats, sunglasses, protective clothing and sunscreen
- tasks will be rotated amongst volunteers to avoid prolonged exposure to the heat
- shade and water will be provided for all livestock (sheep and dogs)
- a trough or bath of water will be provided for dogs to lay in.

16. Alterations to Trial Rules

15.1 These Trial Rules shall not be altered or added to unless notice of the proposed alteration or addition shall have been given to the Secretary and by them to each member of the Council in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be considered.

15.2 The motion must be carried by a two thirds majority of Councilors present at the meeting.