NSWWSDA RULES AND MOTIONS

1 TRIAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND COMPETITORS

1.1. Each competitor shall have three head of stock (weaners where possible). **(R1)**

1.2. With the approval of the NSW executive, a committee may vary the course and the number of stock used. **(R25)**

1.3. 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. **(R26)**

1.4. 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. **(R2)**

1.5. 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. **(R13)**

1.6. Recommended course: **(R14)**

1.6.1. The designated delivery area, minimum size 8mx8m which the stock must enter.

1.6.2. The gate is to be a minimum of 3m wide with 2.4m wings.

1.6.3. The race is to be a minimum of 3m wide, length 4.8m, wings 2.4m, and the opening 5m.

1.6.4. The pen, if it is in the arena, is to have a depth 5m, rear 3m, opening 3m, wing 3m on the near side

1.6.5. The course can be either clockwise or anti- clockwise.

1.6.6. The designated position for the competitor's peg at each obstacle is 2m from the inside wing.

1.6.7. The corridor starting from the delivery area is the outside width of the wings from obstacle to obstacle.

1.7. 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. **(R15)**

1.8. NSWWSDA introduce a policy requiring all dog trial committees advise competitors via the newsletter/website what rules their event will be run under. **(M18)**

1.9. All date changes for dog trial events, including last minute changes, must be either advertised in the newsletter or on the website, to remain eligible for dog of the year points. **(M10)**

1.10 A downloadable results sheet added to the website which committee members could download, fill in and email back to the point score co-ordinator; and that the NSW association send a results sheet (to be filled out and sent back) to show society's holding dog trials. **(M25)**

1.11 NSWWSDA introduce a protocol for **limiting entries** to runs per dog trial, ie each handler can have a set maximum number of runs ie two, three, or four (or more or less up to the organising committee to decide) runs per dog trial with handlers to determine in which event they want those runs to be in, ie three in the maiden/novice and one in the open or perhaps none in the maiden/novice and three in the open. The combination is up to the handler to decide as long as runs are limited to the set number decided by the committee. Also, handlers be asked to nominate their dogs in order of weakest to strongest – ie list the dogs they prefer to have scratched first and dogs they prefer to run listed last in ascending order – so that dog numbers can be fairly limited. Also, handlers be advised when nominating that dogs may be limited. **(M24)**

1.12 Dog trial organising committees must set a closing date for nominations. **(M29)**

1.13. Dog trial organisers must lodge a full set of results including placings down to 6th place, the number of dogs in each event, and the names of judges, with the NSWWSDA before they can be reimbursed for Cobber product purchased as prizes for their trial. **(M35)**

1.14. Handlers who scratch a dog on the day of the trial, before the start of the event, be given the opportunity to substitute another dog for the one that was scratched, alternatively they forfeit their entry fee for the scratched dog. **(M36)**

1.15 If volunteer workers must be members the fee should be $2. **(M48)**

1.16 NSW association encourage committees to refund entry fees to judges or cover travel and catering for the weekend. **(M58)**

1.17 With the approval of the NSW executive a committee may vary the course and the number of stock used at a trial. **(M62)**

1.18 Competitors not giving committees at least 48 hours' notice of a scratching will forfeit all entry fees (except in the case of extenuating circumstances) and will not be allowed to compete in NSWWSDA events until all forfeited entry fees have been paid to the committee. **(M68)**

1.19 For bush dog trials to be covered by insurance, an affiliated event must be held at the venue as well. **(M80)**

1.20 Committee's running dog trials wanting to be affiliated with the NSWWSDA must give at least 28 days' notice from the first day of the trial being held. **(M104)**

2 COURSE RULES

2.1 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. **(R5)**

2.2 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. **(R6)**

2.3 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. **(R7)**

2.4 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. **(R8)**

2.5 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. **(R15)**

2.6 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. **(R17)**

2.7 The NSW Association adopt the Queensland mirror course as part of its accepted rules/courses. **(M9)**

2.8 That NSWWSDA adopt the NSW Mirror Course (based on North Coast rules) with the free work area a delivery not a hold, 60 points for general work and 40 points for obstacles, and five-minute time frame (the course allows committees the option to use re-run cattle more successfully). **(M21)**

3 POINT SCORING

3.1 SOO point score selection be based on the financial year – end of June one year to the start of July the following year. **(M1)**

3.2 The awards points core be brought into line with the State of Origin (both to run from July 1 to June 30 each year) and that the new time frame be introduced this year – meaning awards point scores for 2010 would run from only six months. **(M23)**

3.3 Points are to be allocated to the handler and dog in all points systems. **(M53)**

3.4 All points earned in an Open event whether the dog is a maiden, novice, or open count towards the State of Origin. **(M54)**

3.5 The points achieved at a trial spanning two point score years be allocated to the year on the day that the trial started. **(M66)**

3.6 The NSWWSDA financial year be changed to 1 July to 30 June. **(M44)**

3.7 The dog will not receive a score unless the course or time is completed. **Points may be deducted for**: **(R18)**

3.7.1 A tail turn - under pressure 3 points, no pressure 5 points

3.7.2 Each time the stock go past the line of the obstacle – 1 point per beast

3.7.3 A show of disinterest by the dog – maximum 3 points

3.7.4 Stock going off course – 1 point per beast

3.7.5 Urinating or defecating on the course – 10 points

3.7.6 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.

3.7.7 Lack of forward movement by the stock – 1 point every 6 seconds.

3.7.8 Contact between the handler and the stock in the corridor should be within a reasonable distance.

3.7.9 Stock turning back or splitting caused by the handler or the dog – 1 point per beast

3.7.10 From the time the first beast enters the pen until the gate is shut, if the dog enters the pen - 10 points

3.8 **Points (R19**)

3.8.1 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.

3.8.2 Draw 5 points - the dog should bring the stock in a straight line to the delivery area.

3.8.3 Gate - 10 points

3.8.4 Race - 10 points

3.8.5 Pen - 10 points

3.8.6 General work - 60 points

3.8.7 No delivery no score

3.9 **Crosses (R20)**

3.9.1 Only one cross allowed in open events.

3.9.2 Only two crosses allowed in maiden and novice events.

3.9.3 A cross in the cast - deduction of 10 points

3.9.4 A cross in general work - deduction of a minimum three points, maximum 5 points.

4 JUDGING

4.1 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. **(R3)**

4.2 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. **(R4)**

4.3 After the expiration of half time, the judge has the power to inform the competitor that they have no chance of making the final. **(R9)**

4.4 A dog will be disqualified for rough work or if it is considered by the judge to be out of control. **(R10)**

4.5 The judge's decision is final within the rules. **(R11)**

4.6 The dog is being judged from the time it enters the arena until the time it leaves the arena. **(R16)**

4.7 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. **(R26)**

4.8 During a trial the judge will notify the competitor at the expiration of time or disqualification if necessary. **(R12)**

4.9 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. **(R13)**

4.10 No competitor is allowed to approach the judge, unless requested by the judge, at any time during a trial**. (M12)**

4.11 When two judges are being used in a trial, the judges be seated independently of each other and that they provide their scores to the score keeper on separate two-way channels to prevent them from hearing each other's score.

4.12 Not give a handler a re-run if one of their own dogs escape and enters the dog trialing arena when they are working another dog. **(M19)**

4.13 First time judges, judge their first event with an experienced judge and that the average of the two scores be the contestant's score. **(M41)**

4.14 First time judges should not judge a one-day trial with maiden, novice and open events run in conjunction. **(M46)**

4.15 The NSWWSDA adopt North Coast rules and NSW rules and the Hunter rules remain in place as the only other rules to be used. **(M56)**

4.16 The executive be the judges panel, revise the rules and come back to the members with suggestions. **(M61)**

4.17 When two judges are being used in a trial, the judges be seated independently of each other and that they provide their scores to the score keeper on separate two-way channels to prevent them for hearing each other's score. **(M94)**

4.18 Trial dogs which are excessively rough on stock on three separate occasions, as reported by trial judges, be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the association's executive and which could include the dog being banned from competition. **(M33)**

4.19 If a Maiden/Novice Judge is restricted to the event they are not judging, then they can run all their dogs, to the extent of any other limits, in the Open event. **(M96)**

4.20 Queensland and Victorian cattle dog trial association affiliated judges be given rights to judge in NSW at any NSWWSDA affiliated trial. **(M109)**

5 CODE OF CONDUCT: (R28)

5.1 All competitors are required to show sportsmanship and conduct themselves with honour, integrity, and decorum while at a trial.

5.2 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.

5.3 The use of physical force against any dog at a trial, whether the dog is working or not, is prohibited

5.4 The use of training collars on any dog at a trial, whether the dog is working or not, is prohibited.

5.5 All competitors must ensure the comfort of their dogs while at a trial and ensure they have sufficient shelter and water.

5.6 All competitors must treat the judge with respect.

5.7 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.

6 MEMBERS

6.1 NSWWSDAI recognise all life memberships of North Coast Working Dog Trial Association and Hunter Working Stock Dog Association. **(M5)**

6.2 Fees for 2026/2027 remain the same as 2025/2026. • Full membership $60 • Associate membership $30 • Junior membership (under 18 years) $22 • Day membership $15 **(Ref M47, M103)**

6.3 Nominations for Life Membership be forwarded to Executive Committee for decision making. Criteria must include contribution towards the sport. Voting to take place at AGM meeting. **(M77)**

6.4 NSWWSDA run practice days/dog trialling schools with members allowed to attend for free and/or with the association providing free day membership for people wanting to have a go. **(M82)**

6.5 The Dungowan Sheep and Cattle Dog Triallers Club be approved as an affiliated sub branch of the NSW Association. **(M13)**

6.6 Queensland and Victorian cattle dog trial handlers will be given reciprocal member rights with the NSWWSDA. **(M108)**

6.7 If a competitor wants to continue paying day membership at trials rather than pay a full membership they should be allowed. **(M102)**

6.8 If a competitor wants to continue paying day membership at trials rather than pay a full membership they should be allowed. 25072025 (M104)

7 FINALS/CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.1 There should be a minimum of six competitors in a final. **(R23)**

7.2 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. **(R24)**

7.3 Any committee tendering for the right to hold a NSW Championship or other major event such as a national championship be prepared to run the event over three days if nominations require it**. (M7)**

7.4 Any committee that runs a championship trial – NSW Championship, State of Origin event, of Australian Championships -- must allow members to work the cattle before the event, and that the executive liaise to establish the full criteria. **(M28)**

7.5 All NSW judges wear NSW ties if judging at Australian Championships, NSW Championships and State of Origin. **(M30)**

7.6 Committees holding championship trials must offer a prizemoney pool of at least $1000 and the NSWWSDA give championship organising committees a further $500 if it has available funds. **(M31)**

7.7 Championship criteria to date **(M32)**

7.7.1 Organising committees of NSW Championship, State of Origin or Australian Championships must allow members to work the cattle before the event.

7.7.2 Committees running championship trials must be prepared to run over three days, if the entries require it.

7.7.3 That Committees offer minimum prize money of $1000.

7.7.4 Two judges required for open event at championship dog trials.

7.7.5 Finals must be held for novice and open events and if possible, the maiden. There must be a minimum of six entries in each final.

7.8 Any state titles or Australian titles held in NSW all events are to have two judges. **(M57)**

7.9 Scores of individual judges at championship trials be recorded for each run together with the final score. **(M71)**

7.10 All Championship trials (Australian and NSW) run in NSW must at a minimum pay prizemoney down to sixth place in all events. (M84)

7.11 Minimum of 20 runs in the second round relates to the open event only at Championship trials. **(M89)**

7.12 Competitors taking part in any championship trial run in NSW, must be full members of the NSWWSDA. **(M92)**

8 STATUS

8.1 If a trial is open to all comers, then dogs competing in the event are eligible to break status. **(M3)**

8.2 Winners of Jackpot trials (limited entry events) don't break their status and don't get points towards annual awards. **(M4)**

8.3 Winners and placegetters in ladies' trials do not receive points towards the end of year awards and do not break their status. **(M8)**

8.4 There is no cap on the number of wins that a competitor under 12 years may have in the encourage events. **(R21)**

8.5 If you win an event at an association-run cattle trial Australia wide you break status: **(R22)**

8.5.1 If a dog wins a maiden or novice event they become a novice dog

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

8.6 If a dog starts the point score year as a maiden or novice dog and breaks status to become an open dog, open points earned after that date will count towards the Maiden/Novice Dog of the Year. **(M49)**

8.7 If you break status in any state at a trial organized by a working cattle dog association it counts in NSW. 25072025 **(M98)**

9 THE EXECUTIVE/DISPUTES

9.1 With the approval of the NSW executive, a committee may vary the course and the number of stock used. **(R25)**

9.2 The NSW secretary send (by mail or email) dog trial organisers an event pack which includes a result sheet (which they must fill out and return and which features 1 st -6 th place getters in all events, the names of the judges of all events, and number of dogs competing in each of the events) and a current membership list. **(M34)**

9.3 Vice Presidents can serve for an unlimited term. **(M85)**

9.4 NSW Association buy the keepsake trophies to be given to winners of perpetual trophies annually. **(M2)**

9.5 A dispute must be brought to the attention of an executive member or the trial organiser before the end of the trial to be valid. Any complaints after a trial will not be considered. **(M42)**

9.6 A breach of the disciplinary code a committee made up of the executive committee has the right/authority to decide a punishment of 0–6-month ban, for a trial period of 12 months. **(M51)**

9.7 Items brought to the executive must have a name attached. 25/7/2025. **(M101)** 25072025

10 WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY/ANIMAL WELFARE

10.1 All competitors must wear covered in sturdy footwear. **(M43)**

10.2 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. **(R4)**

10.3 Bitches in oestrus will not be allowed to compete and ideally should not be taken to a trial. **(R27)**

10.4 If a dog that bites or attacks another dog at a trial, the handler of that dog be given two written warnings and a lifetime ban be given to any dog that commits a third offence. **(M99)** 25072025

10.5 Any dog biting a person at a trial be given an immediate lifetime ban. **(M100)** 25072025

10.6 If a competitor suffers an injury at a trial that may lead to a compensation claim it must be brought to the attention of the executive or committee at the trial to be accepted. **(M113)**

10.7 The current membership form will be updated to include Parent/Guardian responsibility details for underage competitors. **(M114)**

11 DRAW

11.1 As a matter of policy, all reruns are to be held at the end of the round. **(M20)**

11.2 The draw for every trial must be conducted in rounds (blended or otherwise) and every competitor taking part in a trial must be given a copy of the draw. **(M38)**

11.3 The trial draw must have competitors spread evenly throughout all rounds, also that the draw order must follow the first-round order. **(M45)**

11.4 Judges and volunteers can run their dogs at the end of any round in a trial venue where there are two events being held on the one weekend. **(M74)**

11.5 That contestants with only one dog in an event (Maiden/Novice or Open) be allowed to nominate whether they want to run the dog in either the first or last round, and that this be trialled for 12 months or until the next annual general meeting. **(M86)**

11.6 The Association continue the trial where competitors competing in another livestock event at the same venue as a dog trial be allowed to go to the end of the round in which they were due to compete. **(M79) Repeated?**

11.8 That the NSW Working Stock Dog Association trial each of the two new draw systems as presented by Ben Gould and Gracie Halstead at two events each and that the results of the trial be brought back to the next annual general meeting of the association. **(M95)**

Draw system as proposed by Gracie Halstead and Zac Ede

Assuming there will be multiple rotations in the draw, a percentage of each round scores will progress to the second round. This percentage will be based on the number of entries received. The reason for this system is because we believe this offers a level playing field amongst the rounds. It rewards dogs across the varying conditions. The second round will be a clean slate.

Draw system as proposed by Ben Gould

That the association implements a system to run only two trials using a camp draft draw method, ensuring completely random nominations. This system will include a minimum of four rounds, with an algorithm set to prevent handlers from having consecutive runs and allowing time for competitors to warm up their dogs between runs. The four rounds allow committee members and volunteers an opportunity to have their run at the end of a round if they have missed their run due to commitments. * This system should not be used for a championship trial during the trial period and Ben and the NSWWSDA executive to chose the two trials the system is to be trialled at.

11.9 That competitors arriving late for the first event at a dog trial (late being after the end of the first round forfeit the right to run their dogs in the rounds they have missed. However, late competitors arriving before the end of the first round of the first event only be allowed to slot in to the end of the first round – this does not apply to any other event over the weekend. Extenuating circumstances may be considered. This only applies to stand alone events. 25072025 **(M97)**

12 STATE OF ORIGIN

12.1 The judge for the State of Origin be selected by majority vote of the team on the day. **(M40)**

12.2 The only time a Queensland judge is to be asked to judge for NSW in the State of Origin is when there is no qualified open judge from NSW available. **(M64)**

12.3 The State of Origin rules require the score of each judge is recorded. **(M70)**

12.4 A competitor's first State of Origin be their allegiance for life. **(M76)**

12.5 NSW Association present SOO competitors with a shirt, tie, and cap and that the competitors be allowed to keep the shirt and cap as a reward for gaining selection. **(M14)**

12.6 A dog can only be run once in a State of Origin team. **(M93)**

12.7 To be eligible for selection in the NSW State of Origin team, dog triallers must be full members of the NSWWSDA. **(M83)**

12.8 The NSWWSDA fiscal year runs from 1 July to 30 June. The end of year awards for; Dog of the year, handler of the year, maiden/novice dog of the year, open dog of the year and selection into the SOO team is calculated at the end of the NSWWSDA fiscal year. **(M107)**

13 MEETINGS GOVERNANCE

13.1 NSWWSDA constitution be altered to accept nominations for positions of NSWWSDA from the floor at the AGM. **(M6)**

13.2 All correspondence sent to the association must have a name attached to be tabled at a meeting. **(M59)**

13.3 All association items held by executive members must be returned to the AGM in case other members take on a position. **(M60)**

13.4 Because the association covers all of NSW and not every member can attend every meeting, that postal voting be accepted for AGMs. **(M27)**

13.5 The association accept any business from the floor at any meeting not just agenda items. **(M75)**

14 MEDIA

14.1 Only dog trials advertised in the NSWWSDA newsletter and/or NSWWSDA website be eligible to earn Dog of the Year points. **(M11)**

14.2 Members be charged a small fee for advertising in the newsletter and non-members be charged a more considerable fee and that the advertising rate be set by the executive. **(M26)**

14.3 Key motions are to be placed in the newsletter. **(M52)**

14.4 The executive will develop a subcommittee to research and develop a new website that covers all the aspects that we require to eliminate the paper trail chase up. **(M112)**

14.5 The executive will develop a Sub Committee to research and develop a proposal for development of video and photographic content for promotional material for its consideration. **(M115)**

15 TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

15.1 Judging Schools **(M103)**

15.1.1 A minimum of 2 judges to instruct

15.1.2 Judges to be approved by the judge's panel.

15.1.3 Format for the school:

- Should have a theory section where Instructors go over all the rules;
- Then walk the course
- They should judge a minimum of 10 runs and a discussion on how points were taken off.

15.1.4 If the approved judges deem on the day that someone is capable to judge a trial, then the 10 runs judged should count as the first judging and they be able to judge a maiden/novice at a trial (bypassing rules 4.13).

15.1.5 Once they have judged a maiden/novice trial, it should count as the second time judging automatically transitioning them into being an open Judge.

15.1.6 Schools only count for first time judges. They must judge a minimum of 2 trials before becoming an open judge if the participant is not deemed capable to judge their first trial.

15.2 Dog Handling & Care Training via the Education Department: The NSWWSDA supports the progression of this program to promote public understanding of working dog capabilities and what the NSWWSDA provides for its members to school students. This is to be done by conducting demonstrations under the approval of educational institutions through the dog handling and care Inclusive program which is run through the NSW Education Department. Demonstrations must strictly comply with school safety policies, ensure the dog is under handler control at all times and serve as an educational, non-profit activity of the NSW Working Stock Dog Association. Demonstrations must be conducted at an approved facility accepted by the school policy and procedures. A full member may carry out this role subject to authorisation by the NSWWSDA executive with reference to points, including the criteria set out in the agenda for this meeting. **(M110)**

16 EVENTS

Junior/Juvenile Events

16.1 The committee endorsed the finalisation of rules for Junior and Juvenile events to be accepted under the NSWWSDA for approval by the Executive (**M105**)

Encouragement/Rookie Events

16.2 Parameters **(M106)***:*

16.2.1 Encouragement/rookie competitors who are full members and trialling at any affiliated NSWWSDA event running under NSWWSDA rules be awarded points throughout the fiscal year and be inclusive as a recipient of an award at the awards presentation.

16.2.2 The encouragement/rookie competitor may win (as in 1st place) multiple encouragement/rookie titles throughout the year but on completion of that year they are no longer entitled to classify as an encouragement or rookie competitor.

16.2.3 If the encourage/rookie competitor wins a maiden/novice/open event in that year they are still eligible to compete the rookie/encourage year.

Futurity & Derby Events

16.3 Rules and point scoring for futurity and derby events: Nathan Brown and Graham Langham to work together to develop a uniform position, reflected in a motion, for consideration by 31 December 2026. **(M111)**