

2012 Southwest Cattledog Association Rules

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Southwest Cattledog Association (hereafter SWCDA) is hereby formed for the purpose of:

- fostering, promoting and developing the use of cattledogs for the benefit of farmers, ranchers, other livestock owners and cattledog handlers;
- to foster, promote and facilitate humane handling of livestock by educating farmers, ranchers, other livestock owners and cattledog handlers in the proper use of well-trained cattledogs.
- It shall conduct educational events, including clinics, trials and demonstrations, and shall sanction trials, keep records for the purpose of qualifying dogs for the SWCDA finals and year end awards.

II. OVERVIEW

A. INFORMATION: The Southwest Cattledog Association provides information to its members via newsletter and the internet. The website is updated as needed and is the most comprehensive source of information for both members and non-members. The website address is www.southwestcattledogassoc.com.

B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- a. The SWCDA sustains a Board of Directors consisting of no less than six (6) elected members. The term of a Board member is three (3) years. The officers of the Board are president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer.
- b. The BOD has the authority to act on hardship situations on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Disciplinary Action: The BOD has the authority to set disciplinary action for any valid, written complaint filed by a SWCDA member. A complaint must be filed, in writing, within ninety (90) days of the infraction or incident. These infractions can include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Unsportsman-like conduct;
 - 2) Offensive language;
 - 3) Disrespect to sponsoring host, labor, or other trial official.
 - 4) Abuse to animals;
 - 5) Misrepresentation of dogs and their classifications.

III. RULES - Rule changes and/or new rules made during the trial year will go into effect immediately after the rule change is approved by the BOD, unless the change will affect year end

issues such as Dog of the Year points or handler status. In those cases the rules will go into effect with the first trial of the next trial season.

A. MEMBERSHIP:

- a. Membership is not required to compete in a SWCDA trial. However, each competitor prior to competing in a SWCDA trial must sign a Statement of Responsibility. This statement is renewed annually.
- b. You must be a handler and have competed in the last 12 months in order to have a vote in any SWCDA elections.
- c. Dues are paid annually, January 1st through December 31st, and are based on the membership level.

1) Participating Membership: \$25.00 if paid before January 31st. \$35.00 if paid after January 31st.

This level is for handlers who want to compete in SWCDA trials and receive Dog of the Year points, run in the Finals trial and vote in SWCDA elections.

2) Family Membership: \$25.00 for first member; \$15.00 each additional member, if paid before January 31st. \$35.00 for first member and \$15.00 for each additional member if paid after January 31st.

This level is for family members living in the same household. Each member has the same privileges as the Participating Member.

3) Associate Membership: \$15.00

This level is for individuals who do not regularly compete but wish to receive updates. They may not run as a Participating Member nor vote in SWCDA elections.

- d. Participating or Family Membership is required before going to the post in order to receive Dog of the Year and qualifying points.
- e. The membership elects the Board of Directors.

B. CLASSES: The SWCDA recognizes the following classes: Open, Pro-Novice and Novice. To compete in a class both handler and dog must meet the requirements as stated in their respective definitions.

1) A Nursery Class, sanctioned by the USBCHA or NCA, can be included in the Pro-Novice Class (a class within a class) and the handler only pays the USBCHA or NCA fee. The Nursery can be run as a separate class with a separate entry fee from which the sanctioning fee will be paid.

The Nursery class will not be a class at the Finals. A Nursery dog is classified as a Pro-Novice dog for handler and dog definition.

C. **SANCTIONING**: The rules herein apply only to SWCDA sanctioned trials. Points, trophies and earnings awarded by other associations are not considered in SWCDA dog of the Year points. For a class or trial to count as a SWCDA sanctioned trial and receive SWCDA DOY points, the trial host must submit a sanctioning application at least 30 days before the trial date. A trial host has the option of adding additional classes after the 30 day cutoff date, but the classes will not be counted for SWCDA DOY points.

a. Sanctioned Trials

- 1) If a trial is USBCHA or NCA sanctioned, a sanctioning fee must be paid to the USBCHA or NCA (National Cattle Dog Association) secretary for each open dog and nursery dog competing in the trial.
- 2) Where the number of entries is too low to constitute a qualifying trial, the USBCHA or NCA fee will not be paid.
- 3) The SWCDA sanctioning fee is \$5.00 per entry per trial. The sanctioning fee, along with the complete trial results must be sent to the SWCDA secretary as soon as practical after the trial date.
- 4) The division of premium money is at the trial host's discretion. It should be included in the sanctioning application and properly advertised on the website.
- 5) Any deviations from SWCDA guidelines or rules may result in disqualification as a sanctioned trial.

D. **EXHIBITION & JACKPOTS**: Trial hosts have the option of allowing exhibition runs during the course of the trial. These runs are non-competitive and place no restriction on a dog or handler. The handler must pay any fee (like a stock charge or administrative fee) required by the trial committee. The handler does not receive prizes or money, nor does the dog receive Dog of the Year points. A dog may not run exhibition and then compete in a lower class during the same trial. Any dog may run in a jackpot class without affecting their SWCDA class standing. No Dog of the Year points are awarded.

E. **HANDLERS**:

- a. It is each handler's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the rules and each trial host accepts the responsibility to enforce these rules at each trial. Any questions on rules should be discussed before the trial begins.
- b. A trial sponsor/host must be a member in good standing of the SWCDA.

- c. **Handlers with physical disabilities will be allowed the use of tools that are not normally accepted (binoculars, wheelchairs, electric scooters or wheelchairs, or a walking aid). While not normally accepted as a tool, a horse or mule may be considered on a case by case basis after the handler has submitted a petition to the Board of Directors to be voted on. If a horse or mule is used, the animal will be treated as the handler insofar as they cannot get out of a walk, cannot be used in a cutting horse capacity and they cannot enter any part of an obstacle. Infractions will be treated as they would a handler (30 seconds for first infractions, 10 points for each infraction thereafter). Handlers needing these tools should notify the trial host of their needs before the trial starts so there are no surprises. The SWCDA encourages those with physical handicaps to participate in our sanctioned events and believe that trial hosts and trial officials should make reasonable efforts to accommodate these handlers.**
- d. **A handler shall not enter the trial field at any time with any kind of training device, including, but not limited to, a sorting stick. The trial committee, representative, or other trial official may disqualify a handler if s/he enters the trial field with any such equipment.**
- e. **A handler is responsible for injury to livestock and property, both on and off the trial field that results from a dog being loose and/or out of control.**
- f. **Handlers should always demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct.**
- e. **Definition of Handlers**

1) OPEN

- i. **An Open handler is an advanced handler in cattledog trials who may also run a dog in the Pro-Novice Class but not in the Novice Class.**
- ii. **If a handler has run an Open cattle dog anywhere in the world, then they are considered an Open handler.**

2) PRO-NOVICE

- i. **A Pro-Novice handler is an intermediate handler.**
- ii. **This handler may compete in the Pro-Novice Class with a dog that may have been advanced from the Novice Class.**
- iii. **This handler may compete in the Pro-Novice Class with a dog that has a history of Open Class competition.**
- iv. **This handler cannot move a Pro-Novice dog down to the Novice Class.**

3) NOVICE

- i. A Novice handler is a beginning handler who has never entered a cattle class higher than Novice.
- ii. A Novice handler can run an Open or Pro Novice dog in the Novice Class.

F. DOGS

- a. Any dog may compete regardless of breed, age, or color. A dog is not required to be registered or purebred.
- b. The following are restrictions as to the equipment a dog is allowed to wear during competition. Noncompliance with these restrictions may result in disqualification as well as loss of fees, prizes and premium monies.
 - i. No remote controlled device.
 - ii. No dummy or weighted collars.
 - iii. A leash or rope **MUST** be detached before the dog is cast.
 - iv. Any device used to distract or cause pain to a dog is forbidden.
- c. A trial official has the right to inspect a dog for any violation to this rule.
- d. All dogs should be kept securely tied, on a leash, or in a crate when not competing. While realizing that ropes can be chewed and chains can be broken, if a dog gains access to the trial course while competition is under way through negligence of the owner/handler, a trial official has the right to assess disciplinary action against the dog and its owner, including disqualification of the handler and dog team for the duration of the trial being held.
- e. Classification of Dogs
 - 1) OPEN – Any dog that has run in an Open Cattle Class anywhere in the world.
 - 2) PRO-NOVICE – Any dog that has not yet advanced to the Open Cattle Class, or an Open dog who is being moved down by a Novice or Pro-Novice handler.
 - 3) NOVICE – A Novice dog is any dog being run by a Novice handler in the Novice class.

G. TRIAL RULES

- a. **DRAW.**

1. The complete run order must be drawn prior to the first entry in the class competing.
2. If an entry is pulled after the draw, the handler may be liable for the entry fee.
3. A draw in a run order consists of a dog/handler team
4. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, an entry must run in order drawn.
5. A handler cannot name the order in which his/her dog shall run.
6. A random or rotation draw determines the run order.

b. all livestock must complete each obstacle, including the first one, before moving on to the next obstacle. If some of the stock goes through an obstacle and some do not, the handler may collect those not having gone through before they mix with the others and they can be put through for full points, but if the two groups mix they all must be put through again before moving on to the next obstacle.

c. If a handler starts to run and doesn't stop or make a definite pause after the second step it will be considered a run and the handler will be penalized 30 seconds for the first infraction and ten (10) points for each infraction thereafter. Hopping will not be considered as running.

d. If logistics and cattle allow, the fetch, at least in the open class, must be complete with the handlers remaining behind the handler line unless a handler chooses to forfeit their points for the first obstacle by crossing the handler line in order to help their dog.

e. The Pro-Novice and Novice classes should be offered the same number of obstacles with the same amount of time as is offered in the Open class.

f. In general the course difficulty in Pro-Novice should be less than in Open and course difficulty in Novice less than in Pro-Novice. To attain this, obstacles entrances may be widened, extra panels extending the wings may be added, etc. Also, course difficulty for all classes may be made more difficult on the second go.

g. Breaking ties when the handlers have not finished the course in the allotted time will be when all stock have crossed the handler (time) line, completed the first obstacle or have completed the second obstacle.

h. Contestants must not go into or through an obstacle they are working. If a contestant goes into or through the obstacle they are working, a penalty of 30 seconds will be imposed for the first infraction. Any infraction after that will be charged 10 points. Contestants cannot reach through and or touch any panel, fence or gate. If handlers touch the stock the penalty will be 30 seconds for the first infraction and 10 points for each infraction thereafter.

i. If time has not expired and the last obstacle is being attempted and one or more head won't get near the entrance and one or two do go in, the handler may signal the trial official that he is satisfied with less than all and will get credit for the number in, or through the obstacles, but he will be charged with the full allotted time to finish the course.

j. If time has expired before handler has completed the course the handler will be given credit for the stock that has completed the obstacle being worked.

k. If a cow jumps out of the arena, or a loose dog gets on the trial field, or other unforeseen circumstances occur through no fault of the handler, the clock will be stopped. Trial officials will have the option of commencing the run from the same point where the original run was stopped, with all points and deductions standing, or award a completely new run. If the handler's dog is responsible for the livestock leaving the course it will be an automatic disqualification.

l. While recognizing that it is often necessary for a dog to bite a cow to turn it, excessive or out of control biting will NOT be tolerated (a dog who hangs on to the livestock as it runs down the arena, or bites so hard it brings the livestock down). If it is deemed to be excessive, the handler/dog will be disqualified for that run

H. FINALS: Each class (Open, Pro-Novice and Novice) is represented at the SWCDA Finals Trial held at the end of each trial year. Finals Champions are determined by their performance at the Finals Trial.

- a. To be eligible for the SWCDA Finals Trial, a dog must compete in at least three (3) trials of the year of the Finals.
- b. The handler/owner must be a paid, participating or family member prior to going to the post before the dog can earn qualifying or Dog of the Year points.
- c. Qualifying trials and points are earned by and belong to the dog regardless of handler or ownership changes. A dog that changes class during the year must compete at the Finals in the same class in which it last competed.
- d. DOY points will be awarded for each go around at the Finals trial, but NOT on the average.
- e. Presently there are two (2) go-rounds for each class (Open, Pro-Novice and Novice). The premium money will be divided into 20% for each go-round and 60% for the average.
- f. All cattle used in the SWCDA finals must be exposed to dogs prior to the first go-round.
- g. The course will be set up by the Finals Trial Committee when it arrives at the trial site and has had time to observe the disposition of the stock, the physical attributes of the

arena, the location of the bleachers and so forth. The committee may modify the course in each class as they see fit.

- h. Handlers will have the full amount of the allotted time to complete as much of the course as they can. There will be no time limit for getting stock across the handler's line.

I. DOG OF THE YEAR: Dog of the Year points are awarded during the trial year with one (1) point given for every three (3) entries. Classes with less than three (3) entries are considered qualifying trials, but do not award Dog of the Year points.

- a. There shall be no restriction on the number of trials a dog may run in to earn DOY points. However, the Dog of the Year is determined by adding the dog's top five placings plus his placings in each go around at the finals trial (a total of seven). Points are awarded to the top one-third (1/3) of each class in which at least three dogs compete.

- b. Dog of the Year Points Table

# Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3 - 5	1									
6 - 8	2	1								
9 - 11	3	2	1							
12 - 14	4	3	2	1						
15 - 17	5	4	3	2	1					
18 - 20	6	5	4	3	2	1				
21 - 23	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
24 - 26	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
27 - 29	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
30 - 32	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
ETC.										

J. COMPULSORY ADVANCEMENT: The Dog of the Year, the reserve Dog of the Year, the Finals Champion and the Finals reserve Champion will be required to advance to the next highest class i.e., Novice to Pro-Novice and Pro-Novice to Open.

SUGGESTED PERCENTAGES OF MONIES PAID

Places Paid	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
One	100%									
Two	60%	40%								
Three	50%	30%	20%							
Four	40%	30%	20%	10%						
Five	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%					
Six	30%	24%	18%	12%	9%	7%				
Seven	28%	23%	16%	12%	9%	7%	5%			
Eight	25%	20%	15%	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%		
Nine	23%	18%	15%	11%	9%	8%	7%	5%	4%	
Ten	20%	16%	14%	11%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%

NUMBER OF PLACES TO PAY

1 PLACE FOR EVERY 3 ENTRIES, 1 PLACE FOR EVERY 4 ENTRIES AND 1 PLACE FOR EVERY 5 ENTRIES

1 for every 3

# of Entries	Pay
1-4	1
5-7	2
8-10	3
11-13	4
14-16	5
17-19	6
20-22	7
23-25	8

1 for every 4

# of Entries	Pay
1-5	1
6-9	2
10-13	3
14-17	4
18-21	5
22-25	6
26-29	7
30-33	8

1 for every 5

# of Entries	Pay
1-7	1
8-12	2
13-17	3
18-22	4
23-27	5
28-32	6

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

I HEREBY AGREE TO HOLD THE SOUTHWEST CATTLED OG ASSOCIATION (SWCDA), THE OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY WHERE ANY SWCDA EVENT IS TO BE HELD, AND ANY OTHER, BLAMELESS IN THE EVENT OF ANY ACCIDENT, THEFT, INJURY, OR LOSS INVOLVING MYSELF, MY DOG, OR ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT I OWN OR HAVE BORROWED. I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY AND ACTION OF MY DOG(S).

Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____