

## Handler's Meeting SWCDA Rules

1. 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;
2. To be eligible for DOY points, Handler and Owner must be a member of SWCDA regardless of who runs the dog.
3. Dogs eligible to compete in sanctioned Nursery trials must have been born after May 1st three years prior to the year of the finals in which they are competing.
4. Novice can only compete in the Novice class.
5. A Dog may be run by 2 or more handlers at the same trial as long as one of the classes is Novice.
6. A handler shall not enter the trial field at any time with any kind of training device, including but not limited to; a crook or sorting stick.
7. All collars/leashes must be removed before casting your dog with no physical contact between handler and dog. The trial committee, representative, or other trial official will disqualify a handler if he/she cast their dog with any such equipment or physical contact between dog and handler.
8. 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
9. 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.
10. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, an entry must run in order drawn.
11. Contestants must not go into or through an obstacle until that obstacle has been completed. If a contestant goes into or through the obstacle they are working or has yet to be worked, they will be disqualified.
12. Contestants cannot reach through and or touch any panel, fence or gate (unless the gate is part of working the obstacle). If handlers touch the stock they will be disqualified.
13. 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 an attempt to gain time and/or points, or the handler will be disqualified.
14. 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 trail 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.
15. If time has expired before the handler has completed the course, the handler will be given credit for the stock that has completed the obstacle being worked.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. The fetch, at least in the Open class, must be completed with the handlers remaining behind the handler's line unless a handler chooses to forfeit their points for the first obstacle by crossing the handler's line in order to help their dog