

# 2017 Southwest Cattledog Association Rules

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

- Fostering, promoting and developing the use of cattle dogs for the benefit of farmers, ranchers, other livestock owners and cattle dog handlers;
- To foster, promote and facilitate humane handling of livestock by educating farmers, ranchers, other livestock owners and cattle dog handlers in the proper use of well-trained cattle dogs.
- 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 Cattle dog 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 and non-members. [www.southwestcattledogassoc.com](http://www.southwestcattledogassoc.com).

### B. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

- a. The SWCDA sustains a Board of Directors consisting of no less than 7 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.
- d. If any of the above infractions are witnessed by a BOD, the BOD will address the matter and give a verbal warning for 1<sup>st</sup> time offense. If it is seen again there will be a suspension of

participating and voting rights for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense. For 3<sup>rd</sup> offense anyone not adhering to these rules will result in removal from all SWCDA hosted and sanctioned events and forfeit all prize money and awards.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, and are based on the membership level.

**1) Participating Membership:** \$25.00 if paid before January 31<sup>st</sup>. \$35.00 if paid after January 31<sup>st</sup>.

This level is for handlers and owners within SWCDA trials that receive Dog of the Year points, run in the Finals trial and vote in SWCDA elections. To be eligible for DOY points Handler and Owner must be a member regardless of who runs the dog.

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

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, Ranch, Nursery, Intermediate and Novice. To compete in a class both handler and dog must meet the requirements as stated in their respective definitions. If cattle and circumstances allow, SWCDA hosted trials may ask classes to demonstrate more

difficult type obstacles such as but not limited to sorts, trailer loading and unassisted obstacles such as fetches, drives, cross-drives and weaves. An individual trial host or committee may include these types of obstacles if they see fit but are not obligated to do so to be a SWCDA sanctioned trial.

- 1) Open Class - Any dog may compete in OPEN class. Considered the ultimate test of handlers and dogs to perform the task of a working ranch and trial oriented competition.
- 2) RANCH class - Any dog, regardless of age, may compete. This class is designed to accommodate dogs or handlers that are not ready to compete in the Open class.
- 3) A Nursery dog is classified as a Ranch dog for handler and dog definition. Nursery class deals with the age of the dog. The age classification will rule the same as the NCA for sanctioning purposes. Which is “only dogs that are younger than 30 months (2.5 years) at the beginning of the qualifying season (April 1) are eligible to compete in the Nursery class.”  
  
This would mean, for SWCDA, by the time of our finals (usually held in November) a dog could be 36 months or (3years) at the time of the finals. So, a SWCDA Nursery dog would need to be born on or after November 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 to be eligible for our 2016 SWCDA Nursery class finals.  
  
A novice handler is not allowed to run a dog in the nursery class.
- 4) NOVICE class – Designed for the experience of the handler. Any dog of any age may compete in this class as long as the handler has not competed in a venue considered to be at a higher level for the Novice.
- 5) Intermediate class- This class is for any handler who has never entered the Open class. Any dog regardless of age, may compete. This class is to allow intermediate/novice handlers another class option to gain experience.
- 6) No Dog shall be trialed by 2 or more handlers at the same trial.
- 7) If any handler is unable to compete he/she may have another handler trial his/her dog in their place. The dog **MUST BE** trialed in its competing class. It may not move up or down in classes. Novice handlers would still be unable to trial a dog in the open. Examples: An Open handler may trial another Open handler’s dog in the Open. A Novice handler may trial another Novice handler’s dog in the Novice. If the dog is a Ranch/Nursery dog it may be shown by either a Ranch or Open handler.

**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) A trial must offer all four classes (Open, Ranch, Nursery and Novice) in order to be considered an SWCDA trial.
- 2) A trial host has the control of the type of course he/she is offering (points, time, all or nothing, field trial or arena trial, etc.) It must be stated in their sanctioning application and advertised. A trial host is also the person in charge (unless someone else is appointed by the host). This person has final word on any rulings that take place at their trial. If a SWCDA bod is present they may consult with the host on any infractions. **Ultimately, if any person or dog is acting out of conduct the trial host/appointed official holds the right to disqualify anyone without refund of money.**
- 3) A trial host reserves the right at his/her trial to limit the amount of dogs being ran by a handler due to circumstances such as limit of cattle or time allotment. Each host must make this aware to the website official and must be posted 30days prior to the date of the trial. The host may not exclude anyone from entering unless he/she is not in good standing with the association.
- 4) If a trial is NCA sanctioned, a sanctioning fee must be paid to the NCA (National Cattledog Association) secretary for each open, and nursery dog competing in the trial. It is the trial hosts responsibility to send NCA their sanctioning fees & results in a timely manner.
- 5) Where the number of entries is too low to constitute a qualifying trial, the NCA fee will not be paid.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Any deviations from SWCDA guidelines or rules may result in disqualification as a sanctioned trial.

**EXHIBITION & JACKPOTS:** SWCDA trials or SWCDA sanctioned trials **DO NOT** allow any exhibition runs. Any dog may run in a jackpot class without affecting their SWCDA class standing. No Dog of the Year points will be 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. 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. **All collars/leashes must be removed prior to entering the course.** The trial committee, representative, or other trial official WILL 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. Refer back to section d. under Board Of Directors.

e. Definition of Handlers

1) OPEN

- An Open handler is an advanced handler in cattle dog trials who may also trial a non-open dog in the Ranch Class but not in the Novice Class.
- If a handler has run an Open cattle dog anywhere in the world, then they are considered an Open handler.

2) RANCH

- A Ranch handler is an intermediate handler, or an Open handler with a non-open dog.
- This handler may compete in the Ranch Class with a dog that may have been advanced from the Novice Class.
- This handler may compete in the Ranch Class with a dog that has a history of Open Class competition.
- This handler cannot move a Ranch dog down to the Novice Class.

3) NOVICE

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

- A Novice handler may run in the Intermediate class and still maintain their Novice standing within the SWCDA.

## 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.

**No collars of any kind will be allowed on the trial field/arena.**

A leash or rope and **MUST** be detached before the dog is cast.  
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) RANCH – Any dog that has not yet advanced to the Open Cattle Class, or an Open dog who is being trialed by a Novice or Ranch handler.
- 3) NURSERY – Any dog that is 36 months or younger at the time of the SWCDA finals who is being trialed by a Ranch or Open handler.
- 4) INTERMEDIATE – A Intermediate dog is any dog being run by an Intermediate/Novice or Ranch handler, that has never competed in the Open class.
- 5) NOVICE – A Novice dog is any dog being run by a Novice handler in the Novice class.
- 6) NO DOG shall be trialed by 2 or more handlers at the same trial. However, if a dog is SOLD the qualifying points travel with that dog. This would mean if the dog had 2 qualifying trials by handler A, then handler B would have to participate in 1 trial with the dog to be qualified for the finals.

## G. TRIAL RULES

### 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. Such as multiple dogs being ran by same handler. Officials may allow one run in-between dogs to keep flow of trial going.
5. A handler cannot name the order in which his/her dog shall run.
6. **A random or rotation draw determines the run order.**

### RULINGS

- The person giving the handler meeting is the official of that trial. What he/she states is the final ruling. This person is usually the trial host but sometimes a person who is delegated the duty.
- No exhibition runs will be allowed
- 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 disqualified. Hopping will not be considered as running.
- 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.
- The Ranch/Nursery/Novice classes should be offered the same number of obstacles with the same amount of time as is offered in the Open class.
- In general the course difficulty in Ranch/Nursery should be less than in Open and course difficulty in Novice less than in Ranch/Nursery. 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.
- 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. If a handler's line is used as part of the course, the handler that did not forfeit points by crossing the handler's line in order to assist dog will be determined to have higher placing than the tied run of the handler that did cross the handler's line and assist the dog.
- Contestants must not go into or through an obstacle they are working. If a contestant goes into or through the obstacle they are working, they will be disqualified. Contestants cannot reach through and or touch any panel, fence or gate (unless the gate is part of working an obstacle). If handlers touch the stock they will be disqualified. Contestants will also not be allowed to waive a cap/hat, carry a leash in hand or use anything else as an extension of their body to affect the movement of cattle in attempt to gain time and/or points or the handler will be disqualified.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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, Ranch, Nursery 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.

- To be eligible for the SWCDA Finals Trial, a handler must be a member in good standing and their dog must compete in at least three (3) SWCDA trials of the year of the Finals. If the NCA classes are included in the SWCDA finals, the same rules apply to the NCA handlers as apply to the SWCDA handlers. They must be a member of the SWCDA and the NCA and have competed in three trials (Open, Nursery or Intermediate) at SWCDA sanctioned trials during the year.
- 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.
- 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.
- DOY points will be awarded for each go around at the Finals trial, but NOT on the average.
- Presently there are two (2) go-rounds for each class (Open, Ranch, Nursery and Novice). The premium money will be divided into 20% for each go-round and 60% for the average.
- All cattle used in the SWCDA finals must be exposed to dogs prior to the first go-round.
- 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. 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.
- j. If a handler chooses to retire the run, handler will be given all points earned up until the time of retire, with full time.

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 four (4) entries are considered qualifying trials, but do not award Dog of the Year points. For DOY points to be awarded in any division at the finals there MUST be four (4) or more dogs entered. Even though a dog may not earn doy points at qualifying trials, if there are four (4) or more entered in the finals they would earn points in each go-round of the finals. If less than four (4) dogs are entered in a division the trial host reserves the right to exclude any awards...such as buckles, jackets, food etc, but would still earn payback monies.

- 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 placing's plus his placing's 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. In case of a tie for DOY there will be a "shootout" to break the tie. The shootout will take place at the end of the finals run order. The committee will use a draw to pick the run order of the shootout. The trial course will be modified from the course ran during the finals. If needed, we will allow dogs to have an opportunity to rest before coming back into compete for the shootout.

c. 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 and the reserve Dog of the Year will be required to advance to the next highest class i.e., Novice to Ranch, Nursery to Ranch and Ranch to Open.
- When a Ranch Handler has reached 60 points with a dog, that handler and dog will advance from Ranch to Open. When a Novice Handler has reached 40 points with a dog, that handler will advance to Ranch. If class points are reached before year end Finals that handler and dog may remain and compete the remainder of the year in the class they started in and at the Finals after which they will advance the following year with that dog.
- The Nursery dogs that win Dog of the Year and Reserve Dog of the Year will be required to move into the Ranch class even if its age is still under the 30 months rule.

**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%

<u>NUMBER OF PLACES TO PAY</u>					
1 PLACE FOR EVERY 3 ENTRIES, 1 PLACE FOR EVERY 4 ENTRIES AND 1 PLACE FOR EVERY 5 ENTRIES					
1 for every 3		1 for every 4		1 for every 5	
# of Entries	Pay	# of Entries	Pay	# of Entries	Pay
1-4	1	1-5	1	1-7	1
5-7	2	6-9	2	8-12	2
8-10	3	10-13	3	13-17	3
11-13	4	14-17	4	18-22	4
14-16	5	18-21	5	23-27	5
17-19	6	22-25	6	28-32	6
20-22	7	26-29	7		
23-25	8	30-33	8		

## SWCDA-FUTURITY RULES

SWCDA will hold its' first futurity during the 2015 SWCDA Finals. This may be held in conjunction with the finals or a day or two before the regularly scheduled membership finals depending upon entries.

### **Futurity Eligibility**

- Dogs must be 30 months or younger on or before the first trial day of the SWCDA futurity.
  - Age of the dog must be proven by registration.
  - Any breed registration is accepted.
  - Copy of papers must accompany entry fee and form.
- Dogs CAN NOT be trialed or exhibited anywhere in the world prior to the SWCDA futurity. This includes any competition format that is hosted by trial affiliations/organizations/associations as well as dog breaking cattle for a trial.
- If SWCDA finds out that the dog has been trialed or exhibited prior to the SWCDA futurity all monies and trophies will be forfeited and/or returned.

## **Futurity Guidelines**

- SWCDA futurity will be ran as a separate class
- If logistics allow-futurity dogs will have their own set of fresh (dog exposed) cattle.
- Course obstacles will be set by SWCDA board of directors, with consideration to age and lack of experience of dogs, temperament of cattle and arena design.
- The futurity class will be ran prior to the regular membership finals.
- Any handler may trial a futurity dog at the SWCDA futurity-it is each handler's responsibility to check with other organizations to see if this might affect his/her status with those associations.
- Entry fee will be set at \$300/dog
- 100% payback-less the cattle charge
- Payout plus trophy belt buckles will be awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion
- Payout scale- 60% to Champion and 40% to Reserve Champion
- Any additional or promotional money given toward the futurity will be noted on the website at least 30days prior to the event.
- All information regarding the futurity class will be posted to the website 30days prior to the event. Such information will include but not limited to, date, time, location, entry deadline, and so forth.

## **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). I CERTIFY THE DOG AND HANDLER ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CLASS ENTERED.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name:\_\_\_\_\_

