



ESTABLISHED 1957

**AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA**

# **CONFORMATION**

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

June 2017

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These amended Rules and Regulations are effective June 1, 2017, unless otherwise noted.

Shaded areas indicate rule changes with effective date listed.

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Individual copies of this rulebook are \$2.50 for Full members and \$5.00 for Service members.

*The ASCA National Specialty Rules differ from these Program Rules in certain areas.  
Please go to the ASCA website ([www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org)) for the National Specialty Rules or request a copy from  
[membership@asca.org](mailto:membership@asca.org).*

*The following contents are clickable links that will take you directly to that section.*

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Found at the back of these rules:

**ASCA Judges Code of Ethics**

**ASCA Dog Aggression Rules**

**ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol & Form**

# 1 General Explanations

## 1.1 Definition: Dog

The word “dog” wherever used in these Rules and Regulations includes both sexes.

## 1.2 Definition: United States of America

The words “United States of America” wherever used in these Rules and Regulations shall be constructed to include all territories and possessions of the United States of America and all vessels sailing under the American Flag.

## 1.3 Definition: Australian Shepherd Club of America

The words “Australian Shepherd Club of America” may appear in these rules in an abbreviated form as “ASCA”.

## 1.4 Definition: Immediate Family

The immediate family members of a person are that person’s parents, grandparents, children, or other descendants, siblings, domestic partner, together with such domestic partner’s parents and children, including any step-relationship or in-law relationship among any such persons.

## 1.5 Definition: Immediate Household

The immediate household is defined as any persons, regardless of relationship, living within the confines of said property lines for longer than 2 weeks within the previous 12 months.

## 1.6 Definition: Club

The word “Club” is defined as an ASCA Affiliate in good standing.

## 1.7 ASCA Entry Form

All entries must be made on the official ASCA entry form.

## 1.8 Collars

Special training collars shall not be used on the grounds or premises. These requirements shall not be interpreted as preventing a handler from moving normally about on the grounds or premises with a dog on leash.

## 1.9 Training on Grounds or Premises

There shall be no intensive or abusive training of dogs on the grounds or premises.

## 1.10 Abuse of Dogs

The show committee shall investigate any reports of abuse of dogs or severe disciplining of dogs on the grounds or premises of a show. Any person who conducts himself in such manner shall be dealt with promptly in accordance with [Chapter 11](#) and the [ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol](#).

## 1.11 Code of Personal Conduct

According to ASCA's By-Laws, one of the objectives and purposes of the Club is to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Australian Shepherd as a purebred dog and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, working and obedience trials, tracking tests/trials and at any other event where Australian Shepherds participate. Contestants, event workers, judges, and visitors are expected to maintain a family-oriented, sportsmanlike atmosphere. Judges and workers are expected to exhibit professionalism and courtesy. Competitors are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level of sportsmanship.

### Personal Conduct and Sportsmanship at ASCA Events

ASCA has the right to reprimand or suspend its members, contestants, judges, helpers, and officials, from any or all privileges of ASCA for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Australian Shepherd, ASCA events or ASCA. ASCA has the right to remove from its show grounds any visitors who violate its code of conduct. Everyone at an ASCA event shall maintain the highest level of sportsmanship and are to conduct themselves accordingly. Foul/abusive language, yelling at exhibitors or judges, disorderly conduct, and/or poor sportsmanship will not be allowed and will be disciplined.



Poor Sportsmanship is grounds for discipline. This includes purposeful harassment and bullying. If poor conduct occurs, an Affiliate or the ASCA Board of Directors may take direct action, even if no formal request for conflict resolution is filed. If a representative of the Affiliate (Show Secretary, President, other officer, etc.) witnesses improper conduct, the Affiliate should remove the disruptive individual(s) from the event grounds for the entire show/trial weekend. Any other person observing poor sportsmanship should file a Request for Conflict Resolution, making the behavior in question subject to the ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol.

The presiding Judge/Judges is/are responsible for enforcing the preceding within the ring/trial arena. The Event Committee is responsible for enforcing the preceding outside the ring/trial arena and within the Show Grounds.

For enforcement, the following definitions apply:

Boundaries of Ring/Trial Arena and Show Grounds:

- a. RING/TRIAL ARENA: The ring/trial arena is the bounded area in which judging of an event occurs and over which the Judge has authority. The boundary is defined by physical barriers plus a buffer zone extending ten (10) feet from such physical barriers.
- b. SHOW GROUNDS: The Show Grounds are the boundaries of the grounds on which ASCA events are held. They include, but not limited to, all areas outside the ring/trial arena (including the buffer zone) set aside to support the conduct of the event.

## **1.12 Boundaries**

Boundaries of Ring/Trial Arena and Show Grounds:

- a. RING/TRIAL ARENA: The ring/Trial arena is the bounded area in which judging of and ASCA event occurs and over which the Judge has authority. The boundary is defined by physical barriers plus a buffer zone extending ten (10) feet from such physical barriers.
- b. SHOW GROUNDS: The Show Grounds are the boundaries of the grounds on which ASCA events are being held. They include, but not limited to, all areas outside the ring/trial arena (including the buffer zone) set aside for grooming, holding of dogs, and parking of vehicles of the exhibitor.

## **2 Dog Show Defined**

### **2.1 Specialty Show**

A “Specialty” Show is a show sanctioned by an ASCA Affiliate Club at which Championship points will be given and which includes an obedience and/or working trial. See [CHAPTER 5 SPECIALTY SHOWS](#).

### **2.2 Member Show**

A “Member” Show is a show at which Championship points may be awarded. Application for sanctioning of this type of show must be submitted by an ASCA Affiliate Club in good standing.

### **2.3 National Specialty**

The National Specialty is governed by the ASCA Board of Directors.

## 3 Making an Application to Hold a Show, Sanctioning Rules, Approval of Judges List

If Application is for a Specialty Also See [Chapter 5: Specialty Shows](#).

### 3.1 Sanctioning Requirement

All shows giving championship points must be sanctioned by ASCA.

### 3.2 Sanctioning Application

ASCA Affiliate Clubs that meet the requirements of ASCA and wish to hold a Conformation Dog Show, at which Championship points may be awarded, must make application to ASCA on the form provided for permission to hold such show. The Sanctioning form shall list date, location, Show Secretary/Chairman's name, address and phone number, all classes offered, judges names and addresses and assignments, unless as otherwise provided in [SECTION 4.13](#), [SECTION 5.2.h](#).

Any ASCA Affiliated Club requesting ASCA sanctioning for any event(s) shall, when making application for said event(s), include any applicable county, state, country or any other bylaws, rules of conduct or associated restrictions regarding dogs, their exhibition and the holding of said event(s) and shall include a list of such rules, bylaws or restrictions in the premium list. Such rules, restrictions, bylaws etc. shall be printed in English and the language of the country where said event(s) will be held, listing all pertinent information. This application must be submitted and postmarked no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the event. A sanction fee, as determined by the board, per trial shall be submitted with the application.

All entries shall close prior to the judging of the first class.

Pre-entry deadlines must be determined and set by "postmark date" of mailing.

All Affiliate clubs must send a show flyer to the ASCA Business Office along with the sanctioning forms.

#### Show Premium/Flyer Required Information

- Name of affiliate club hosting the event.
- Sanctioning status (pending or approved)
- A statement that the trial will be held under the current rules and regulations of ASCA.
- Date and Location of show(s) including physical address.
- Number of conformation shows and other events.
- Pre-Entry opening and closing times.
- Show/trial secretary and show/trial chairperson's name and contact information. Other trial officials may also be listed.
- Judges names, accompanied by their affiliation, including their judge's assignments.
- A listing of all classes offered for each day.
- Judging start times and order of classes.
- Fee amounts for pre-entry and day of show entries for classes offered (Non-regular, regular, junior showmanship and additional classes)
- A statement that no entry shall be accepted from a dog or handler disqualified from the ASCA Conformation program; a dog or handler disqualified from all ASCA programs; or a person not in good standing with ASCA.
- A description of prizes and awards.
- Description of the show/trial's setting (indoor/out, electric or none, etc.) and the ring surfacing (grass, grass/dirt, sand, matting over concrete, carpet, sod, shavings, etc.)
- Time the entrance or show grounds will be open.
- Late or early arrival contact information (list a contact number and person)
- Local veterinarians for emergency contact

- Rules of the club (including waivers to be signed)
- Listing of any applicable local laws or show site regulations pertaining to the exhibition of dogs. (including waivers to be signed)
- Grooming area information (Electricity, tent, inside/outside, etc.)
- Local hotel(s) and pet accommodation information
- RV hook up amenities and availability (RV Park Guide) (if applicable)
- Food Vendor information
- Show photographer information (if applicable)

The most current ASCA approved entry form must be included, or a link to the entry forms on the ASCA website should be included.

### 3.3 Sanctioning Fee

A sanctioning fee will be submitted to the ASCA Business Office with the official request for sanctioning form, which will be supplied on request from the ASCA Business Office. The club shall pay a fee, the amount to be fixed and determined by the ASCA Board of Directors, for the privilege of holding such show under ASCA Rules. The ASCA Business Office will consider the same and notify the club(s) of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected. If the ASCA Business Office disapproves the application the fee will be returned to said club(s).

### 3.4 Late Sanctioning Fee

Sanctioning requests received between 30-45 days prior to an event will be accepted upon payment of a fine, a fee to be determined by the board, for the first three (3) days past the 45-day postmark deadline with an increase to, a fee to be determined by the board, per day thereafter. Sanctioning request \*received by the Business Office\* less than 30 days prior to a sanctioned event will not be accepted under any circumstances. Clubs submitting delinquent sanctioning request 3 times will lose all late sanctioning privileges for a period of 2 years. It is recommended Clubs retain proof of mailing for all sanctioning requests.

The ASCA Business Office will not accept responsibility for sanctioning requests lost in the mail. All sanctioning requests sent after the 45-day postmark deadline must be original forms (no faxes or e-mails) and must have all required signatures and fees.

If the Host Club with the preexisting dates postmarks their sanctioning request form past the 45-day deadline and it is not received 30 days prior to the event, they will lose first right to this date for that year.

### 3.5 Show Coordinator

The Show Coordinator must be an ASCA member in good standing and appointed by the Affiliate Club hosting a show. The Show Coordinator will be responsible for filing show/trial request forms for show sanctioning along with appropriate fees in a timely manner. The Show Coordinator is also responsible for filing all show/trial reports with appropriate fees to ASCA after the show in a timely manner. (See [Chapter 13](#)).

### 3.6 Show Secretary

A show secretary / chairman must be a Full ASCA member in good standing.

### 3.7 Extension Request Form

A club may file an Extension Request – Conformation / Obedience Judge Extension Form with its sanctioning request if additional time is required to obtain Conformation / Obedience judges.

- When the Obedience/Conformation Judge Extension Request is utilized, a list of the Judges' names, address contact information, and judging assignment has to be sent to the ASCA Business Office for approval no later than 21 days prior to the date of the show.
- Shows will not be sanctioned until the ASCA Business Office receives a completed Judges' list and all Judges have been approved by the ASCA Business Office. The completed Judges' list must be postmarked no later than 21 days prior to the date of the show.

### **3.8 ASCA Judge's Books**

ASCA Judge's Books will include the total number of regular class dogs and bitches, the armband numbers of the Winners, Reserve Winners, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex, and Best of Breed, and must be signed by the Judge.

### **3.9 Change of Show Location**

In the event it becomes necessary to change the physical location where a show is to be held, after the Sanctioning form has been received by the ASCA Business Office, the show committee or the show coordinator shall obtain approval of the new show location from the ASCA Business Office.

- a. If the location change is made prior to twenty (20) days before the date(s) of the show, notice of the change must be sent to all prospective exhibitors.
- b. The club will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place at the original location informing exhibitors of the change in location. The notice must state specific directions to the new location.

### **3.10 Submission of Records**

Refer to Chapter 13 for submission of a show's records to the ASCA Business Office.

### **3.11 Hosting ASCA Events**

Only ASCA Affiliate Clubs, in good standing, may sanction ASCA events. A "type of event" is defined as Conformation or Obedience or Stock Dog Trial or Tracking or Agility. An ASCA Affiliate club may host more than one Conformation event per day, per state or area (for those states or regions divided by areas).

California is divided into three (3) areas: from the Mexican border north to the city of Ventura, from Ventura north to San Jose, from San Jose north to Oregon. Nevada is divided in two (2) areas: From the southernmost border North to Highway 6 North to the Oregon and Idaho borders.

### **3.12 Official ASCA Event**

Official ASCA programs that require sanctioning and award points or qualifying scores that lead to an ASCA title shall not be conducted by any individual(s), non ASCA Affiliated corporation(s) or business(es).

Affiliate Club(s) in good standing with ASCA will have the exclusive right to schedule, sanction and conduct Official ASCA programs.

No individual(s), non ASCA Affiliated corporation(s) or business(es) shall realize any monetary profit, or any other benefit as a result of any connection with an ASCA sanctioned event. Normal event sponsorship or advertisement by any individual(s), corporation(s) or business(s) shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule. Individuals, corporations or businesses that enter into agreements with Affiliate Clubs to supply materials, services, facility rentals, livestock rentals or any other need required for the conduct of sanctioned events shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule.

The use of a Club's name for event purposes cannot be transferred.

### **3.13 ASCA Breed Standard and ASCA Show Rules**

All clubs holding shows under ASCA rules must have available at each show, a copy of the ASCA Breed Standard and the ASCA Show Rules.

### **3.14 Armbands**

Any club giving a dog show must provide armbands and shall see that every person exhibiting a dog wears, when in the ring, an armband with the entry number of the dog being exhibited.

### **3.15 Exhibitor Identification**

No badges, coats with kennel names, dog's names or any advertisements, shall be worn or displayed, nor any other visible means of identification used, by an individual when exhibiting a dog in the ring.

### **3.16 Right to Show Dates**

Each Host Club, which holds a sanctioned event at least once in every 2 consecutive years, shall have first right to claim the corresponding dates or holiday weekend for its event to be held in the next succeeding two years. If the Club having first right to the date(s) does not host a sanctioned event on that date in the following year, another Club may use the preexisting date for an event. The original Club shall still have first right to the date(s) on the second year following their original event. If they do not host a sanctioned event on that date in the second year, they lose the first right to the date. The ASCA Business Office will hold paperwork from any other Club wishing to use a preexisting date until the ASCA Business Office has been notified that the Host Club with the preexisting date will not use the event date that year. If paperwork has to be held pending receipt of the notification from the Host Club with the preexisting date, the ASCA Business Office will notify the second Club within 14 days upon receipt of the Sanctioning Request Form. To facilitate timely receipt of materials, Clubs wishing to use a preexisting date should contact the Host Club and request notification be sent in writing to the ASCA Business Office stating the preexisting date will not be used that year. If the Host Club with the preexisting date does not use that date on the second year following their original event, first claim to that date will pass to a second Host Club, if there is one. If a date has not been previously claimed, the Host Club whose sanctioning is postmarked first shall be awarded the date.

When determining when a club that has a grand-fathered weekend, the Business Office will make the determination based on the date that the Saturday of the weekend falls on to determine which month the show weekend falls on.

### **3.17 Affiliate Club State/Area**

ASCA Affiliate Clubs shall not request sanctioning for any event to be held outside of their state/area that is already served by at least one Affiliate Club. If a state/area is not served by an Affiliate Club then an Affiliate Club from another state/area may sanction events there on a first come basis.

If an Affiliate Club wishes to sanction an event at a site that is outside of their state/area, they must first secure written permission from all of the Affiliates in that state/area. This written permission shall be submitted to the Business Office with the Sanction request before sanctioning can be granted.

If an Affiliate Club organizes in a state/area that formerly did not have an Affiliate Club, then the new Club shall have primary sanctioning authority. Out of state/area Affiliate Clubs must then follow the procedure as outlined in the previous two paragraphs.

Affiliate Clubs who sanction pre-national events to be held in the state/area of the National Specialty event are exempt from the provisions of this section.

## 4 Dog Show Classification

The mandatory regular classes of ASCA are as follows:

- 6 months to 9 months
- 9 months to 12 months
- 12 months to 15 months
- 15 months to 18 months
- Novice
- American Bred
- Bred by Exhibitor
- Open Blue Merle
- Open Red Merle
- Open Black
- Open Red
- Winners
- Best of Breed

These classes shall be divided by sex, except Best of Breed.

### 4.1 6 Months to 9 Months Class

The 6 months to 9 months Class shall be for dogs that are six months of age or over, but less than nine months, and that are not champions. The age of the dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show.

### 4.2 9 Months to 12 Months Class

The 9 months to 12 months Class shall be for dogs that are nine (9) months or over, but less than twelve (12) months, and that are not champions. The age of the dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show.

### 4.3 12 Months to 15 Months Class

The 12 months to 15 months Class shall be for dogs that are twelve (12) months or over, but less than fifteen (15) months, and that are not champions. The age of the dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show.

### 4.4 15 Months to 18 Months Class

The 15 months to 18 months Class shall be for dogs that are fifteen (15) months or over, but less than eighteen (18) months, and that are not champions. The age of the dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show.

### 4.5 Novice Class

The Novice Class shall be for dogs six (6) months of age and over, which have not, prior to the date of closing entries, won three (3) First Place Prizes in the Novice Class, a First prize in the 12 months to 15 months Class, 15 months to 18 months Class, Bred by Exhibitor Class, American Bred Class, Open Classes, nor one or more points toward their ASCA Championship.

### 4.6 American Bred Class

The American Bred Class shall be for all dogs, (except ASCA Champions), six (6) months of age and over, whelped in the United States of America, by reason of a mating which took place in the United States of America. For any shows not held in the United States of America, this class may be changed to recognize the country in which the show is held (i.e. Canadian Bred, German Bred, Italian Bred, etc.). All other conditions remain the same.

### 4.7 Bred by Exhibitor Class

The Bred by Exhibitor Class shall be for dogs that are:

1. Six (6) months of age and over
2. That are not ASCA Champions
3. That are owned or co-owned by a breeder of record or a member of the breeder's immediate family.

To handle a dog in the Bred by Exhibitor Class, either of the following conditions must be met:

1. Handler must be an owner or co-owner of record and be a breeder of record or
2. Handler must be an immediate family member of the breeder who maintains ownership of the dog.

The winner of the Bred by Class may be handled by other than the above-named individuals in any subsequent class for which it becomes eligible.

#### **4.8 The Open Class**

The Open Class shall be for any dog, (except ASCA Champions), six (6) months of age or over. The Open Class must be divided into the four accepted colors as described in the ASCA Breed Standard; Open Blue Merle, Open Red Merle, Open Black and Open Red.

#### **4.9 Winners Class**

The Winners Class shall be divided by sex and each division shall be open only to undefeated dogs of the same sex which have won first prizes in either the six (6) months to nine (9) months, nine (9) months to twelve (12) months, twelve (12) months to fifteen (15) months, fifteen (15) months to eighteen (18) months, Novice, American Bred, Bred by Exhibitor or Open Classes. There shall be no entry fee for competition in the Winners Class. After the Winners prize has been awarded in one of the sex divisions, the dog placing second to the winning dog, if undefeated except by the dog awarded Winners, shall compete with the other eligible dogs for Reserve Winners. No eligible dog may be withheld from competition.

#### **4.10 Best of Breed**

The awards in Best of Breed competition shall be Best of Breed, Best Opposite Sex and Best of Winners. The following categories of dogs may be entered and shown in this competition:

- a. Dogs that are ASCA Champions of Record;
- b. Dogs, which according to their owner's records have completed the requirements for a championship, but whose championships are unconfirmed.
- c. The showing of dogs whose championships are unconfirmed (either in classes or in Best of Breed competition) is limited to a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the show where a dog completed the requirements for a championship or until certification of championship is issued.

#### **4.11 Undefeated in Regular Classes**

Dogs Competing in Winners and/or Best of Breed class must not have been defeated in any Regular class.

#### **4.12 Junior Showmanship**

A club holding a show must offer Junior Showmanship competition. The classes and procedures shall conform to ASCA regulations governing Junior Showmanship as adopted by the ASCA Junior Showmanship Rules.

#### **4.13 Non-Regular Classes**

The optional non-regular classes of ASCA are: Two to Four Month Puppy, Four to Six Month Puppy, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Brace, State Bred and Veterans. Puppy classes must be divided by sex. Additional non-regular classes may be offered. Classes that are not mentioned in Chapter 4, Section 4.13 must have complete rules governing the class listed on the premium. ASCA approved Conformation Judges must be used. National Specialty Breeder Judge Restrictions shall apply to this program.

#### **4.14 Non-Regular Rules**

The following rules will apply if these non-regular classes are included:

- a. Two to Four Month Puppy class shall be for dogs that are two months of age and over, but under four months of age. Four to Six Month Puppy class shall be for dogs that are four months of age and over, but under six months of age.  
The age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of the show. These classes may be divided by color. The winners of these classes shall compete for Best of Breed Puppy and Best of Opposite Sex Puppy and compete no further. These puppies may be altered.



- b. Stud Dog class shall consist of the sire and two (2) to four (4) of his progeny, two (2) of which must be at least six months of age or over and entered in a regular class. Entry for this class shall be in the name of the sire and none of his progeny shall be entered as a sire in this class. The Stud Dog may be neutered.
- c. Brood Bitch class shall consist of the dam and two (2) to four (4) of her progeny, two (2) of which must be at least six months of age and over and must be entered in a regular class. Entry shall be in the name of the dam and none of her progeny shall be entered as a dam in this class. The Brood Bitch may be spayed. In the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch classes, the merits of the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch are not considered in the placement of the entry. It is the quality of the get that forms the basis for the judge's decision. All get must be examined and gaited. The Stud Dog and Brood Bitch must also be examined to determine if there is a condition that would require disqualification or excusal under ASCA Rules or the ASCA breed standard. In addition to the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch, all handlers must wear an armband designating the get being exhibited. This class may be held prior to or after Best of Breed Judging.
- d. Brace class shall consist of entries of two dogs each of similar coloring, markings and type that work as a team. A team may be composed of two dogs of any combination of male, female, intact or altered.
- e. State Bred class shall consist of dogs whelped in a given state.
- f. The Veteran's Class or classes is open only to dogs which have reached their seventh (7) birthday. This class is open to spayed and neutered dogs and must be divided by sex.
- g. Sweepstakes Class may be divided by sex or age. Minimum age requirement of the dog must be two months. No maximum age requirement. Refer to [Chapter 6, Section 6.2](#) for awards.
- h. Movement Class may be divided by sex or age. Minimum age requirement of the dog must be two months. No maximum age requirement. Class is to be judged on the movement of the exhibits. A judge's hands-on examination is not required.
- i. Non-regular class winners shall not become eligible to move on to any regular conformation class by virtue of their non-regular class award.

#### **4.15 ASCA Altered Conformation Program (A-CH)**

The Altered Conformation Program shall be a regular, mandatory program held in conjunction with all ASCA Conformation events. All ASCA Conformation Rules and Regulations shall apply to the Altered Program.

##### **4.15.1 Eligibility**

Eligibility is restricted to regular ASCA registered dogs that have been spayed or neutered, whether surgically or chemically. LEP registered dogs are not eligible for competition in altered or non-altered conformation programs. The ASCA Breed Standard shall be used as a measurement of comparison in all other areas regarding Altered Championship competition. Points earned in non-Altered conformation classes can be carried over into the Altered Conformation. ASCA Champions of record will be eligible to compete in Best of Breed in the Altered Program if they have been spayed or neutered, whether surgically or chemically. Dogs that have a chip or chemical implant inserted to lower hormone levels are not eligible for the Altered Conformation Program. Once a dog has been exhibited in an Altered Conformation Program, it is no longer eligible for the Intact Conformation Program.

##### **4.15.2 Classes**

Regular Classes shall be:

- 6 months to 9 months
- 9 months to 12 months
- 12 months to 15 months
- 15 months to 18 months
- Novice
- American Bred
- Bred by Exhibitor
- Open Blue Merle
- Open Red Merle
- Open Black
- Open Red
- Winners

- Best of Breed

These classes shall be divided by sex except for Best of Breed.

#### **4.15.3 Championships**

- Championship points will be recorded according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each and according to the ASCA Schedule of Points. The point schedule shall begin at ASCA Schedule One for both dogs and bitches and shall be applied across all regions. As participation increases, the schedule may be reviewed and increased to preserve the integrity of the program and the title of ASCA Altered Champion.
- Championship points will be recorded for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch at member dog shows approved by the Australian Shepherd Club of America. The exhibition of altered dogs for championship points shall be limited to the Altered Program.
- If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Breed, the dogs of both sexes that have been entered for Best of Breed competition and that have been defeated in such competition, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.
- If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, the dogs of its own sex that have been entered for Best of Breed and that have been defeated in competition for Best of Opposite Sex shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.
- The dog awarded the Best of Winners shall be credited with the number of points calculated for Winners Dog or Winners Bitch, whichever is greater.
- In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.
- Any dog which shall have won fifteen (15) points shall become an Altered Champion of Record, if nine (9) or more of said points shall have been won at three (3) shows with a rating of three (3) or more championship points each under three (3) different judges. A dog becomes an Altered Champion of Record when it is so officially recorded by the ASCA Activities Coordinator, and shall be entitled to an Altered Championship Certificate, A-CH.

#### **4.15.4 Judges**

ASCA approved Conformation Judges must be used. National Specialty Breeder Judge restrictions shall apply to this program. Only approved Senior Breeder Judges are eligible to judge this event at the National Specialty.

#### **4.15.5 Overview**

- A national ranking system similar to the one used for Intact conformation shall be instituted at the inception of this program to allow for breeder/dog recognition and encourage participation in this program.
- This event shall be held as a Regular competition at Nationals and recognized ASCA Senior Breeder judges will be utilized to judge this program at the National Specialty.
- Dogs finished in this program shall count towards a breeder's conformation judging qualifications.

## 5 Specialty Shows

### 5.1 Sanctioning

- a. Prior request for sanctioning must be sent to the ASCA Business Office and must be dated/postmarked (hand canceled/legible) at least ninety (90) days prior to the date or dates of the show. The ASCA Business Office will confirm or deny the requested date within fifteen (15) days of receipt of paperwork. The club is responsible to see that all official show forms are submitted. (See [SECTION 3.3](#) & [SECTION 3.4](#))
- b. A Specialty will be pre-entry only, and a show catalogue and premium list will be printed.

### 5.2 Premium List

- a. Each club which has been granted permission by ASCA to hold a Specialty must submit in time to reach the ASCA Business Office at least sixty (60) days before its closing date for entries, two (2) samples of its premium list and/or two printed copies of the Internet web page with its Internet address. The ASCA Business Office will return, not later than forty-five (45) days before the closing date for entries of the show or trial, one copy of the premium list indicating thereon, all necessary corrections, deletions and revisions.
- b. The ASCA Business Office will confirm or deny sanctioning with the return of the sample premium list.
- c. Premium lists and entry forms will be at least 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches.
- d. Every premium list shall specify the date at which entries for a show shall close. The premium list shall also specify the name, address and phone number of the Show Secretary and the person who is to receive the entries.
- e. Premium lists and entry forms must be sent to prospective exhibitors at least thirty-five (35) days prior to the closing date for entries of the show if sent by other than FIRST CLASS MAIL and at least thirty (30) days if sent by FIRST CLASS MAIL. Prospective exhibitors include those in attendance at this show in the preceding year.
- f. The awards at a dog show or the scores made at an obedience trial, will be officially recorded by ASCA only if the certification of the ASCA Business Office is published on the first page of the premium list stating that permission has been granted by ASCA for the dog show to be held under ASCA rules and regulations, i.e.: "ASCA Sanctioned" and "ASCA Show Rules Apply."
- g. The premium list shall contain the following: a list of the officers of the show giving club, a list of the members of the Show Committee, together with the designations of "Chairperson" and the Chairperson's address (and "Obedience Trial Chairperson" and/or Course Director), the names of the veterinarians (or name of local Veterinary Association), whether the veterinarian will be in attendance throughout the show hours or "on call", names, city and state of the judges, together with their assignments, and the name, address and phone number of the show secretary. The premium list shall also specify the exact location of the show, the date or dates on which it is to be held, and the times of opening and closing of the show.
- h. If more than one judge has been approved to judge a specialty show, the premium list must designate the particular assignments of each judge as approved by the ASCA Business Office, except when the member club has requested and received approval for the drawing of assignments at the show, in which case a statement to this effect shall appear in the premium list in place of designated assignments.
- i. Show committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the government of their show as shall be considered necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule of ASCA. Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the rules and regulations of ASCA.
- j. No prizes may be accepted or offered by a show giving club unless they are published in the premium list of the show or in the separate list of prizes if the condensed form of premium list is used; nor may any be withdrawn or the conditions thereof changed after they have been published in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes. If the donor of a prize that has been published in the premium list of a show or in the separate list of prizes shall fail to furnish the prize, the show giving club shall supply a prize of the same description and of no less value in a reasonable period of time. The show giving club shall be responsible for all errors made in publishing offers of prizes and shall, in the event of error, award prizes of equal value; except that if an error has been made in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes in

publishing the conditions of the club's special awards (as described in [SECTION 6.8](#)), prizes shall be awarded according to the current terms of the club's Special Awards.

### 5.3 Ribbons

See [Chapter 6](#).

### 5.4 Catalogues

- a. Every Show Committee must provide a printed catalogue, which shall contain all particulars, required of exhibitors entering dogs as hereinafter provided. It shall also contain the exact location of the show, the date or dates on which it is to be held, the times of opening and closing of the show, a list of all officers and members of the Show Committee, city and state of all judges and address and phone number of the Show Secretary, the names of the local veterinary association and whether the veterinarian will be in attendance throughout the show or "on call" and the names and addresses of all exhibitors.

- b. Every catalogue must bear on its cover or title page: "This show is held under ASCA rules".

- c. The catalogue shall be in book form, no smaller than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches. It shall contain the names and particulars of all dogs entered in the show, arranged as follows: Catalogue number; name of dog; date of birth; name of breeder; names of sire and dam; name of owner.

The catalogue shall either give the address of the owner immediately after the owner's name under the identifying information for each dog entered, or shall include a separate alphabetical list of exhibitors' names and addresses.

The entries shall be catalogued by non-regular puppy classes, regular classes and non-regular classes, in the order given in Chapter 4. The information on dogs entered in any additional classes shall appear following the space provided for recording Winners Bitch and Reserve Winners Bitch followed by the particulars of those dogs entered for Best of Breed except that the entries in Brace, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, or any other classes in which the judge's decision is based on the merits of more than one dog shall appear following the list of dogs entered for Best of Breed, and the space provided for Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite Sex awards.

The particulars of those dogs entered For Exhibition Only shall appear following all other entries in the breed.

The Board of Directors may prescribe additional requirements for format and contents of the catalogue.

- d. The schedule of points toward Championships in the show shall be published in the catalogue.

- e. All prizes offered in the premium list of a show shall be printed in the catalogue, and no change shall be printed in the catalogue, and no change shall be made in the descriptions or conditions of these prizes, nor shall any prize or trophy be added that was not offered in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes.

## 6 Ribbons, Prizes, and Trophies

### 6.1 Colors

All clubs holding a show under the rules of ASCA may use the following colors for their prize ribbons or rosettes, in the regular classes.

- a. First Prize: Blue
- b. Second Prize: Red
- c. Third Prize: Yellow
- d. Fourth Prize: White
- e. Winners: Purple
- f. Reserve Winners: Purple and White
- g. Best of Winners: Blue and White
- h. Special Prize: Optional
- i. Best of Breed: Purple and Gold
- j. Best of Opposite Sex: Red & White

For the non-regular classes the following colors may be used as a guideline. Non-regular colors must be used when holding a Specialty show.

- a. First Prize: Rose
- b. Second Prize: Brown
- c. Third Prize: Light Green
- d. Fourth Prize: Gray
- e. Best of Breed Puppy: Orange
- f. Best of Opposite Sex Puppy: Lavender

Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least two (2) inches wide and eight (8) inches long and indicate on its face the placement.

THE ABOVE RIBBON AND/OR ROSETTE PRIZES AND COLORS MUST BE AWARDED AT SPECIALTY SHOWS.

The ASCA logo may be used in awards offered by an ASCA affiliate hosting a sanctioned show, trial, or agility competition.

### 6.2 Money Prizes

If money prizes are offered in a premium list of a show, a fixed amount or percent of entry money for each prize must be stated. All other prizes offered in a premium list of a show must be described.

### 6.3 Donations

A show giving club shall not accept the donation of a prize for a competition not provided for at its show.

### 6.4 Prizes Offered

All prizes offered in a premium list of a show must be offered to be awarded in the regular procedure of judging, with the exception of those prizes provided for in Section 6 of this Chapter.

### 6.5 Placements & Prizes

Prizes must be offered for outright award at a show for the following placings: First, Second, Third, Fourth in the Six to Nine Months, Nine to Twelve Months, Twelve to Fifteen Months, Fifteen to Eighteen Months, Novice, American Bred, Bred by Exhibitor or Open Classes, or in any division of these designated in the classification. First, Second, Third, Fourth, in any non-regular class, which the show giving club, may offer. Winners, Reserve Winners, Best of Winners, Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex. Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex Puppy, Junior Showmanship. Any awards offered in intact Conformation classes must be correspondingly and equally offered in Altered Conformation classes, with the exception of special awards listed in [Section 6.6](#).

## **6.6 Additional Placements & Prizes**

Ribbons and/or Rosettes for outright award may also be offered for: Best of Novice Classes, Best in Bred by Exhibitor Classes, Best in American Bred Classes, Best in Open Classes and Best in any additional classes which the show giving club may offer in which the sexes are divided. Additional prizes or trophies for the above placing are at the sole discretion of the show giving club.

## **6.7 Revolving or Traveling Prizes**

Special revolving or traveling prizes may be awarded at the donor's specifications.

## **6.8 Special Awards**

Special Awards are prizes offered by Specialty giving member clubs for outright and automatic award at any show where the terms have been published in full in the premium list of the show. It shall be the obligation of clubs offering such special awards to notify show secretaries and show giving clubs that said prizes may be offered provided the terms are set forth in full in the premium list of the show. The club will be solely responsible for the distribution of such prizes within sixty (60) days after the completion of a show when it has been determined that all the terms of the awards have been met. No club is obligated to accept an offering of special awards.

## 7 Judges

### 7.1 Qualifications

ASCA Breeder Judges and other persons whose qualifications meet the approval of ASCA may be selected for judging.

In no case will a judge be approved if suspended from the privileges of ASCA, the AKC/CKC/UKC or the sponsoring member club.

### 7.2 Conditions for Disapproval

ASCA will not approve as judge for any given show the following:

- a. Show Secretary
- b. Show Chairperson
- c. Show Veterinarians

### 7.3 Officiating & Competing

A Conformation Judge may not compete with any dog at the same sanctioned Conformation Event he or she is officiating. If multiple Conformation events are held in a single day, the judge may not compete at any of the Conformation events on the same day he or she is officiating. Event is defined in [Section 3.12](#).

### 7.4 Owned or Co-Owned Dogs

No dog owned, co-owned, bred, or co-bred by an officiating Conformation judge can compete in the same Conformation event that he or she is judging. An exception will be made for a show at which multiple judges are judging. Dogs owned or co-owned by a judge may not be shown at that show, but dogs bred or co-bred by a judge may be shown, as long as they are not shown under the judge who bred or co-bred them. **(Effective June 2017)**

Dogs owned, co-owned, bred, or co-bred by an officiating judge may be shown in Junior Showmanship as long as the judge is not judging Junior Showmanship.

In no case will a junior show a dog to a judge who is an owner or co-owner, breeder or co-breeder of the dog.

### 7.5 Competition Restrictions

A Conformation judge shall not personally exhibit any dogs at an ASCA sanctioned Conformation event, in the same state in which he is to judge, four (4) days prior to the judging assignment.

### 7.6 Judgment Restrictions

A Conformation Judge shall not pass judgment on:

- a. Any dog who said judge or a member of his immediate family or household owns, co-owns, bred, co-bred, or has owned or co-owned in the past.
- b. Any dog who said judge or a member of his immediate family or household has bred to, held under lease, boarded, trained, or instructed in the preceding 12 months. Trained or instructed applies equally to exhibitors who train professionally or as amateurs.
- c. Any person who has handled for said judge in the conformation ring more than twice in the preceding 12 months.
- d. Any person or a member of his immediate family or household who, within the preceding 12 months, has co-owned, co-bred, or purchased a dog with said judge.
- e. Any person or a member of his immediate family or household who worked as an employee or independent contractor of said judge within the preceding 12 months.
- f. Any person or a member of the immediate family or household who said judge has regularly trained or instructed in the preceding 12 months. Trained or instructed applies equally to judges who train professionally or as amateurs.

The judge's immediate family or household is defined in Chapter 1, Section [4](#) & [5](#).

## **7.7 Immediate Family or Household Members**

Immediate family or household members may compete under another officiating Conformation Judge at the same Conformation Show as long as any wins under the other Conformation Judge will not make the dog ineligible to compete further.

## **7.8 Substitute Judge Not on ASCA Judges List**

If it becomes necessary to replace an advertised judge after the opening of the show and no person on the ASCA eligible judge's list is available to take his place, the Show Committee may select as a substitute for the advertised judge, a person who is qualified under [SECTION 7.1](#), [SECTION 7.2](#).

## **7.9 Notification**

The Show Committee shall, in every instance, notify appointed judges of their assignments, and such notifications shall be given before the publication of the premium list except in situation as stated in [Section 5.2-h](#).

## **7.10 Substitute Judge: Over 20 Days Prior**

A Show Committee which shall be informed at any time prior to twenty (20) days before the opening day of its show that an advertised judge will not fulfill his or her engagement to judge shall substitute a judge in his or her place. Substitute judges must be approved by the ASCA Business Office, and the club shall give notice of the name of the substitute judge to all those who entered dogs in the classes to be judged by the advertised judge. All those who have entered dogs to be shown under the advertised judge shall be permitted to withdraw their entries at any time prior to the close of entries and the entry fees paid for entering such dogs shall be refunded.

## **7.11 Substitute Judge: Under 20 Days Prior**

Should a Show Committee be informed at any time less than twenty (20) days before the opening of its show, or after its show has opened, that an advertised judge will not fulfill his or her engagement to judge; it shall substitute a qualified judge in his or her place, and must attempt to obtain approval of the change from the ASCA Business Office. No notice need be sent to those exhibitors who have entered dogs under the advertised judge. The Show Committee will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place within the show grounds as soon after the show opens as is practical, informing exhibitors of the change in judges. An exhibitor who has entered a dog under an advertised judge who is being replaced may withdraw such entry and shall have the entry fee refunded, provided notice of such withdrawal is given to the Show Secretary prior to the start of the judging.

## **7.12 Substitute Judge**

In case an advertised judge shall have judged part of the classes and then finds it impossible to finish, a substitute judge shall be selected by the Show Committee, and in that event the awards made by the regular judge shall stand, and his or her substitute shall judge only the remaining entries. No dogs entered under the regularly selected judge shall be withheld from competition.

## **7.13 Completion of Class Judgment**

A substitute judge shall finish the judging of the class he or she is judging if he or she has begun to judge before the advertised judge arrives at the show.

## **7.14 Judging Schedule**

No judging shall occur at any show prior to the time specified in the judging schedule.

## **7.15 Maximum Number of Dogs**

The maximum number of dogs assigned to any judge, in one day, shall never exceed 175. When the entries have closed, if the entry under any judge exceeds the above limits, the Show Committee must select some other judge or judges to whom sufficient classes can be assigned to bring the total assignment of judge within the limits. In the case of a Specialty show, if the limits are exceeded, at least one additional judge shall be assigned to bring each judge's assignment within the limits. Approval must be obtained from the ASCA Business Office for each reassignment. Notice must be sent to the owner of each dog affected by such a change in judges at least five (5) days before the opening of the show, and the owner has the right to withdraw his entry and have his entry fee refunded provided notification of his withdrawal is received before the opening of the show by the person named in the premium list to receive entries.



## **7.16 Decision of the Judge**

A Judge's decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given for want of merit. After a class has been judged in accordance with these rules and regulations, it shall not be rejudged. A class is considered judged when the Judge has marked his book, which must be done before the following class is examined. If any errors have been made by the Judge in marking the awards as made, he may correct the same but must initial any such corrections.

## **7.17 Excusals**

A Judge may order any person or dog from the ring to facilitate judging. Examples of reasons for excusals are, but not limited to: unsafe practices conducted by an exhibitor; uncontrollable exhibits; unsportsmanlike conduct; lack of merit; violations under rules numbers: 1.11, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.10, 9.13, ASCA Dog Aggression Rules, ASCA Judge's Code of Ethics and the ASCA Judge's Education Handbook. For the purpose of facilitating the judging, Judges are required to exclude from the rings in which they are judging all persons except the steward or stewards, show attendants assigned to the ring, and those actually engaged in exhibiting.

## **7.18 Judge's Book**

A Judge must be supplied with the Judge's Book in which he shall mark all awards and all absent dogs. The original Judge's Books shall be in the custody of the Judge, Steward, Show Secretary or Show Chairperson. None other shall be allowed access to it. At the conclusion of the judging, the book must be signed by the Judge and any changes which may have been made therein initialed by him.

## **7.19 Corrections to Judge's Book**

A Judge's decision, as marked in the judge's book, cannot be changed by him after filing with the ASCA Business Office but an error appearing in the Judge's book may be corrected by the ASCA Business Office after consultation with the Judge and Show Secretary.

## **7.20 Disqualifications**

If a Judge disqualifies a dog at any show, he shall make a note in the Judge's book giving his reasons for such disqualification. In computing the championship points for the breed, said dog shall not be considered as having been present at the show. The show secretary will acknowledge to the ASCA Business Office the name of the disqualified dog, the ASCA registration number and owners name and address.

## **7.21 Frequency of Judging Assignments**

A Judge shall not judge the same assignment more than once in any six (6) month period for the same affiliate.

## **7.22 Nationals Specialty Eligibility**

To be eligible to judge at the ASCA National Specialty, a judge MUST be fully approved for the assignment.

## **7.23 Accepting Assignments**

A Non-Regular judge MAY NOT accept assignments to the next level until fully approved as per the Judge procedures.

## **7.24 Prohibited for Judges**

Any person acting in the capacity of judge at a show shall not exhibit nor act as agent or handler at the show.

## **7.25 Electronic Devices**

Cell phones and electronic devices may be used for timekeeping and/or to review Rules and the Breed Standard while at the judges' table, but must be silenced. When not in use, such devices must remain on the judge's table or in a bag or briefcase. The Judge should not walk away from the table with an electronic device in hand while in the ring judging. Neither the judge, ring steward, nor an exhibitor may initiate or receive any phone calls and/or text messages while in the ring.

## **8 Show Committees**

### **8.1 Committee Makeup**

Show Committee consists of the Show Secretary and club officers present at the show unless otherwise stated in the flyer or premium list.

### **8.2 Committee Responsibilities**

Show Committees shall be held responsible for the enforcement of all rules and regulations relating to shows and the exhibiting of dogs, and must provide themselves with a copy of the ASCA Show Rules and Regulations.

### **8.3 Conformation Ring-Size and Conditions**

- a. Indoors - rings should be 40 feet by 50 feet and must be a minimum of 35 feet by 40 feet. The floor shall have surface or covering that provides firm footing. Dogs may only be examined and gaited on the firm footing provided. If mats are provided all dogs must be moved only on the mats.
- b. Outdoors - must be a minimum of 40 feet by 50 feet. The ground shall be clean and level and the grass if any, shall be cut short.

### **8.4 Conditions of Judging Area**

The Show Committees will be held responsible for the maintenance of clean and orderly conditions throughout the precincts of the judging area during all hours when dogs are permitted to be present.

### **8.5 Contact with Judges**

Any person acting in the capacity of Show Secretary, Ring Steward or persons responsible for contacting and/or hiring a judge, or judges, shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show. Dogs owned wholly or in part by the above may be exhibited at the show.

### **8.6 Entry Refusal**

The Show Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog(s) or person(s) from its show for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for so doing with ASCA Business Office within seven (7) days of the close of the show.

### **8.7 Show Secretary**

The Show Secretary must be on the show grounds for the entire show.

## 9 Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility

### 9.1 Ownership

Every dog must be entered on an Official ASCA entry Form in the name of the person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed. The right to exhibit a dog cannot be transferred. A registered dog which has been acquired by some person other than the owner as recorded with ASCA must be entered in the name of its new owner at any show for which entries close after the date upon which the dog was acquired, and application for transfer of ownership must be sent to ASCA by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the show. The new owner must state on the entry form that the transfer application has been mailed to ASCA or will be mailed within the specified time. If there is any unavoidable delay in obtaining the completed application required to record the transfer, ASCA may grant a reasonable extension of time, provided the new owner notifies ASCA Business Office by mail within seven days after the show, of the reason for the delay. If an entry is made by a duly authorized agent of the owner, the name of the actual owner must be shown on the entry form. Dogs must be entered under their ASCA registered names.

### 9.2 Entry Conditions

No entry shall be made and no entry shall be accepted by a Show Secretary, which specifies any condition as to its acceptance.

### 9.3 Change of Entry

- a. No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of change or cancellation is received in writing, from the owner(s) or person(s) acting as agent, by the Show Secretary prior to the closing of entries
- b. If an owner or person acting as agent wishes to scratch a dog from competition after entries have closed, but before judging has commenced, it must be received in writing by the Show Secretary or Ring Steward, who will notify the judge of the armband number of the dog to be scratched. At that time, the judge will mark the dog as absent.

### 9.4 Disqualification

No entry shall be accepted for any disqualified dog or from any person who is not in good standing with ASCA or the sponsoring club, on the day of the closing of the entries. Before accepting entries, a list of disqualified dogs and persons not in good standing will be provided by the ASCA Business Office as part of the show packet/books.

### 9.5 ASCA Standing

No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless that name has been registered with ASCA. An "exhibitor" or "entrant" is defined as the individual or, if a partnership, all the members of the partnership exhibiting or entering in a dog show. In the case of such an entry by a partnership every member of the partnership shall be in good standing with ASCA before the entry will be accepted. In case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.

### 9.6 Appearance

A dog which is blind, deaf or has been castrated, spayed, neutered through surgery or chemicals, had a vasectomy, is using a chip or chemical implant to lower hormone levels or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the breed standard, or a male over 6 months of age which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete at any show in the Intact Conformation Program and will be disqualified. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws and/or docking of tail. When a judge finds any of these conditions in any dog he is judging, he shall disqualify the dog marking his book "Disqualified" and stating the reason. He shall not obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian. When a dog has been disqualified under this rule or under the Breed Standard, awards earned by that dog at that show shall be canceled by ASCA and the dog may not again be shown unless and until, following application by the owner to ASCA, the owner has received official notification from ASCA that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated. A male that has been neutered through surgery or chemicals or a male that has had a vasectomy may be entered as the Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class, or other Non-Regular classes or in the Altered Conformation Program. A spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class, or other Non-Regular classes, or in the Altered Conformation program.

## 9.7 Lameness

A dog that is lame at any show may not compete and shall not receive any award at that show. It shall be the judge's responsibility to determine whether a dog is lame. He shall withhold all awards from such dog and shall excuse it from the ring. A dog so excused shall not be counted as having competed. When a judge excuses a dog from the ring for lameness, he shall mark his book "Excused Lameness"

## 9.8 Artificial Appearance

No dog shall compete in any class at any show in the event the natural color, markings, and/or appearance of the dog has been altered or changed by use of artificial substances whether such substances may have been used for cleaning purposes or for any other reason. Such substances are to be removed before any dog enters the ring. Any dog which has any artificial substance left in their coat to enhance the dog's appearance, deliberately or by accident, or any dog presented wearing the following but not limited to bandages, tape, ear weights, glue remnants, chalk, etc. shall be excused from the ring and may not return to be re-judged. The judge shall make a note in the judge's book giving his or her reason for the excusal, and a dog so excused shall not be counted as having competed.

## 9.9 Communicable Disease

No dog shall be eligible to compete at any show, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any dog show, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a dog show shall immediately be removed, if it;

- a. shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease, or
- b. is known to have been in contact with distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the show, or
- c. has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the show on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease.

## 9.10 Conflict of Interest

No entry shall be made by an exhibitor at any show under a judge of the following:

- a. Any dog said judge or a member of his immediate family or household owns, co-owns, bred, co-bred, or has owned or co-owned in the past.
- b. Any dog said judge or a member of his immediate family or household has bred to, held under lease, boarded, trained, or instructed in the preceding 12 months. Trained or instructed applies equally to exhibitors who train professionally or as amateurs.
- c. Any person who has handled for said judge in the conformation ring more than twice in the preceding twelve months.
- d. Any person or a member of his immediate family or household who within the preceding 12 months has co-owned, co-bred, or purchased a dog with said judge.
- e. Any person or a member of his immediate family or household who has worked as an employee or independent contractor of said judge within the preceding 12 months.
- f. Any person or a member of his immediate family or household who said judge has regularly trained or instructed in the preceding 12 months. Trained or instructed applies equally to exhibitors who train professionally or as amateurs.

The judge's immediate family or household is defined in Chapter 1, Section [4](#) & [5](#).

## 9.11 Discrimination

A club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or flyer, or in any way discriminate between exhibitors of entrants. No club shall offer to any one owner or handler any special inducement, such as trophies, reduced entry fees, rebates, additional prize money or any other concession, for entering more than one dog in the show.

### **9.12 ASCA Registration**

Every dog entered and present at a show must compete in all competition for which it is entered or becomes eligible, unless it has been excused, dismissed, disqualified or found to be ineligible, under the rules. ALL AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS SIX MONTHS AND OLDER MUST HAVE AN ASCA INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION NUMBER TO COMPETE IN ASCA SANCTIONED EVENTS. THIS INCLUDES ALL AREAS OF COMPETITION. No dog may receive championship points, without an ASCA individual registration number. Photo copies of the registration papers or originals must be presented to Show Secretary upon request, when entering ASCA sanctioned events.

### **9.13 Excusal for Aggression**

A dog that in the opinion of the judge menaces or threatens or exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached by the judge or examined by the judge in the normal manner shall be excused from the ring. When the judge excuses the dog, he shall mark the dog "Excused," stating the reason in the judge's book. A dog so excused shall not be counted as having competed.

### **9.14 Disqualification for Attacking**

A dog that in the opinion of the judge attacks any person or dog in the ring shall be disqualified. When the judge disqualifies the dog, he shall mark the dog "Disqualified," stating the reason in the judge's book. When a dog has been disqualified under this section, any awards won at that show by the disqualified dog shall be canceled and the dog may not again compete unless and until, following application by the owner to ASCA, the owner has received official notification from ASCA that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated.

## **10 Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standard or Eligibility under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class –Cancellation of Awards**

### **10.1 Color and Markings**

Where certain colors or markings are specified in the Breed Standard as disqualifications, or in any class or division of a class where a certain color is required by the conditions of the class or division thereof, it shall be the judge's responsibility to determine whether a dog is to be disqualified or declared to be ineligible for the class.

- a. If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color or markings are such as to require disqualification, the judge shall disqualify the dog, making note of the fact in the judge's book.
- b. If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color or markings do not meet the requirement of the class or division of a class in which the dog is competing, the judge shall declare the dog ineligible to compete in that class or division of class, making note of the fact in the judge's book.
- c. If, in the opinion of any competing exhibitor or handler then in the ring, the color or markings or combinations of colors of a dog under judgment are such as to disqualify under the standard or are such as not to meet the requirements of the class or division thereof, such exhibitor or handler may, before every dog in the class has been individually examined and individually gaited, request the judge to render an opinion of the dog's color(s) and markings.
- d. Before proceeding with the judging, the judge must write his opinion on the Judge's Book, and shall disqualify the dog if its color or markings are such as to require disqualification under the Breed Standard or shall declare the dog ineligible if the color or markings do not meet the requirements of the class or division thereof in which the dog is competing.
- e. Any dog disqualified under the Breed Standard may not again be shown until, following application by the owner to ASCA, the owner has received official notification from the ASCA Board of Directors that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.
- f. Any dog thus declared by the judge to be ineligible for a class or division thereof shall be considered to have been wrongly entered in the class and cannot be transferred to any other class or division at that show.

### **10.2 Invalid or Unacceptable Entry**

If an ineligible dog has been entered in any show, or if the name of the owner given on the entry form is not that of the person or person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, or if shown in a class for which it has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid or unacceptable by ASCA under these rules, all resulting awards shall be canceled by ASCA. In computing the championship points such ineligible dogs, whether or not they have received awards, shall be counted as having competed.

### **10.3 Corrections**

If the catalogue and/or the judge's book of any show shall, by error or mistake, set forth any information contrary to the information which appears on the entry form of the dog for that show, the Show Committees and/or the Show Secretary of the show, upon request of the owner or handler of said dog prior to the judging, shall correct the entry in the Judge's book and in the marked catalogue to be sent to the ASCA Business Office and said dog may compete in all classes and for all prizes for which its entry form discloses it was entered.

### **10.4 Placement Cancellation**

If a placement of a dog in any of the regular classes is canceled, the dog judged next in order of merit shall be moved up and the award shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award. If there is no dog of record to move up, the award shall be void.

### **10.5 Return of Awards**

If the win of a dog shall be canceled by ASCA, the owner of the dog shall return all ribbons and prizes to the show giving club within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of the cancellation from ASCA. The show giving club shall in each instance of failure to comply with this rule notify forthwith ASCA of such failure and ASCA upon receipt of

such notice shall suspend the exhibitor so in default from all privileges of ASCA and notify the exhibitor so in default that it has done so. Said suspension shall continue until ASCA is notified that restitution has been made.

## **11 Protests against Dogs**

### **11.1 Right to Request Examination**

Every exhibitor shall have the right to request through the Show Committee, the examination of any dog within a show's premises, which is considered to endanger the health of other dogs in a show.

### **11.2 Protests**

A protest against a dog, for reasons other than health, may be made by any exhibitor, or any member of ASCA. It shall be in writing, and be lodged with the show secretary within seven (7) days of the last date of the show unless the protest is made by ASCA. A protest calling for a decision as to the physical condition of a dog which can be determined only with the advice of a veterinarian or at the time of showing shall be made before the closing of the show. No protest will be entertained unless accompanied by a fee to be determined by the board, which will be refunded if the protest is sustained. This does not apply to protests by ASCA, or to a protest made in the ring previous to the rendering of a decision by the judge.

### **11.3 Show Committee Hearing**

If a protest shall be made during the holding of a show, the Show Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible and give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard and shall at once render its decision. If a protest shall be made subsequent to the show it shall be decided by the show giving club within thirty (30) days of its receipt. Ten (10) days' notice of the date and place of hearing shall be sent to all parties concerned by certified mail. Written copies of all decisions on protests shall be forwarded immediately to the ASCA Business Office.

### **11.4 Appeal to ASCA Board**

An appeal to the ASCA Executive Secretary from a decision of a Show Committee where a dog has been protested may be taken and shall be forwarded to ASCA within seven (7) days of the date on which the decision was rendered together with a deposit (the fee to be determined by the board). If the decision is sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited, but if reversed, the deposit shall be returned.

### **11.5 Verbal Protest**

Any person who is handling a competing dog in the ring in any competition may then verbally protest to the judge before the judge has marked any award in his book, alleging that a dog being shown in the competition has a condition which makes it ineligible to compete under Chapter 10 of these rules, or a condition requiring disqualification under the Breed Standard, except that a verbal protest alleging that the natural color and markings of a dog requiring its disqualification under the Breed Standard or a determination of its ineligibility under the conditions of its class must be made under Chapter 9. When such a protest is made, it shall be the judge's responsibility to examine the dog for the alleged condition. If, following the examination, the judge determines that disqualification is required under 9.6, 9.8, or under the Breed Standard, he shall mark the book "Disqualified" stating the reason. If the judge finds that the protest is not sustained, he shall note in the judge's book the condition protested and his findings. If the judge determines that the dog is ineligible to compete because of violation of 9.6, 9.8, he shall withhold any award to the dog and mark the judge's book "ineligible to compete award withheld": stating the reason for his decision. A dog determined by a judge to be ineligible to compete under 9.6, 9.8, unless such determination is based on the use of a substance only for cleaning purposes, may not again be shown until reinstated by the ASCA Board of Directors.



## 12 Championships

### 12.1 Calculating Points – Intact

Intact Championship points will be recorded for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each sex, and according to the schedule of points established by the Board of Directors. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused, or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

### 12.2 Point Accumulation – Intact

Any intact dog which shall have won fifteen (15) points shall become a Champion of Record if nine or more of said points shall have been won at three (3) shows with a rating of three (3) or more championship points each and under three (3) different judges. A dog becomes a Champion when it is so officially recorded by the ASCA Business Office, and shall be entitled to a Championship Certificate. Intact Championship titles will be denoted by “CH”.

- a. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Breed, the dogs of both sexes that have been entered for Best of Breed competition and that have been defeated in such competition, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.
- b. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, the dogs of its own sex that have been entered for Best of Breed and that have been defeated in competition for Best of Opposite Sex shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.
- c. The dog awarded the Best of Winners shall be credited with the number of points calculated for Winners Dog or Winners Bitch, whichever is greater.

### 12.3 Calculating Points – Altered

Altered Championship points will be recorded for the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each sex, and according to the Schedule of points established by the Board of Directors. In counting the number of eligible dogs in Competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included except as noted in these rules and regulations.

### 12.4 Point Accumulation – Altered

Any altered dog which shall have won fifteen (15) points shall become an Altered Champion of Record if nine or more of said points shall have been won at three (3) shows with a rating of three (3) or more championship points each and under three (3) different judges. A dog becomes an Altered Champion when it is so officially recorded by the ASCA Business Office, and shall be entitled to an Altered Championship Certificate. Altered Championship titles will be denoted by “A-CH”.

- a. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Breed, the dogs of both sexes that have been entered for Best of Breed competition and that have been defeated in such competition, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.
- b. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, the dogs of its own sex that have been entered for Best of Breed and that have been defeated in competition for Best of Opposite Sex shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.
- c. The dog awarded the Best of Winners shall be credited with the number of points calculated for Winners Dog or Winners Bitch, whichever is greater.

### 12.5 Point Schedule

Point Schedule will be calculated from Feb. 1st through Jan. 31st of the calendar year. Intact and Altered calculated separately.

## 12.6 Point Schedule Calculation

Calculation of the Intact Point Schedule for an Affiliate Club shall be compiled by the following formula:

- a. The business office shall take the TOTAL number of intact class Dogs shown for an ASCA affiliate club. Non-Regular, altered classes, and intact/altered Champions of Record shall be excluded.
- b. The business office shall take the TOTAL number of intact class Bitches shown for an ASCA affiliate club. Non-Regular, altered classes, and intact/altered Champions of Record shall be excluded.
- c. The business office shall not include Nationals or Pre-Nationals entries in the total counts for intact dogs or bitches for the total shows sanctioned.
- d. The business office shall divide the total number of intact Dogs shown by the total number of shows held by the ASCA affiliate club, excluding Nationals or Pre-Nationals shows. The resulting average number of Dogs shall determine the point schedule for intact Dogs for the subsequent show year for that club.
- e. The business office shall divide the total number of intact Bitches shown by the total number of shows held by the ASCA affiliate club, excluding Nationals or Pre-Nationals shows. The resulting average number of Bitches shall determine the point schedule for intact Bitches for the subsequent show year for that club.

<b>Schedule 1</b>	<b>Schedule 2</b>	<b>Schedule 3</b>	<b>Schedule 4</b>	<b>Schedule 5</b>
<b>1-14 Dogs</b>	<b>15-17 Dogs</b>	<b>18-20 Dogs</b>	<b>21-25 Dogs</b>	<b>26 and Over</b>
2 = 1 Point	3 = 1 Points	4 = 1 Points	5 = 1 Points	6 = 1 Points
4 = 2 Points	6 = 2 Points	8 = 2 Points	10 = 2 Points	12 = 2 Points
8 = 3 Points	11 = 3 Points	14 = 3 Points	17 = 3 Points	20 = 3 Points
12 = 4 Points	14 = 4 Points	17 = 4 Points	21 = 4 Points	25 = 4 Points
14 = 5 Points	17 = 5 Points	20 = 5 Points	25 = 5 Points	30 = 5 Points

## 13 Submission of Show's Records to ASCA

### 13.1 Records to Business Office

After each ASCA sanctioned event the following must be sent to the ASCA Business Office: a catalogue, if applicable, marked with all awards and absent dogs, certified by the Show Secretary; all original Judge's Books, (Non-Regular and Regular Classes); ASCA Official Entry Forms for: Best of Breed, Best Opposite Sex, Best of Winners, Winners Dog, Reserve Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Reserve Winners Bitch, Best Junior Handler, Reserve Junior Handler, All competing Juniors age eight (8) to seventeen (17), and disqualified and excused dogs. Gross Receipts report, including Event Membership dues; Sanction Grant; Conformation Show Report; Explanation for Disqualified Dog Form(s), an explanation of excused dogs and a completed Conduct Evaluation of Judges Form. All of the aforementioned items must be postmarked no later than fifteen (15) days after the close of the show. 'Penalty for non-compliance is a fee to be determined by the board for each day's delay and such other penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of ASCA.

### 13.2 Document Retention

The club shall retain all other ASCA official entry forms, except the entry forms listed in [Section 13.1](#) above, for a period of one year from date of show.

## 14 Stewards

### 14.1 Qualifications

Clubs must appoint stewards in advance of the date of their show. No person shall be asked to serve as a steward whose judging privileges have been revoked. The club will, confirm to each person who accepts an invitation to steward, the date and location of the show, the time at which they are to report for duty, and their particular ring assignment. Persons should be selected who are familiar with ring procedure, and the ASCA Show Rules and Regulations. It should be borne in mind that a good steward makes the work of judging easier by relieving the judge of necessary detail; by assembling classes promptly, he will be able to keep the judging program on schedule and eliminate to a large extent delays between classes. The Club should use its discretion in the assigning of more than one steward to a ring, but it is advisable that two stewards be asked to serve in those rings where judges have heavy assignments. Stewards will notify the judge when all the dogs are in the ring for each class and call his attention to known absentees. Under no circumstances will a steward make any notation in the judge's book or erase or strike out any notation made by the judge. Stewards will be responsible for returning to the Show Secretary upon the completion of the judging all prize money, trophies and ribbons not awarded.

STEWARDS SHOULD HAVE IN MIND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO HELP THE JUDGE AND NOT TO ADVISE HIM.

### 14.2 Non-Interference

STEWARDS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING OR SEEMING TO DISCUSS THE DOGS OR THE EXHIBITORS WITH THE JUDGE AND SHOULD NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SHOW OR GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF SHOWING THE CATALOGUE TO A JUDGE. STEWARDS MUST NOT TAKE OR SEEM TO TAKE ANY PART IN JUDGING. When they are not actively engaged in their duties, they should place themselves in such part of the rings as will not interfere with the view of those watching the judging, and should not permit persons to crowd about the ring entrance and interfere with access to the ring.

### 14.3 Posting of Results

The Steward shall post the goldenrod copies of the judge's books at the conclusion of judging once the judge has marked awards, placements, excused/disqualified dogs, entry counts, date(s) and signature. The goldenrod copies of the judge's books shall be posted in a conspicuous location away from the judges table for exhibitors to review.

### 14.4 National Specialty

Ring Stewards for National Specialty. Ring Stewards are able to compete as long as they do not compete under the judge they steward under.

## 15 Conformation Finals

Statement of Purpose:

The Conformation Finals is designed to be a self-supporting event that is held in conjunction with the ASCA National Specialty as a separate event.

Qualifiers are selected from the Conformation program year end Merit standings in both Intact and Altered that are eligible to show per [Chapter 9, Section 9.10](#) of the ASCA Conformation Rules and Regulations.

Any situation not directly addressed by the Conformation Finals Rules shall be governed by the ASCA Show Rules and Regulations.

### 15.1 Eligibility

1. Eligible merit points will be those received during the ASCA Finals year. The ASCA Finals year will be the twelve (12) month period from June 1st of the previous year to May 31st of the year that the Finals are held. Merit points are not transferable from the Intact division to the Altered division. Only points earned toward the championship of a dog are transferable from the Intact division to the Altered division. The ASCA Business Office will confirm the merit standing eligibility for each contestant.
  - a. Merit Finalists may only compete in the division for which they qualify. Intact dogs/bitches may only compete in the Intact division and Altered dogs/bitches may only compete in the Altered division during the current Finals Year. Dogs/bitches that are altered AFTER earning qualifying merit points in the Intact division are permitted to compete in the current Intact Finals ONLY if they have not been shown in the Altered division during the current Finals year prior to May 31st. If an Intact Merit Finalist is altered during the current Finals year, and is shown in the Altered division during the current Finals year prior to and including May 31st, all merit points earned in the Intact division are nullified.
  - b. Merit Finalists will abide by [Section 9.10](#) per the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations regarding Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, but they may enter under For Exhibition Only status (FEO) as outlined in [Section 15.3](#).
2. Merit Point System:
  - a. Best of Breed receives 1 (one) point for each dog defeated.
  - b. Best Opposite Sex receives 1 (one) point for each dog of its sex defeated.
  - c. If Best of Winners is the same sex as Best Opposite Sex, then Best Opposite Sex will also receive 1 (one) point for each regular class dog of the opposite sex defeated.
  - d. Champions and Class Dogs and Bitches are eligible for the above points. Top 30 Conformation Merit Points are accumulated and lists for both Intact and Altered divisions are generated on the first (1st) of every month and listed in the Aussie Times.

### 15.2 Verifications and Invitations

1. Invitations will go out from the ASCA Business Office to all eligible contestants by US Postal Service Certified Mail. The certified letters will be postmarked no later than July 1st of the Finals year. The ASCA Business Office will make sure that the necessary steps to notify foreign qualifiers are done within the same time frame.
2. United States Contestants must fill out and post an official entry form with entry fees (made payable to ASCA) to the ASCA Business Office and must be postmarked by July 15th of the Finals year.
  - a. Foreign Contestants must fill out and post an official entry form with entry fees in U.S. currency (made payable to ASCA) to the ASCA Business Office and must be postmarked by July 20th of the year of the Finals year.
3. The ASCA Business Office will send the National Host Club(s) a Conformation Finals entry form for each dog by the closing date for Nationals entries.

### 15.3 Participants

1. By July 1st of every year, the ASCA Business Office will mail an invitation to the Top Thirty (30) Altered Conformation Merit Dog Finalists and the Top Thirty (30) Intact Conformation Merit Dog Finalists to compete in the Conformation Finals. If there is a tie at the 30th position, all dogs tied for the 30th place will be invited to the conformation finals. The ASCA Business Office will also send invitations to the next

fifteen (15) alternates in their ranked order in both the Altered and Intact Divisions, including all ties in those 15 alternates. If the ASCA Business Office receives less than the Top Thirty (30) entries in both Altered and Intact by the postmarked deadline of July 15th of the Finals year, the ASCA Business Office will notify alternates whose entries must meet the same deadline, in their ranked order, until reaching the total number of thirty (30) Altered Merit Dogs and thirty (30) Intact Merit Dogs. The ASCA business office will receive FEO entries for those dogs who are ineligible to show in Conformation Finals due to conflicts as outlined in [SECTION 9.10](#).

If a dog has earned enough merit points to qualify in the top 30, but is unable to show due to a conflict as outlined in [SECTION 9.10](#), the dog is allowed to enter under the FEO rules as outlined in [Section 15.3](#). It is the responsibility of the entrant to enter under the proper class and return FEO entries to the office by the closing date of July 15, so that alternates can be invited.

- a. FEO dogs are not to be counted in the numbers that make up the top 30 intact or altered finalists.
  - b. FEO dogs shall pay the same entry fees as listed in the conformation finals premium.
  - c. United States Contestants must fill out and post an official entry form with entry made under “other show date” with appropriate day of Conformation Finals noted. Entry shall be listed as FEO under the non-regular section of the entry form. Entry fees (made payable to ASCA) are sent to the ASCA Business Office and must be postmarked by July 15th of the Finals year.
  - d. Foreign contestants must fill out and post an official entry form with entry made under “other show date” with appropriate day of Conformation Finals noted. Entry shall be listed as FEO under the non-regular section of the entry form. Entry fees, in U.S. currency (made payable to ASCA) are sent to the ASCA Business Office and must be postmarked by July 20th of the year of the Finals year.
2. The Nationals Host Club(s) will determine the random order of showing Altered Dog Finalists and Intact Dogs Finalists. Dogs will not be judged in the order of their year-end rankings.

## 15.4 Budget and Fees

1. The Nationals Host Club(s) shall submit a proposed budget to the ASCA Board of Directors and ASCA Conformation Committee six (6) months prior to the Conformation Finals.
2. The entry fee (see [Schedule of Fees](#)) is payable in U.S. currency. No entry fees will be refunded. Entry fees collected by the ASCA Business Office will be used only to cover any expenses the Nationals Host Club(s) may incur from the Conformation Finals. The ASCA Business Office will keep an accounting of all monies received for the Conformation Finals and is responsible for informing the Nationals Host Club(s), the ASCA Board of Directors, and the ASCA Conformation Committee as to the amount of monies received by August 1st of the competition year. The ASCA Business Office will send all entry monies to the Nationals Host Club(s) by the closing date for National entries. The Nationals Host Club(s) will try to make the Conformation Finals a self-supporting event through entries, donations, and sponsorships. The Nationals Host Club(s) will submit their expenses with receipts to the ASCA Board of Directors within six (6) months of the Conformation Finals event.

## 15.5 Judges Requirements

1. Three (3) ASCA Conformation Judges will be hired for the Conformation Finals by the National Specialty Host Club(s), who will submit the Conformation Finals slate to the ASCA Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed Judges slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate, along with comments and recommendations, will be returned to the Host Club(s) no later than thirty (30) days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Conformation Finals Judges slate, the Judge’s names will be posted within 7 days to the ASCA website on the “National Specialty Information” page and the judge information must be to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May-June issue.
2. Conformation Judge Eligibility:
  - a. Judge must be of ASCA Senior Breeder Status.
  - b. Judge may not have judged conformation three (3) months prior to the event.

- c. Judge shall not be a conformation judge at the current ASCA Nationals or Pre-shows nor have judged at the previous ASCA Nationals or ASCA Pre-Shows.
- d. Judge shall not have judged the previous three (3) Conformation Finals.

Conformation Finals judges may participate in all Nationals events including all Nationals conformation events. All rules pertaining to the Conformation Finals Judges and their dogs regarding the Conformation Finals will abide by sections 7.4 to 7.7 per the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.

### 15.6 Trophies and Rosettes/Ribbons

FINALS	Award	Rosette	Prize – Level / Cost
Conformation	1st	A	Level 1 \$250
	2nd – 10th	B	Level 3 \$75
	Finalists Participants	B	None

Rosette Descriptions		
Level	Cost per Rosette	Description
A	\$21	8.5-inch head, 7 streamers, 24-inch streamers
A.5	\$20	8-inch head, 7 streamers, 22-inch streamers
B	\$18	7.5-inch head, 7 streamers, 18-inch streamers
D	\$12	6-inch head, 5 streamers, 14-inch streamers
E	\$1	2 layered, 10-inch flat ribbon
Name Streamers - \$5 – \$7.50 each, depending on length of name		

All Finals Qualifiers will receive a rosette labeled "Finalist," with the qualifying dog's ASCA registered name and ASCA titles entered on a side streamer. Non-ASCA titles will not be included. The name streamer will be placed on the Finals participation rosette, not on the placement rosette. All rosettes will have the date and location of the Finals. Any qualifying team that is unable to participate in the Finals is responsible for the cost of shipping their Finals rosette or requesting that the rosette be entrusted to someone else for delivery. The host club is not responsible for the cost of shipping rosettes.

Placements will be awarded 1st-10th place. Colors for the center streamer shall be as follows for placement rosettes: 1st - blue; 2nd - red; 3rd - yellow; 4th - white, 5th - 10th - same color (to coordinate with colors of host's rosette colors) and will have placements on rosette.

#### **(Effective September 2016)**

1. ~~Funding for trophies and rosettes/ribbons shall be obtained from entry fees and/or donated monies. The Nationals Host Club(s) will be responsible for procuring trophies and rosettes/ribbons. All placements will be awarded.~~
2. ~~Trophies: A special award will be given to the Winner of each, Altered and Intact, and second (2nd) through tenth (10th) place in Altered and Intact will also receive an award for a placement.~~
3. ~~Rosettes/Ribbons: The Finalists placing first (1st) through tenth (10th) Altered and Intact, will receive a placement rosette. A Conformation Finals Qualifier rosette labeled "Conformation Finalist" will be awarded for all qualifiers with the qualifying dog's ASCA registered name and ASCA titles entered on the side streamer. Non ASCA titles will not be included. All Ribbons/Rosettes will have the date and location of the Conformation Finals. A Conformation FEO Entrant rosette labeled "Conformation For Exhibition Only" will be awarded for all FEO entrants with the qualifying dog's ASCA registered name and ASCA titles entered on the side streamer. Non ASCA titles will not be included. All Ribbons/Rosettes will have date and location of the Conformation Finals. Any qualifying team that is unable to participate in the Conformation Finals is responsible for the cost of shipping their Qualifying Rosette/Ribbon, or requesting that the Rosette/Ribbon be entrusted to someone else for delivery. The Host club is not responsible for the cost of shipping Rosettes/Ribbons.~~

- ~~a. Rosettes/Ribbons Colors: Colors for the center streamer shall be as follows for placement rosettes: 1st blue; 2nd red; 3rd yellow; 4th white, 5th 10th same color (to coordinate with colors of host's rosette colors) and will have placements on rosette.~~
- ~~b. Size of the Rosette/Ribbons should be consistent with other ASCA Finals events.~~

## 15.7 Nationals Catalog

1. The Nationals Catalog will contain a complete list of all Conformation Finals entrants and FEO entrants. The following information must be provided for each dog: Dog's registered name, armband number, Altered or Intact, Sire, Dam, Owner, Date of Birth, Sex, and Breeder. This section will also include a brief biography of the Conformation Finals judges, sponsors, a list of volunteers, and staff.
2. The Nationals Host Club(s) will provide the Aussie Times Editor with the results of the Conformation Finals placements, to be published with the Show/Trial report for the ASCA Nationals. Each dog will be listed with the dog's registered name, sex, Altered or Intact, and owner as well as Finals placement.

## 15.8 Ring Size and Requirements

1. Positions necessary: Chief Steward, four (4) assistant stewards, two (2) scorekeepers, and one (1) announcer.
2. Ring Size: The Conformation Finals Ring will consist of one (1) large ring, one hundred and fifty (150) feet by fifty (50) feet minimum, but laid out in such a way that it is divided into three (3) smaller rings of equal size for the individual judging, also allowing movement around the inside perimeter.
3. Equipment and supplies necessary for each of the three (3) rings and the scoring table: tables and chairs, calculator, clipboards, stapler and staples, scotch tape, broad-tip markers, pads of lined paper, pens, dry erase board to post scores, shade or covered areas for Judges, ring gating and matting if necessary. If mats are required, matting should cover the complete perimeter of the ring, plus individual rings.

## 15.9 Judging and Ring Procedure

1. All Altered Conformation Finals exhibitors will enter the ring as a group. Armbands will be checked by all judges and chief steward. Once completed, judges will view the group as a whole and then all exhibitors will gait their dogs around the ring and exit. Next, exhibitors will present their dogs to each of the three (3) judges separately for hands-on examination, gaiting, and scoring.
  - a. At the completion of Altered judging, all dogs will return to the ring. The entrant's name and titles will be called out as the dogs enter the ring, one at a time. Once all dogs have entered the ring, the Top Ten (10) Altered Finalists will be announced in random order by armband number.
2. Following Altered, all Intact Conformation Finals exhibitors will enter the ring as a group. Armbands will be checked by all judges and chief steward. Once completed, judges will view the group as a whole and then all exhibitors will gait their dogs around the ring and exit. Next, exhibitors will present their dogs to each of the three (3) judges separately for hands-on examination, gaiting, and scoring.
  - a. At the completion of Intact judging, all dogs will return to the ring. The entrant's name and titles will be called out as the dogs enter the ring, one at a time. Once all dogs have entered the ring, the Top Ten (10) Altered Finalists will be announced in random order by armband number.
3. After the last intact dog has been judged, while the scores for intact dogs are being tallied and checked for ties, the entered FEO dogs will enter the ring one by one, in armband order. The FEO entrant's name and titles will be called out as the dogs are gaiting around the ring. They will then be presented with their FEO entrant Rosette by one of the Finalist Judges, and will exit the ring. This will continue until all FEO entrants have entered, gaited and exited the ring.
4. The Top Ten (10) Altered Finalists and Top Ten (10) Intact Finalists will be brought back into the ring in random order. The announcement of placements will alternate between Altered and Intact, from tenth (10th) to first (1st) place.

## 15.10 Scoring

1. The score sheet has the Judge's name, exhibitor's armband number, Altered or Intact and the sex of each dog.
2. Each judge uses a simple score sheet for each dog with a numeric scale from 1-10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest score. The Judge shall circle the points he/she determines each dog deserves in



that section/subsection of the score sheet. Exception: In the event one judge determines there is a disqualifying fault under the Breed Standard, that judge will mark on the score sheet "DQ" and state the reason for the disqualification, i.e., teeth, color, etc...

- a. The scoring sheet consists of 8 (eight) sections and six (6) sub-section. The scoring follows the Breed Standard and be divided accordingly. General Appearance (1-10). Head (1-5) divided into three (3) sub-sections: teeth (1-5), eyes (1-5), and ears (1-5). Neck and Body (1-10), Forequarters (1-10), Hindquarters (1-10), Coat (1-5), Color (1-5), and Gait in three (3) sub sections: Coming (1-10), Going (1-10), Side Gait (1-10). The maximum score will be 100 (one hundred) points.
3. A separate score sheet from each of the three (3) Judges will be used for each exhibitor. After each Judge scores the individual exhibitor, the score sheet will be placed into an envelope by each judge and taken by the steward and handed to the score keepers. The first score keeper will add up each of the three (3) scores for each exhibitor. The second score keeper will verify the scores tabulated by the first score keeper and place the final score on a spread sheet according to the exhibitor's armband number only.
4. In the event of two (2) or more tied scores within the Altered Top 10 (ten) or Intact Top 10 (ten) placements, the following procedure must be followed:
  - a. The dogs involved in the tie will enter the ring together and be judged as a class. Then the three (3) Judges will place themselves in three corners of the ring so they can observe each dog coming and going. Each dog will gait to the first Judge who will observe the front movement and then the rear movement as the dog gaits to the next judge and so on, so that all three (3) judges observe each dog coming and going. As each dog leaves the last Judge, it will arrive back at the ring entrance where all the dogs will re-stack as a class. At this time comparison examination, gaiting or conferring may be utilized at the discretion of the three (3) Judges. Re-judging of the tied dogs shall be utilized to break the tie and not to determine the final score. At the conclusion of the tie breaking judgment, the Judges' Tie Breaking Work Sheet will be tallied. The highest scoring dog will have a plus sign (+) denoted on the dog's original Score Sheet next to the original score. If the tie involves more than two dogs, an A will be placed next to the highest scoring dog's original score on the original Score Sheet, B on the second highest scoring dog's original Score Sheet, C on the third highest scoring dog's original Score Sheet, and so on. The Tie Breaking Work Sheet will not be posted.
5. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of Conformation Finals competition, the Host Club will post all exhibitor scores in a central location where announcements and other venues scores are posted. The score sheet shall include the total score, placement and Judge's name according to the exhibitor's armband number. Altered and Intact competitions are to be posted on separate score sheets in the same location.

### **15.11 Photographs of the Conformation Finals Placements**

1. The Nationals Host Club(s) is/are responsible for the photographing of the Top Ten (10) Altered dog and Top Ten (10) Intact dog placement winners. The photographs will be clearly marked with the dog's registered name, handler, owner name, and breeder, Altered or Intact. The photographs must be submitted to the editor of the Aussie Times before the deadline for the Nationals issue.

## 16 Disqualified Dog Reinstatement Procedure

### 16.1 Dogs Disqualified for Biting, Attacking, or Menacing:

#### 16.1.1 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR REINSTATEMENT:

To initiate the reinstatement procedure, the owner of the dog in question must request in writing for reinstatement. The letter must include a copy of the disqualified dog's ASCA registration certificate, the ASCA Disqualified or Excused Dog form, and a non-refundable fee as determined by the ASCA Board of Directors, to the ASCA Business office at the following address:

ASCA Business Office  
6091 E. State Highway 21  
Bryan, TX 77808

The ASCA Business office will forward the Explanation for Disqualified or Excused Dogs form, request for reinstatement letter, entry forms from the event in question, and any other applicable information but not limited to: photographs, witness/victim statements, veterinary/vaccine reports, hospital/doctor reports (HIPAA compliant), all including contact information, to the ASCA Board of Directors within two (2) weeks of receipt of all information.

Upon receipt of the aforementioned documents, the ASCA Board of Directors will review all evidence. The ASCA Board of Directors could require additional information from all parties. In a timely manner, the ASCA Board of Directors will provide the owner of the dog with its decision to either continue with the procedure, or to deny the application.

The ASCA Board of Directors will notify the owner of the dog of its decision whether to proceed with the reinstatement process or to deny the reinstatement.

If the dog is approved to continue with the procedure, the Executive Secretary will notify the original disqualifying judge, for their information only. **(Effective April 2017)**

#### 16.1.2 EXAMINATION PROCESS:

If the ASCA Board of Directors approves continuation of the reinstatement process, the owner will provide a list of upcoming ASCA events or shows to the ASCA Business Office that the dog and owner can attend for the purpose of hands-on examinations. Location for each examination is at the discretion of the owner. Each examination does not have to occur at the same show/location. The ASCA Business Office will notify the Affiliate show/event giving club of an examination that will occur at their show. The ASCA Business Office will send the ASCA Disqualified Dog Reinstatement Forms to the show/event giving Affiliate club prior to the event. An Affiliate show/event giving club or judge has the right to refuse the examination.

The dog's owner will confirm the scheduled examination with the Affiliate show/event committee. The show/event giving committee will arrange with the judge conducting the examination. The owner of the dog shall not make contact with the judge prior to the examination regarding the examination. Examinations will occur AFTER the conclusion of the show.

#### 16.1.3 JUDGES AND THEIR PROCEDURES:

A panel of three (3) judges is mandatory to evaluate the dog. This panel must consist of at least two (2) ASCA Senior Breeder judges and one (1) ASCA Approved Breeder Judge. Other registry judges, or other recognized ASCA Judges, as approved by the Board of Directors, can be utilized for: Europe, Alaska and Hawaii. These judges will individually evaluate the dog in as similar circumstances, as possible, to those when it was disqualified. Judges may not confer with each other regarding the examination or the completion of the form. All judges must completely fill out their ASCA Disqualified Dog Reinstatement Form. Each judge will have the responsibility of returning their original completed form to the ASCA Business Office. A copy of the form will be retained by the owner of the dog and the judge.

Judge's conducting the examination will follow the ASCA Show Rules and Regulations including the ASCA Guidelines and Code of Ethics for any possible conflicts of interest with the owner of the disqualified dog.

#### **16.1.4 COMPLETION OF EXAMINATION AND NOTIFICATION:**

After all required materials, evidence, and forms have been reviewed; the ASCA Board of Directors will notify the owner of the dog in writing about the final determination of the dog's eligibility. The ASCA Board of Directors has final approval or disapproval on the reinstatement of the dog in question.

#### **16.1.5 APPEAL PROCESS:**

Owners have the right to appeal. This must be done in writing to the ASCA Board of Directors. An appeal may be considered if there is significant new information or evidence supplied to the ASCA Board of Directors in order to obtain an additional evaluation or hearing.

#### **16.1.6 ADDITIONAL DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

In the event that a reinstated dog is disqualified by a judge or a show/event giving committee as a repeat offense for biting or menacing, there will be no avenue for reinstatement or appeal.

### **16.2 Dogs Disqualified for ASCA Breed Standard Disqualifications**

#### **16.2.1 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR REINSTATEMENT:**

To initiate the reinstatement procedure, the owner of the dog in question must request in writing for reinstatement. The letter must include a copy of the disqualified dog's ASCA registration certificate, the ASCA Disqualified or Excused Dog form, and a non-refundable fee as determined by the ASCA Board of Directors, to the ASCA Business office at the following address:

ASCA Business Office  
6091 E. State Highway 21  
Bryan, TX 77808

The ASCA Business office will forward the Explanation for Disqualified or Excused Dogs form, request for reinstatement letter, entry forms from the event in question, and any other applicable information but not limited to: photographs, witness statements, veterinary reports, all including contact information, to the ASCA Board of Directors within two (2) weeks of receipt of all information.

Upon receipt of the aforementioned documents, the ASCA Board of Directors will review all evidence. The ASCA Board of Directors could require additional information from all parties. In a timely manner, the ASCA Board of Directors will provide the owner of the dog with its decision to either continue with the procedure, or to deny the application.

The ASCA Board of Directors will notify the owner of the dog of its decision whether to proceed with the reinstatement process or to deny the reinstatement.

#### **16.2.2 EXAMINATION PROCESS:**

If the ASCA Board of Directors approves continuation of the reinstatement process, the owner will provide a list of upcoming ASCA events or shows to the ASCA Business Office that the dog and owner can attend for the purpose of hands-on examinations. Location for each examination is at the discretion of the owner. Each examination does not have to occur at the same show/location. The ASCA Business Office will notify the Affiliate show/event giving club of an examination that will occur at their show. The ASCA Business Office will send the ASCA Disqualified Dog Reinstatement Forms to the show/event giving Affiliate club prior to the event. An Affiliate show/event giving club or judge has the right to refuse the examination. The dog's owner will confirm the scheduled examination with the Affiliate show/event committee. The show/event giving committee will arrange with the judge conducting the examination. The owner of the dog shall not make contact with the judge prior to the examination regarding the examination. Examinations will occur AFTER the conclusion of the show

#### **16.2.3 JUDGES AND THEIR PROCEDURES:**

A panel of three (3) judges is mandatory to evaluate the dog. This panel must consist of at least two (2) ASCA Senior Breeder judges and one (1) ASCA Approved Breeder Judge. Other registry judges, or other recognized ASCA Judges, as approved by the Board of Directors, can be utilized for: Europe, Alaska and Hawaii. These judges will individually evaluate the dog. Dogs that are being examined for color (s) or marking(s) that are disqualifications in the breed standard must be examined in natural light. Judges may not confer with each other regarding the examination or the completion of the form. All judges must completely fill out their ASCA Disqualified Dog

Reinstatement Form. Each judge will have the responsibility of returning their original completed form to the ASCA Business Office. A copy of the form will be retained by the owner of the dog and the judge.

Judge's conducting the examination will follow the ASCA Show Rules and Regulations including the ASCA Guidelines and Code of Ethics for any possible conflicts of interest with the owner of the disqualified dog.

#### **16.2.4 COMPLETION OF EXAMINATION AND NOTIFICATION:**

After all required materials, evidence, and forms have been reviewed; the ASCA Board of Directors will notify the owner of the dog in writing about the final determination of the dog's eligibility. The ASCA Board of Directors has final approval or disapproval on the reinstatement of the dog in question.

#### **16.2.5 APPEAL PROCESS:**

Owners have the right to appeal. This must be done in writing, to the ASCA Board of Directors. An appeal may be considered if there is significant new information or evidence supplied to the ASCA Board of Directors in order to obtain an additional evaluation or hearing.

#### **16.2.6 ADDITIONAL DISQUALIFICATIONS AFTER REINSTATEMENT:**

In the event that a reinstated dog is disqualified by a judge for the same breed standard disqualification at a third event, there will be no avenue for reinstatement or appeal and all Championship points will be removed.

#### **16.2.7 UNRECOGNIZED BREED STANDARD DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

In the event a dog is disqualified for a disqualification that is not listed in the ASCA Breed Standard, the dog will be reinstated by determination of the ASCA Business Office. In letter form, the owner must send a request for reinstatement to the business office. Any evidence that would determine that the disqualification is not an ASCA Breed Standard disqualification must be sent. Examples of the evidence, but not limited to, would be: pictures, written and signed statements from an ASCA Approved Breeder judge, an ASCA Senior Breeder Judge, the ASCA Breed Standard or other related information published by ASCA. No fee will be required for the request for reinstatement. Upon the determination of the ASCA Business Office that the disqualification is not warranted, the dog will be reinstated immediately.

Upon determination that the disqualification is warranted, the owner will be notified, and [SECTION 16.2: Dogs Disqualified for ASCA Breed Standard Disqualifications](#) procedures must be followed.

## APPENDIX I: ASCA Australian Shepherd Breed Standard

Created January 15, 1977 | Amended June 1, 2013

**INTRODUCTION:** First and foremost, the Australian Shepherd is a true working stockdog, and anything that detracts from his usefulness as such is undesirable. The most important breed characteristics are overall moderation in size and bone, balance with correct proportions, and sound movement.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** The Australian Shepherd is a well-balanced dog of medium size and bone. He is attentive and animated, showing strength and stamina combined with unusual agility. Slightly longer than tall, he has a coat of moderate length and coarseness with coloring that offers variety and individuality in each specimen. An identifying characteristic is his natural or docked bobtail. In each sex, masculinity or femininity is well defined.

**CHARACTER:** The Australian Shepherd is primarily a working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts. He is an intelligent, exceptional companion. He is versatile and easily trained: performing his assigned tasks with great style and enthusiasm. He is reserved with strangers but does not exhibit shyness. This unusually versatile stockdog works with the power and quickness to control difficult cattle as well as the ability to move sheep without unnecessary roughness. Although an aggressive, authoritative worker, viciousness toward people or animals is intolerable.

**HEAD:** The head is clean-cut, strong, dry, and in proportion to the body. The topkull is flat to slightly rounded; its length and width each equal to the length of the muzzle. The muzzle is of medium width and depth and tapers gradually to a rounded tip, without appearing heavy or snipey. Lips are close fitting, meeting at the mouthline. The toplines of the muzzle and topkull appear close to parallel. The stop is moderate but well defined.

**(A) TEETH:** A full complement of strong white teeth meet in a scissors bite. A level bite is a fault. Teeth broken or missing by accident are not penalized. All other missing teeth should be faulted to the degree that they deviate from a full complement of 42 teeth.

**Disqualifications:** Undershot bite, Overshot bite, Wry Mouth.

**(B) EYES:** The eyes are very expressive, showing attentiveness and intelligence. They are clear, almond-shaped, of moderate size, and set a little obliquely, neither prominent nor sunken. The pupils are dark, well defined, and perfectly positioned. Eye color is brown, blue, amber; or any variation or combination, including flecks and marbling. All eye colors are acceptable in combination with all coat colors.

**Faults:** Any deviation from almond-shaped eyes.

**(C) EARS:** The ears are set high on the side of the head, are triangular, of moderate size and slightly rounded at the tip. The tip of the ear reaches to, but not further than, the inside corner of the nearest eye. At full attention, the ears should lift from one-quarter (1/4) to one-half (1/2) above the base and break forward or slightly to the side.

**Severe Faults:** Prick ears; overly large ears; low set ears with no lift from the base.

**NECK AND BODY:** The neck is firm, clean, and in proportion to the body. It is of medium length and slightly arched at the crest, setting well into the shoulders. The body is firm and muscular. The topline appears level at a natural four-square stance. The bottom line carries well back with a moderate tuck-up. The chest is deep and strong with ribs well sprung. The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top. The croup is moderately sloping. The Tail is straight, not to exceed four (4) inches, natural bobtail or docked.

**FOREQUARTERS:** The shoulder blades (scapula) are well laid back, with the upper arm (humerus) slightly longer than the shoulder blade. Both the upper arm and shoulder blade are well muscled. The forelegs are straight and strong, perpendicular to the ground, with moderate bone. The point of the elbow is set under the withers and is equidistant from the withers to the ground. Pasterns are short, thick, and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight

angle when viewed from the side. Feet are oval shaped, compact, with close knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Dewclaws may be removed.

**HINDQUARTERS:** Width of hindquarters is approximately equal to the width of the forequarters at the shoulder. The angulation of the pelvis and upper thigh (femur) corresponds to the angulation of the shoulder blade and upper arm. The upper and lower thigh are well muscled. Stifles are clearly defined; hock joints moderately bent. The metatarsi are short, perpendicular to the ground, and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Feet are oval shaped, compact, with close-knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Rear dewclaws are removed.

**COAT:** The coat is of medium length and texture, straight to slightly wavy, and weather resistant. The undercoat varies in quantity with climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head, outside of ears, front of forelegs, and below the hocks. Backs of forelegs are moderately feathered and breeches are moderately full. There is a moderate mane, more pronounced in dogs than bitches. The Australian Shepherd is a working dog and is to be shown with a natural coat.

**COLOR:** All colors are strong, clear and rich. The recognized colors are blue merle, red (liver) merle, solid black, and solid red (liver) all with or without white markings and/or tan (copper) points with no order of preference. The blue merle and black have black pigmentation on nose, lips and eye-rims. Reds and red merles have liver pigmentation on nose, lips and eye rims. Butterfly nose should not be faulted under one year of age. On all colors the areas surrounding the ears and eyes are dominated by color other than white. The hairline of a white collar does not exceed the point at the withers.

**Disqualifications:** Other than recognized colors. White body splashes. Dudley nose.

**GAIT:** Smooth, free, and easy, exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced natural stride. As speed increases, both front and rear feet converge equally toward the centerline of gravity beneath the body. The top line remains firm and level. When viewed from the side the trot is effortless, exhibiting facility of movement rather than a hard driving action. Exaggerated reach and drive at the trot are not desirable. Gait faults shall be penalized according to the degree of deviation from the ideal.

**SIZE:** Preferred height at the withers for males is 20 to 23 inches; that for females is 18 to 21 inches, however, quality is not to be sacrificed in favor of size.

**Other Disqualifications:** Monorchidism and cryptorchidism.

## APPENDIX II: Judge Requirements

### SECTION ONE: Breeder Judge Requirements

#### REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR BECOMING AN ASCA APPROVED BREEDER JUDGE:

Within the ASCA Approved Breeder Judge Program, there are four (4) levels of expertise, which are as follows:  
**NON-REGULAR** - Allowed to judge only Non-Regular classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation shows. May not judge at a National Specialty.

**PROVISIONAL** - Allowed to judge all Non-Regular and Regular classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation shows. May not judge at a National Specialty.

**APPROVED** - Allowed to judge all Non-Regular and Regular classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation shows. Allowed to judge Non-Regular classes at a National Specialty

**SENIOR** - Allowed to judge all Non-Regular and Regular classes at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation shows. Allowed to judge all Non-Regular and Regular classes (Intact and Altered Conformation) at a National Specialty.

At all levels of the Breeder Judge program it is the responsibility of the applicant to maintain their records and to submit applications for increased levels of approval at the appropriate time. The requirements stated are minimum requirements only and may be exceeded by the applicant if so desired.

\*\*\*\*\* If five or more years have lapsed from the date of the judge's last ASCA conformation judging assignment, the judge is then required to re-take the judges' test to demonstrate current knowledge of the Breed Standard and ASCA Conformation Show Rules and Regulations. A score of 100% is required to resume status as an ASCA Approved Breeder Judge. No additional requirements will need to be met. A re-applying judge may take the test twice without penalty. Failure after the second attempt would result in a six-month waiting period. A failure after the third attempt would result in a denial of the judge's reinstatement. \*\*\*\*\*

#### NON-REGULAR BREEDER JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

Before applying for Non-Regular Breeder Judge status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be a full adult member of ASCA in good standing for a minimum of eight (8) years.
- B. Must be at least twenty-six (26) years of age and must be a member of the sponsoring affiliate club for a minimum of two (2) years before applying to become a non-regular judge.
- C. Must have bred five (5) ASCA Champions of Record or be a breeder of three (3) and handled two (2) ASCA Champions of Record to their title. (The applicant must have placed all points and majors on each Champion.)
- D. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Australian Shepherd Breed Standard.
- E. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Approved Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.
- F. Must have evidence of a strong background and involvement in ASCA and its programs developed for the Australian Shepherd, such as membership and participation in Affiliate clubs, and putting on ASCA events such as Show Secretary, Steward, Scorekeeper, Timekeeping, etc.
- G. Must have served as a steward in the conformation ring at five (5) or more ASCA sanctioned events. Must have served as a Show Secretary at three (3) or more ASCA sanctioned events.
- H. Must be willing to abide by the ASCA Conformation Judges Code of Ethics.

THESE ARE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING AND EACH APPLICANT WILL BE EVALUATED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS BEFORE ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM. APPLICANT MAY EXCEED THESE REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR BENEFIT.

#### PROCEDURE

Steps in applying for Non-Regular Breeder Judge:

- A. Obtain an application and Affiliate sponsorship form from the ASCA Business Office.

- B. Both the application and the Affiliate sponsorship form must be completed and returned to the ASCA Business Office by the sponsoring Affiliate Club.
- C. Upon receipt of the application and the Affiliate sponsorship form, the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.
- D. When the Office determines the minimum requirements have been met they will send the applicant a judge's test. This test must be completed and returned to the ASCA Business Office within two (2) months. A score of 100% is required to pass. An applicant may attempt the test twice without penalty. Failure after the second attempt would result in a six (6) month waiting period. A failure after the third attempt would result in denial of his/her Breeder Judge Application. The office will also send out, with the Judges test a one page statement with the following to be signed and filled out by the Judge applicant and returned with the Judges test to the office; I \_\_\_\_\_ (the applicant) understand that I am forbidden from accepting assignments or any offer of future assignments at the non-regular level until I receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office via email, USPS or FAX of my appointment to Non-Regular Judge Status and I have been assigned a Judges number in writing. I will inform any club that attempts to hire me prematurely, that I am unable to Judge for their club. Failure to follow this rule will incur an additional forty-five (45) day penalty extension before I can be approved. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_. (the applicant).
- E. Upon passing the judges' test, the applicant's name will be published in the Aussie Times for comments from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application, sponsorship form; judges' test results and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the applicant within sixty (60) days.
- F. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the non-regular level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors.
- G. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Non-Regular Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Non-Regular Breeder Judge. The applicant may then accept non-regular level judging assignments. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as a Breeder Judge with the notation of "NR" beside their name.

#### **PROVISIONAL BREEDER JUDGE REQUIREMENTS**

Before applying for Provisional Breeder Judge Status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be an ASCA Non-Regular Breeder Judge.
  - 1. Must have judged non-regular classes at three (3) or more ASCA Sanctioned Conformation events (not handling classes) until a minimum of thirty (30) entries total is accrued. At least one of these events must include an entry of ten or more).
  - 2. Previous ASCA judging experience obtained on a recognized judge's card from another organization (AKC/UKC/CKC) may be substituted towards the Non-Regular portion of the Provisional judging requirement for becoming an ASCA breeder judge. All other requirements must be met.

These are minimum requirements for applying and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. Applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Steps in applying for Provisional Breeder Judge:



- A. In letter format submit the following documentation to the ASCA Business Office:
  1. A minimum of three (3) or more non-regular judging assignments with a minimum of thirty (30) entries that meet the previously stated requirements.
  2. Documentation must include the Name of the Affiliate club sponsoring the sanctioned shows, the date of the judging assignment, the name of the show secretary, the classes judged and the number of entries judged.
  3. Documentation may include any other additional educational steps taken or beneficial activity the applicant may have been involved in since approval as a Non-Regular Breeder Judge.
- B. Upon receipt of the application letter the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.
- C. Once the Office has determined that the applicant has met the minimum requirements, the applicant's name will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times for comment from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application letter and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the application within sixty (60) days.
- D. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the provisional level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors.
- E. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Provisional Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Provisional Breeder Judge. The applicant may then accept provisional level judging assignments. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as a Breeder Judge with the notation of "P" beside their name.

#### **APPROVED BREEDER JUDGE REQUIREMENTS**

Before applying for Approved Breeder Judge Status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be an ASCA Provisional Breeder Judge.
- B. Must have completed a minimum of ten (10) judging assignments with a minimum of fifteen (15) entries each at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation Shows. A minimum of two (2) assignments must be from outside of the state/province the judge resides in.
- C. Judging assignments must be completed in regular classes as published in the ASCA Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.

These are minimum requirements for applying and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. Applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Steps in applying for Approved Breeder Judge:

- A. In letter format submit the following documentation to the ASCA Business Office:
  1. A minimum of ten (10) regular class judging assignments with a minimum of 15 entries that meet the previously stated requirements. \*These assignments may come from the interim period during which a judge is awaiting final approval from the ASCA Board of Directors. Once approval is given, all interim assignments will then count toward the level of judging being applied for.
  2. Documentation must include the name of the Affiliate club sponsoring the sanctioned show, the date of the judging assignment, the name of the show secretary, the classes judged and the number of entries judged.
  3. Documentation may include any other additional educational steps taken or beneficial activity the applicant may have been involved in since approval as a Provisional Breeder Judge.

- B. Upon receipt of the application letter the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.
- C. Once the Office has determined that the applicant has met the minimum requirements, the applicant's name will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times for comment from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application letter and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the application within sixty (60) days.
- D. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the approved level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors. If the application is denied, these interim assignments may count toward additional tasks assigned per the ASCA Board of Directors.
- E. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Approved Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Approved Breeder Judge. The applicant may now accept approved level judging assignments. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges listed as a Breeder Judge with the notation of "A" beside their name.

#### **SENIOR BREEDER JUDGE REQUIREMENTS**

Before applying for Senior Breeder Judge status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be an ASCA Approved Breeder Judge.
- B. Must have completed ten (10) judging assignments with a minimum of fifteen (15) entries each at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation shows as an ASCA Approved Breeder Judge and/ or interim assignments while awaiting final approval from the ASCA Board of Directors. **(Effective January 2017)**
- C. Five (5) qualifying judging assignments must be worked outside of the state/province the applicant resides in. These five (5) qualifying assignments will come from assignments worked as an ASCA Provisional Breeder Judge or as an ASCA Approved Breeder Judge only.
- D. Judging assignments must be completed in regular classes as published in the ASCA Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.

These are minimum requirements for applying and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. Applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Steps in applying for Senior Breeder Judge:

- A. In letter format submit the following documentation to the ASCA Business Office:
  - 1. A minimum of ten regular class judging assignments with a minimum of 15 entries that meet the previously stated requirements. These assignments may come from the interim period during which a judge is awaiting final approval from the ASCA Board of Directors. Once approval is given, all interim assignments will then count toward the level of judging being applied for.
  - 2. A minimum of five (5) regular judging assignments worked outside of the state/area the applicant lives in that meet the previous stated requirement.
  - 3. Documentation must include the name of the Affiliate club sponsoring the sanctioned show, the date of the judging assignment, the name of the show secretary, the classes judged and the number of entries judged.
  - 4. Documentation may include any other additional educational steps taken or beneficial activity the applicant may have been involved in since approval as an Approved Breeder Judge.
- B. Upon receipt of the application letter the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.

- C. Once the Office has determined that the applicant has met the minimum requirements, the applicant's name will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times for comment from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application letter and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the application within sixty (60) days.
- D. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the senior level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors. If the application is denied, these interim assignments may count toward additional tasks assigned per the ASCA Board of Directors.
- E. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Senior Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Senior Breeder Judge. The applicant may now accept senior level judging assignments. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as a Breeder Judge with the notation of "S" beside their name.

## SECTION TWO: Other Registry ASCA Judges Requirements

Judging at an ASCA Sanctioned Conformation show is an honor and a privilege, not a right. Judge applicants must satisfy ASCA's stated minimum eligibility requirements for judges, but satisfying the minimum requirements does not entitle an applicant to become or remain an ASCA judge. In addition to satisfying other stated qualifications to serve, an applicant must consistently display the highest level of ethical conduct, impartial demeanor, professional comportment and dedication to upholding ASCA's codes, rules, decisions and the Statement of Purpose in ASCA's Bylaws. Any documented failure to perform on this level may result in denial or revocation of judging privileges by the ASCA Board of Directors without regard to any other qualification or prior service.

ASCA recognizes judges' license from the following organizations:

- American Kennel Club (AKC)
- United Kennel Club (UKC)
- Canadian Kennel Club

Judges from these registries must have been recognized conformation judges within one of these organizations for a minimum of three (3) years. AKC, UKC, or CKC Judges who have judged ASCA Conformation events prior to June 01, 2001 are exempt from this requirement. Verification of new judges by contacting their primary registry is the responsibility of the affiliate club that hires the judge.

### REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR BECOMING AN ASCA APPROVED OTHER PERSON CONFORMATION JUDGE

Within the ASCA Approved Other Person Conformation Judge Program, there are two (2) levels of expertise, which are as follows:

**NON-REGULAR:** Allowed to judge only Non-Regular classes at ASCA sanctioned conformation shows. May not judge at a National Specialty.

**APPROVED:** Allowed to judge all Non-Regular and Regular classes at ASCA sanctioned conformation shows. May not judge at a National Specialty and/or pre-shows.

Judging at an ASCA Sanctioned Conformation show is an honor and a privilege, not a right. Judge applicants must satisfy ASCA's stated minimum eligibility requirements for judges, but satisfying the minimum requirements does not entitle an applicant to become or remain an ASCA OP judge. In addition to satisfying other stated qualifications to serve, an applicant must consistently display the highest level of ethical conduct, impartial demeanor, professional comportment and dedication to upholding ASCA's codes, rules, decisions and the

Statement of Purpose in ASCA's Bylaws. Any documented failure to perform on this level may result in denial or revocation of judging privileges by the ASCA Board of Directors without regard to any other qualification or prior service.

At all levels of the ASCA Other Person Conformation Judge program it is the responsibility of the applicant to maintain their records and to submit applications for increased levels of approval at the appropriate time. The requirements stated are minimum requirements only and may be exceeded by the applicant if so desired.

#### **NON-REGULAR OTHER PERSON CONFORMATION JUDGE REQUIREMENTS**

Before applying for Non-Regular Other Person Conformation Judge status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be at least twenty-six (26) years of age.
- B. Must have bred five (5) Champions of Record or be a breeder of three (3) and handled two (2) Champions of Record to their title. (The applicant must have placed all points and majors on each Champion.)
- C. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Australian Shepherd Breed Standard.
- D. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Approved Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.
- E. Must have evidence of a strong background and involvement in pure breeds, such as membership and participation in Breed clubs, and putting on Breed events such as serving as Show Secretary, Steward, Scorekeeper, Timekeeping, etc.
- F. Must have served as a steward in the conformation ring at five (5) or more Breed club events. Must have served as a Show Secretary at three (3) or more Breed club events.
- G. Must be willing to abide by the ASCA Conformation Judges Code of Ethics.

THESE ARE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING AND EACH APPLICANT WILL BE EVALUATED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS BEFORE ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM. APPLICANT MAY EXCEED THESE REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR BENEFIT.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Steps in applying for Non-Regular Other Person Conformation Judge:

- A. Obtain an application and Affiliate sponsorship form from the ASCA Business Office.
- B. Both the application and the Affiliate sponsorship form must be completed and returned to the ASCA Business Office by the sponsoring Affiliate Club.
- C. Upon receipt of the application and the Affiliate sponsorship form, the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.
- D. When the Office determines the minimum requirements have been met they will send the applicant a judges test. This test must be completed and returned to the ASCA Business Office within two (2) months. A score of 100% is required to pass.
- E. Upon passing the judges' test, the applicant's name will be published in the Aussie Times for comments from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application, sponsorship form, judges' test results and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the applicant within sixty (60) days.
- F. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the non-regular level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors.
- G. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Non-Regular Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Non-Regular Other Person Conformation Judge. The applicant may now accept non-regular level judging assignments. Upon

approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as an Other Person Conformation Judge with the notation of "NOP" beside their name.

#### **APPROVED OTHER PERSON CONFORMATION JUDGE REQUIREMENTS**

Before applying for Approved Other Person Conformation Judge Status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be an ASCA Non-Regular Other Person Conformation Judge.
- B. Must have judged non-regular classes at three (3) or more ASCA Sanctioned Conformation events (not handling classes) until a minimum of thirty (30) entries is accrued. At least one of these events must include an entry of ten (10) or more.

These are minimum requirements for applying and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. Applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Steps in applying for Approved Other Person Conformation Judge:

- A. In letter format submit the following documentation to the ASCA Business Office:
  1. A minimum of three (3) non-regular judging assignments that meet the previously stated requirements.
  2. Documentation must include the Name of the Affiliate club sponsoring the sanctioned show, the date of the judging assignment, the name of the show secretary, the classes judged and the number of entries judged.
  3. Documentation may include any other additional educational steps taken or beneficial activity the applicant may have been involved in since approval as a Non-Regular Other Person Conformation Judge.
- B. Upon receipt of the application letter the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.
- C. Once the Office has determined that the applicant has met the minimum requirements, the applicant's name will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times for comment from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application letter and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the application within sixty (60) days.
- D. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the provisional level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors.
- E. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Provisional Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Provisional Other Person Conformation Judge. The applicant may now accept provisional level judging assignments. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as an Other Person Conformation Judge with the notation of "OP" beside their name.

## APPENDIX III: ASCA Conformation Judges Education

### Introduction

As an aspiring, newly approved or experienced dog show judge, you are an essential part of the fancy and the job of officiating dog shows carries enormous responsibilities. Before applying to judge or accepting an assignment, you should have read as much as possible about the breed, spent many hours ringside observing, and have done all you can to ensure that you have a good, all around knowledge of the Australian Shepherd. You need to examine your motives for wanting to judge. You should understand canine anatomy and proper gait so that you are able to differentiate between correct and incorrect structure and movement. You must have a thorough knowledge of breed type and be able to identify quality as opposed to mediocrity. You must be able to keep your nerve, maintain a clear purpose and put up only those dogs you feel are the best representative of the breed on that day. This document has been developed for all ASCA and visiting judges. We hope it makes it easier for you to do your job. You should be thoroughly familiar with this guide, as well as all of ASCA's Rules and Policies if you:

- are an approved Non-Regular, Provisional, Breeder or Senior level ASCA judge;
- have accepted match, sweepstakes or futurity judging assignments;
- are a visiting judge accepting assignments at ASCA events;
- plan to apply for judging approval.

Please be aware that this document cannot cover all situations, nor can it substitute for common sense.

### Your Responsibilities and Conduct as a Judge

#### Code of Ethics for Conformation Judges:

1. ASCA Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with these Guidelines set forth by the Australian Shepherd Club Board of Directors. Failure to comply with these guidelines subjects a judge to possible disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges.
2. ASCA Conformation Judges carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. They function as a guiding voice of the Australian Shepherd and should represent the highest ideals in terms of honesty, integrity, impartiality and knowledge of the sport and the breed.
3. The approval to judge ASCA events is a privilege and is not a right or reward. Suspensions in other registries relevant to the task of judging will be a consideration in the approval and maintenance of judging privileges.
4. All ASCA and visiting judges and judging applicants must agree to abide by the ASCA Judges Code of Ethics.
5. ASCA has the right to refuse, suspend or revoke the ASCA judging license of any person in violation of ASCA rules, or for the failure to comply with the guidelines set forth in the ASCA Judges Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with these guidelines, or any ASCA rules, subjects a judge to possible disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges. Judges will be notified if such action is being considered, the reason for its consideration, and given the opportunity to reply.

#### Responsibilities

1. ASCA Judges should have thorough breed knowledge, understanding of the Breed Standard and full comprehension of the rules concerning ASCA's Conformation Program. They are expected to demonstrate efficient ring procedure and control. It is their responsibility to keep up to date with current changes in both the program rules and Breed Standard.
2. Judges are expected to continue the education process throughout their career.
3. Judges are to be professional in carrying out their duties and must not allow personal preferences to interfere with the stated guidelines upon which they judge animals.
4. It is essential that exhibitors have complete faith in the impartiality of their judges. A judge's actions and decisions should leave no doubt that they were made based solely on the merits of the dogs presented to them on that day.

### **Conduct, Conflicts of Interest and Common Sense**

You must both possess and project an unwavering air of integrity and ethical behavior that protects the reputation of ASCA dog shows. With common sense, judges can easily avoid situations which might raise ethical questions. Judges are presumed to be honest, competent and dedicated. Nevertheless, it is all too easy to find yourself in uncomfortable or even inappropriate situations. No guidelines can cover every situation, but they can help you avoid improprieties or perceived improprieties.

#### **Conduct**

1. The general conduct of judge, both inside and out of the ring, should be above reproach. Judges should avoid conduct and casual remarks that might be misconstrued or misinterpreted such as expressing favoritism or specific criticism of dogs or exhibitors.
2. Prior to the completion of a judging assignment, a judge shall not act as a spectator at the same conformation event at which he is scheduled to judge.
3. When officiating at a show, the judge shall not:
  - a. Discuss the merits or faults of the dogs with the stewards, attendants, or spectators during the assignment. This does not include overall praise of an entire entry of dogs.
  - b. Address handlers or dogs in the ring by name
  - c. Hold, have control of, or groom any dog on the show grounds during his assignment that is not wholly owned or co-owned by the judge
  - d. While officiating, a judge should not ask individuals:
    - i. Who owns the dog
    - ii. From whom the dog was purchased
    - iii. What bloodlines the dog is out of
4. A judge shall not personally exhibit a dog in Conformation in the same state as his assignment four (4) days prior to his assignment.
5. When attending social functions organized by the event-giving club where exhibitors are present, a judge is expected to exercise particular discretion in discussing individual exhibitors, dogs or breeders.
6. A judge or their family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the judge's behalf.

#### **Conflicts of Interest and Common Sense**

Although a judge cannot directly control who enters under him, he should advise potential exhibitors not to enter under him when he feels there is a possible conflict of interest to avoid improprieties or perceived improprieties. Examples of such conflicts might be but are not limited to:

- your employer or an employee
- a relative
- a person with whom you co-own dogs
- a person with whom you have a recent business relationship with
- a person who has handled your dogs on a regular basis

These are only examples. The key is to avoid situations that are likely to give the impression of impropriety, and you must do everything possible to keep your reputation above reproach.

#### **A Handy Rule of Thumb**

There will always be those "gray areas" that perplex judges. When faced with such a dilemma, ask yourself whether the situation, however innocent, maintains an outward appearance of propriety. A good rule of thumb is: If you have concerns about whether something is inappropriate, you probably should avoid the situation.

#### **Accepting Assignments**

Never solicit or promote assignments. ASCA will investigate all reports by individuals or clubs that a judge solicited or promoted assignments. Appropriate action will be taken whenever needed.

### **Written Invitations**

It is a good idea to require all clubs to send you written invitations for assignments. Their request should clearly specify the date, time, classes and location where you are being asked to judge. Promptly acknowledge all invitations, again, in writing, and keep accurate records of assignments you accept.

### **Avoid Conflicts**

You should make every effort to avoid judging conflicts. It is your responsibility to acknowledge judging invitations promptly. Careful record keeping and prompt acceptance (or refusal) of invitations help eliminate unnecessary confusion and conflict for both judges and show-giving clubs.

### **Traveling to Assignments**

You cannot do your best work if you are tired from travel or are rushed to meet a departure flight time. Work out your mode of transportation, arrival and departure times with the club well in advance of your assignment. You should understand that in accepting an invitation, you are committing yourself to the show-giving club for the entire day. Your travel plans should not be predicated on arriving late or on leaving early to get transportation home or to another show. You should not ask clubs to arrange judging programs to accommodate your travel plans. You should not travel to and from shows or stay with anyone who is likely to be exhibiting or handling under you.

### **Expenses and Contracts**

When you accept an invitation, clearly inform club officials what your expenses and fees, if any, will be, so they will not be surprised by a larger than anticipated bill. This is a contract between you and the club. The more specific the details you and the club should be included in a written contract. Do not accept verbal contracts as there is the potential for misunderstandings to develop. Written contracts are an important consideration and a courtesy to clubs as well as to the judges. If you sign a contract provided by the club, both you and the club are responsible for abiding by its conditions.

### **Fitness to Judge/Illness**

#### **Fitness to Judge**

As a dog show judge, you must be capable of performing the functions necessary to properly judge the dogs. You must have:

- the maneuverability to negotiate a ring both indoors and outdoors, with or without mechanical assistance, e.g., a wheelchair, crutches or a cane.
- the flexibility to examine all parts of a dog's anatomy either on a table or the ground
- normal vision (correctable by eyeglasses or contact lenses).
- the capability of doing all the necessary paperwork.

#### **Illness**

Judges are expected to be physically fit. If you find you cannot fulfill an assignment because of illness or other serious occurrence, immediately notify the Show Secretary and/or the Show Chairperson by telephone, overnight letter, telegram, e-mail or fax. If you are delayed en route to a show, immediately make every effort to contact the Show Secretary or Show Chairperson. If you become ill while judging and it becomes necessary to find a replacement, you may not continue your assignment later in the day if you find yourself feeling better.

### **Before Entering the Ring**

#### **Be on Time**

Allow at least one-half hour to report to the Show Secretary. Take a moment to visit the facilities before entering the ring.

The Show Secretary and/or Ring Stewards will provide you with the judge's book, ribbons and other materials necessary to start judging on schedule to the ring. If not provided, ask for disinfectant wipes or hand cleaner to be provided.



### **Avoid Contacts**

Do not visit the grooming or exercise areas on the day you are judging. Do not carry or examine a catalog, discuss the merits of the dogs you are judging, or talk at length with anyone who may be exhibiting under you. Do not sit at ringside during the conformation events that you are not officiating. When you have completed all assignments for a show or set of shows, then such contact is permissible, but be prudent. Your friends, if they are considerate, should be discreet in making conversation with you prior to judging. It is your responsibility to remind them to do so.

### **Proper Dress**

Avoid inappropriate or outlandish dress. Weather permitting, men and women should wear business casual to professional attire. Women should not wear skirts that are too short or too cumbersome. Shirts and jackets should not be excessively tight or revealing. Avoid noisy, dangling jewelry or hats unsuitable for the occasion.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is permissible only between classes, provided it does not delay judging. You must comply with any non-smoking regulations of the building or club.

### **Judging the Dogs**

#### **You Are in Charge**

As the judge, you have full authority over all persons in the ring. See Chapter 7, Sections [16](#) and [17](#), of the Rules for a review of the judge's authority. With this authority comes the responsibility to be thoughtful and considerate. Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog and class to class as conditions permit.

You should avoid theatrical movements or making inappropriate comments to ringside. Be polite, but generally limit your conversation with exhibitors to instructions on positioning or gaiting the dogs. If the age of the dog is required, ask the steward to check the birth date.

#### **Check the Ring**

Before starting your judging, quickly inspect the ring you have been assigned. Determine how you intend to use the ring and look for unsafe conditions, whether it is a loose mat or a depression in the grass. If a condition can be corrected, it should be. Moving ring gates, etc., should be discussed with the Show Chairperson.

When judging in sunny weather, assemble the dogs so that the sun is to your back. Do not attempt to judge with the sun in your eyes. On windy days, if possible, line the dogs up facing into the wind so that the coats are blown with the grain of growth. It is difficult to evaluate a topline when the hair is blown straight up and backwards.

Be considerate of your ringside observers. Don't exclude them from the enjoyment of observation or the opportunity to learn by lining up and gaiting dogs where observers cannot watch.

#### **Assembling the Class**

Never start judging a breed before the time listed in the premium list. A good steward can be a great help in readying a class for the ring. A steward may tell you when the class is ready and what dogs are absent, but you are responsible for marking the absentees. Never ask your steward to page individual dogs or exhibitors on the public-address system.

There will be occasions when exhibitors have ring conflicts and you may be asked to wait until the exhibitor can appear. There is no obligation for you to do this, but it is courteous to give an exhibitor five minutes' grace. Ask your ring steward to inform the other entrants that there is a hold up and the reason why.

Carefully check for the presence of each dog in every class. Compare the armband numbers indicated in the judge's book with the armband numbers of the exhibitors. It may be helpful to make a small check or dot next to the number in the judge's book for entries present to avoid confusion. In marking dogs present or absent, always be certain that all armbands are worn correctly and the numbers correspond to the entries in the class. Note: It is also essential to verify armband numbers in the Winners and Reserve Winners Classes, and of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch in Best of judging. Mark absentees in each class

### **Disabled Handlers**

ASCA strives to provide the opportunity for all people of various backgrounds and capabilities to participate in its events. In the case of conformation judging, where decisions are based solely on the quality of the dogs, you may modify the regular judging procedure to accommodate a disabled handler. If a modification of normal judging procedure is required, then you need only to determine that it would not inhibit the ability of other handlers in the ring to show their dogs. A disabled handler may compete using a cane, crutch, or electric-powered wheelchair. However, when gaiting the dogs as a group, you should ensure that a handler who cannot maintain a normal gait for the breed being exhibited, be placed in line where it will not interfere with the ability of the other dogs to gait properly. Blind handlers may have a second person assist them in individual and group gaiting of the dogs. If the ring surface or terrain makes it difficult for the assisted handler to gait the dog at a normal speed, you may adjust where the dog is placed in line to give all handlers an equal opportunity to show their dogs. Blind handlers may have the second person assist in placing puppies onto tables. The primary function of exhibiting the dog is the responsibility of the handler and not the second person in the ring.

### **Change of Exhibitors**

A change of exhibitor is permitted at your discretion up until the time all dogs in the class have been individually examined and individually gaited. After that, no change of exhibitor is allowed. Late Arrivals It is your decision to allow a late arrival into the ring. In the strictest sense, a late arrival may be allowed to enter the ring until the judge's book has been marked. However, many judges establish the cut-off point when all dogs have been individually examined and gaited. If a single class entry arrives late, it is your decision whether or not to judge the dog.

### **Rules and Breed Standards**

You are responsible for your own interpretation of the Rules and the ASCA Breed Standard in effect on the day of your judging assignment. If your decision depends on the exact wording of a Rule or the ASCA Breed Standard, do not hesitate to refer to these documents. You may also discuss the Rules or Breed Standard with the Show Secretary or Ring Steward but should not rely on their verbal confirmation. Investigate the answer to your question by examining the documents yourself.

### **Speed of Judging**

Delays and difficulties sometimes occur. While you should never rush an assignment, your officiating should be conducted with efficiency. Generally, a new judge will be somewhat slower in their job than an experienced judge, so clubs should take this into account when scheduling subsequent or concurrent events. As a Non-Regular or Provisional judge, it is your responsibility to inform the clubs that you may need some extra time to complete an assignment. Conditions may cause your judging to take longer, include:

- judging the breed for the first time
- judging in a dimly-lit building
- inexperienced or no ring stewards
- emergencies such as weather or class conflicts

Take all the time needed to properly judge a class. At the same time, use efficient methods to keep to the schedule. A situation that significantly delays judging should be briefly noted in your judge's book.

### **Large Entries, Small Rings**

You may occasionally find yourself with very large classes. Keep only as many dogs in the ring as can be conveniently accommodated for individual examination and gaiting. Divide classes into roughly equal portions. Divide a Best of Breed class that is too large for the ring by separating dogs and bitches, assuming the entry in each are roughly equal. Otherwise, divide the class into roughly equal groups. In dividing a class, remember it is your responsibility to determine absentees. First have all the dogs assembled in the ring so that preliminary paperwork can be completed, then divide the class, calling dogs into the ring in catalog order. When judging very large classes with many sections, write down the armband numbers of the "keepers," and let them leave the ring while you judge the next sections. Tell the exhibitors you will be calling them back into the ring after you have completed all sections. If a class is divided, it is permissible for a handler to take an exhibit into more than one section. When

judging divided classes, other than Best of Breed, you must select a minimum of four dogs from the first section and any number from succeeding sections. There is no point in keeping too many dogs from any section. You have only four ribbons to award. However, never leave yourself with only four dogs.

When judging Best of Breed at a National Specialty with a specified number of Premier Awards, keep at least that number of dogs from the first group and any number from succeeding sections. It is important that you keep and award an accurate number of awards to the Premier Dogs/Bitches. Do not forget that Best of Breed, Best Opposite Sex and Best of Winners will also need to be awarded in addition to the Premier Awards.

### **Judging the Dogs**

Step confidently into the middle of your ring and ask that the first class be admitted to the ring. Stand and take a good look at the dogs both in motion and when standing. Observe outline, balance, style and type of the group as a whole before beginning individual examinations. Make a mental note of who the first and last exhibitors are so that you do not lose your place during the examinations. Perform your individual examinations and individual gaiting patterns, and when that is completed, have the exhibitor and dog join the end of the line. Repeat the process until all dogs have been individually examined.

### **Individual Examination of Dogs**

Examine every dog in approximately the same systematic manner, even if a poor specimen may clearly be out of the ribbons. Approach dogs calmly. Examine with gentleness of touch and with no sudden, surprising gestures. One satisfactory approach is to begin with the mouth and head, then systematically work down the neck, front, shoulders, body, and hindquarters. It is not necessary to determine soundness by forcibly raising and dropping front or hindquarters, leaning on the back or applying undue pressure on the spine or hocks. Thorough and complete individual examination is not excessive examination. Do as much as necessary and no more. Always judge dogs solely on the basis of their condition as they are presented in the ring on show day. Give absolutely no consideration to what a dog's quality may be at some future time, or what a dog's condition might have been were it not for some disease or accident. In reviewing a class, avoid excessive rearranging of a dog's coat, whistling, gesturing or baiting. However, do not hesitate to feel out a suspected fault beneath a highly-groomed coat. When judging Best of Breed, you may give Winners Dog and Winners bitch a cursory examination since they were judged in a more thorough manner earlier.

### **Evaluating a Dog's Mouth**

For sanitary reasons, it is appropriate to request that the exhibitors open the dog's mouth themselves. However, you have full authority to insist on personally examining the dog's bite yourself, and should do so if the exhibitor is unable to show the dog's teeth/bite satisfactorily. Do not forget your personal safety. All dogs are not handled by experienced exhibitors. Do not kneel in front of a dog. To the extent possible, examine a dog's mouth, from the side. If personally opening the dog's mouth to examine bite and dentition, clean your hands between individual dogs so as not to spread anything potentially contagious.

### **Gaiting**

In the first class in which a dog is judged, you must individually gait and observe the dog going away, from the side and returning. Thereafter, either in evaluating that class or in Winners, regaiting is optional. Depending on the breed being judged, the ring, weather or other conditions, you may have to vary the way in which the dogs are gaited. When mats are available, dogs should be gaited only on the mats. Gait all the dogs in a class in the same pattern. Regait only the dogs you actually need to see move again, using the same pattern. Do not allow the dogs to be moved at excessive speed. Do not hesitate to tell an exhibitor exactly how you want a dog moved and controlled. Be sure your instructions to exhibitors on how to gait their dogs are clearly understandable. It is not recommended that two dogs be moved on a down and back together. Not all dogs get along, not all handlers are equally experienced. Doing this endangers the dogs and exhibitors. A competent judge should be able to recall the movement of a particular dog long enough to compare it to the next dog moved.

### **Placing the Dogs**

As you examine and gait the dogs, sort them out and form decisions on exact placements. Some judges rearrange the dogs in a class as they are examined and gaited. In a large class, this is usually the best way to group the dogs you are considering.

Once you have individually examined and gaited all of the dogs in a large class, it is best to excuse those not under consideration for placement. There is no point in requiring an exhibitor clearly out of the ribbons to wait while the dogs under consideration are sorted out and final placements are decided. In a very large class, you may have to sort out dogs through two or three eliminations. However, never reduce the number of dogs under consideration in a class to only four, as one of the final four may become lame. Once you have decided on the placements, indicate them clearly to the exhibitors so that each dog placed will be taken to the proper marker. Mark your book from the armbands of the exhibitors at the markers and then hand out ribbons and prizes.

### **Designating Class Placements**

Be especially careful in pointing to your placements. Misunderstood placement indications can result in tangled leads, confusion, etc. The safest procedure is to realign your class, putting the four dogs to be placed in proper order at the front of the line. Do not make placements as the dogs are moving, unless the dogs have been put in placement order. In judging Best of Breed, you may mark the book before indicating the Winner. If you use this procedure, do not move the dogs again after marking the book.

### **Withholding**

Withholding an award or placement occurs when you are faced with a dog or bitch that fails in many essential characteristics of the breed, such as grossly lacking type, unsound, showing aggression or obviously suffering from some illness. You have the clear authority to withhold any and all awards at any point in the judging process. You may award one placement in a class and no other placement, or you may withhold all awards. You may award class firsts and then withhold the Winners ribbon, and you may excuse any dog for lack of merit. The decision is yours alone based on the merits of the dogs. When you withhold or excuse, note the reason in the judge's book and initial your comments. Clearly and diplomatically explain your decision to the exhibitor(s) involved. In Winners competition, if you feel none of the dogs are of championship quality, i.e., deserving of championship points on that day, you should withhold the Winners ribbon. This is also true for Reserve Winners. It is not appropriate to award a dog Winners or Reserve simply because it is the best specimen available on that day. Impact of Withholding or Excusing You should not be concerned about the impact of withholding or excusing.

### **Winners and Reserve Winners Classes**

Regaiting in Winners and Reserve Winners classes should be kept to a minimum and limited to dogs in contention. Winners and Reserve Winners are two separate classes. Unless the Winner comes from a class of one, the judge's book must be marked and the ribbon and trophies presented to the Winner before judging Reserve Winners. Best of Breed Judging After marking the judge's book, do not regait the dogs.

### **Non-Regular Competitive Classes**

Non-regular classes often involve puppies under the age of six months, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Veterans and Brace classes. The show-giving club has the option of awarding ribbons and prizes for first place only or for four places. The option selected must be indicated in the premium list. The winner of these classes is not eligible to compete for Best of Breed. A champion may occasionally be entered both in a Non-Regular class and Best of Breed. In such cases, if the dog is defeated in the non-regular class, it may continue to compete for Best of Breed or for Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. If there is a special event for Puppies, Veterans, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Brace, or Team Class, it is the responsibility of the show-giving club to advise the judge of the correct judging procedures.

### **Altered Judging**

ASCA is unique in offering regular Altered shows in which neutered and spayed dogs compete for championship points. Some of these dogs are neutered for medical reasons, others for the owners' convenience and still others are champions whose breeding careers are complete but who are not ready to be retired from competition. This event is to be judged with the same care and consideration given to the intact dogs. These dogs, although neutered, still represent a breeding program and the potential of their sire and dam. You should adhere to the

Breed Standard when judging these individuals and give them the same respect and consideration deserving of any breeding dog.

It is inappropriate to discuss with the exhibitor any reasons why the dogs have been neutered. The information is not relevant to your judgment on that day.

### **Breed Judge's Book**

#### **The Judge's Book**

You alone are responsible for the judge's book. When you finish your assignment:

- sign your book(s).
- fill in the times and dates.
- initial all changes and notations.
- personally return the completed judge's book to the Show Secretary.
- check with the Show Secretary before leaving the show.

#### **Marking the Judge's Book**

Always be thorough, neat and careful in marking your book. If awards are not correctly marked, the entire purpose of the show is defeated. In all regular classes, mark your placements as first (1), second (2), third (3), and fourth (4), opposite the armband numbers in the judge's book. For Winners and Reserve Winners, as well as Best of Breed, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex, you must record the actual armband numbers of the winning dogs on the appropriate lines. Once the book is marked, the class is over. Do not re-judge a class. The full responsibility for the accuracy of the judge's book rests with you. Never rely on the ring steward to advise you of the armband numbers of your placements. Any change in the judge's book must be initialed. Only the judge or Show Secretary may make notations in the judge's book; only the Show Secretary may move a dog from one class to another or make corrections to entries.

#### **Double-Checking the Book**

Review your book at the end of an assignment to be sure that:

- all placements being awarded are marked correctly.
- all absentees are marked.
- Reserve Winners Dog and Bitch are correctly indicated.
- Best of Winners is either the Winners Dog or Winners Bitch.
- Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex are of different sexes.
- withheld placements, excusals and disqualifications, with the reasons for them, are noted and initialed.

Take the extra time to double-check all markings in your book. Some errors, if not caught on the spot, can never be satisfactorily resolved.

#### **Excusals and Disqualifications**

Be thoroughly familiar with the current Breed Standard and the Rules. When called for, you must disqualify a dog. When you excuse or disqualify a dog, you must mark your book "excused" or "disqualified," as the case may be. State briefly the condition requiring your action. The notation must be initialed. A dog which has been changed in appearance by artificial means, except as specified in the standard for its breed, may not compete at any show and any awards will be withheld. A dog is considered changed in appearance by artificial means if it has been subjected to any type of procedure that has the effect of obscuring, disguising or eliminating any congenital or hereditary abnormality or any undesirable characteristic, or anything that improves a dog's natural appearance, temperament, bite or gait. In addition, the insertion of any type of apparatus in the mouth of a dog renders that dog ineligible for competition in dog shows and subjects anyone who exhibits, or causes to be exhibited, such dog to disciplinary action. You have the clear authority under Chapter [7](#) and [9](#) of the Rules to remove, excuse or disqualify a dog from your ring.

#### **Shy and Vicious Dogs**

Excuse any dog that, in your opinion:

- menaces,

- threatens, or
- exhibits any sign that it may not be examined in the normal manner.

When you excuse the dog, mark your judge's book "Excused," stating the reason in the judge's book. A dog so excused shall not be counted as having completed.

Disqualify any dog that, in your opinion, attacks any person or another dog in the ring. Mark your book "Disqualified, attacked." A dog disqualified for attacking may not compete at any future show until the owner officially requests ASCA to reinstate the dog. Reinstatement requires the dog to be examined by a three ASCA Breeder Judges, after which the owner must receive official notification from ASCA that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated. Be certain to clearly communicate your decision to the exhibitor of the dog using either the word "excused" or "disqualified." After disqualifying a dog for attacking, take a moment to write a short description of the circumstances. The ASCA Board of Directors may contact you at a later date. Disqualifications for attacking are different than being disqualified under the breed standards or other parts of the Rules. It is of the utmost importance to use the word "excused" or "disqualified", as appropriate, when dismissing an exhibitor whose dog is shy or vicious.

### **Disqualifying Faults**

Each dog must be examined for disqualifying faults as specified in the breed standard, as well as for violations of Chapter [9](#) and [10](#) of the Rules. This applies to judging at all regular levels.

### **Protests**

Only exhibitors in the ring have the right to protest dogs competing. Protests are not allowed after every dog in the class has been individually examined and gaited and the judge's book marked. When a verbal protest is made, it is important to remain calm. If, after examining the dog, it is your opinion the dog does not possess the disqualifying fault, advise the exhibitor who made the protest and mark your judge's book "Verbal protest, (stating the reason for protest), not sustained." On the other hand, if the dog has a disqualifying condition, you are to mark your book "Verbal protest, (stating the reason for the protest), disqualified."

### **Misconduct**

Be prepared to deal with any misconduct in a calm, professional manner. Do not engage in arguments or debates over your decisions. Ask the Ring Steward and Show Secretary to remove any exhibitor whose behavior is disruptive to other exhibitors and dogs.

### **Photographs**

Try to accommodate exhibitors who want photographs taken; however, judging should not be unduly delayed to take a picture. It is often best to delay picture taking until all judging within a scheduled time period has been completed. There is no need for pictures to actually be taken in the ring. Pictures may be taken in an appropriate area of the show grounds at a time mutually convenient for judges and exhibitors

### **Judge's Checklist**

- Arrive at least one-half hour prior to your judging assignment.
- If you are a new breed judge be prepared to take extra time to complete your assignment.
- Mark all absentees in each class in the book, including dogs entered for Best of Breed.
- Take the exhibits as a class, or individually, around the ring.
- Examine each dog in approximately the same systematic manner. Know and utilize only the ASCA Breed Standard.
- You must always make an individual examination of each dog for lameness.
- Be systematic in your ring procedure, but do not be afraid to make adjustments when conditions warrant it.
- Make all your instructions to exhibitors absolutely clear.
- Line up the dogs first, second, third, and fourth in front of the markers before marking the judge's book or handing out the ribbons.

- As a judge, only you may mark your judge's book and hand out ribbons.
- Ribbons must be presented only in the ring. If an exhibitor leaves the ring before ribbons are presented, have the steward call the exhibitor back into the ring. Make a note in the judge's book pertaining to the incident.
- In judging Winners, always double-check armbands. After the ribbon has been awarded, excuse the winning dog. Call into the ring the dog that placed second to the dog awarded Winners, judging Reserve as a separate class.
- In the Best of Breed competition, award Best of Breed, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex.
- Do not forget to sign the judge's books to certify that judging has been completed in accordance with the requirements. Initial all notations you made in the books.



## **AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA**

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### **ASCA Judges Code of Ethics**

1. ASCA Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with this Code of Ethics set forth by the Australian Shepherd Club of America Board of Directors. Failure to comply with this Code of Ethics subjects a judge to disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges.
2. ASCA Judges carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. They function as a guiding voice of the Australian Shepherd and should represent the highest ideals in terms of honesty, integrity, impartiality and knowledge of the sport and the breed.
3. The approval to judge ASCA events is a privilege and is not a right or reward. Suspensions in other registries relevant to the task of judging will be a consideration in the approval and maintenance of ASCA judging privileges.
4. All Judges and applicants must agree to abide by the ASCA Judges Code of Ethics.
5. ASCA has the sole right to refuse, suspend or revoke the ASCA judging license of any person in violation of ASCA rules, or for the failure to comply with the provisions set forth in this Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with the Code of Ethics, or any ASCA Program rules, subjects a judge to disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges. Judges will be notified if such action is being considered, the reason for its consideration, and given the opportunity to reply.

#### **Responsibilities**

1. ASCA Judges should have thorough knowledge and understanding of the rules and regulations governing the program venue in which they are judging.
2. ASCA Judges should have the safety and welfare of the stock, dog and handler as the judge's foremost concern in reviewing the trial conditions and in judging a working trial.
3. It is the Judge's responsibility to keep up to date with current changes in the program rules for which they are judging and are also expected to continue their education process throughout their career.
4. Judges are to be professional in carrying out their duties and must not allow personal preferences to interfere with the stated guidelines upon which they judge the handler (exhibitors) or dogs.
5. It is essential that exhibitors have complete faith in the impartiality of their judges. A Judge's actions and decisions should leave no doubt that they were made based solely on the merits of the dogs presented to them on that day.

#### **Conduct**

1. The Judge's conduct must always be impartial, dignified, and respectful. The Judge's actions and professional comportment must be above reproach. Judges should avoid conduct and casual remarks that might be misconstrued or misinterpreted such as expressing favoritism or specific criticism of dogs or exhibitors.
2. A Judge or their family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the judge's behalf.
3. When attending social functions organized by the event-giving club where exhibitors are present, a Judge is expected to exercise particular discretion in discussing individual exhibitors, dogs or breeders.
4. When officiating at a show, the Judge shall not:
  - a. Discuss the merits or faults of the dogs or handlers (exhibitors) with the stewards, attendants, or spectators during the assignment.



- b. Hold, have control of, or groom any dog on the show grounds during his assignment that is not wholly owned or co-owned by the judge
    - c. While officiating, a Judge should not ask individuals:
      - i. Who owns the dog;
      - ii. From whom the dog was purchased;
      - iii. What bloodlines the dog is out of.
  5. A Judge may not judge any dog, which is owned or co-owned, by the Judge.
  6. A Judge may not give advice or guidance on how to handle his/her dog to an exhibitor during an event or class the Judge is judging. This does not prevent the Judge from answering appropriate questions, giving course instructions, informing an exhibitor where to go or inform the exhibitor of proper procedures.
  7. Any alterations or changes in scores or placements must be initialed by the Judge per the program rules of the venue in which they are judging.
  8. Judges shall score a trial/class based solely on the dog and handler's (exhibitor's) performance as a team as described in the ASCA Program Rules and Regulations, and in no case shall judging be based (nor any consideration be given) on the identity or reputation of the handler, owner, the breeder, or the dog's lineage.
  9. Judges shall remember that trials are staffed largely or entirely with unpaid volunteers, and shall treat stock handlers, tracklayers, ring stewards, timers, helpers, exhibitors and spectators with due courtesy and consideration.
  10. Judges shall be professional in demeanor and arrive appropriately dressed for the judging assignment, with due consideration of anticipated weather, arena and ring conditions.

## **Special Rules for Conformation and Tracking Judges**

1. When officiating at a trial:
  - a. A Judge shall not judge any dog that is co-owned or bred by the Judge's immediate family.
  - b. A Judge, while judging a tracking event, shall not place himself/herself in positions on the track so as to indicate the correct direction of the track, nor place markers or articles so as to clearly indicate corners.
2. Prior to the completion of a conformation judging assignment, a Judge shall not act as a spectator at the same conformation event at which he is scheduled to judge.
3. A Judge shall not personally exhibit a dog in Conformation in the same state as his assignment four (4) days prior to his assignment as a conformation judge.
4. A Judge or their family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the judge's behalf.

## **Definitions**

- a. Solicitation is the repeated contact and/or the use of influence, persuasion or coercion in an effort to obtain a judging assignment.
- b. Promotion is a Judge's or their immediate family member's attempt to sell or popularize the Judge or their judging assignments through verbal or written advertising and/or publicity.



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# ASCA Dog Aggression Rules

## 1 Disqualified Dogs

### 1.1 Disqualification

A Judge shall disqualify any dog that such Judge determines has attempted to attack any person in the ring/trial arena where the Judge is judging. In accordance with this rule, the Judge shall mark that dog as “Disqualified” stating the reason for the disqualification on the score sheet, Judge's book, or Judge's Report depending on the program, shall take steps to inform the owner or owner's agent as soon as reasonably possible and shall give the Show/Trial Secretary a brief report of the dog's actions using the “Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs”. The “Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs” and entry form shall be submitted to the Business Office as part of the Show/Trial results for any dog which has been disqualified. The Business Office shall send a Notice of Disqualification to the owner of such dog.

### 1.2 Jurisdiction

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over an attack on any person which occurs outside of the ring/trial arena as defined below. The Affiliate or Show/Trial Committee shall have jurisdiction if the Judge did not witness the occurrence in their own ring/trial arena. The decision to disqualify a dog shall be based on the incident investigation which shall cover all circumstances surrounding the incident. The Board of Directors will either validate or reverse the Affiliate's decision, basing its action on the details of the investigation and a recommendation from Counsel. The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee shall take reasonable steps to inform the owner and the owner's agent of the disqualification as soon as reasonably possible.

### 1.3 Investigation

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee must perform an investigation of any incident in which a dog has bitten a person, whether it occurred in the ring/trial arena or on the show/trial grounds. The Affiliate must fill out the Affiliate Incident Report Worksheet. **(Effective April 2017)**

### 1.4 Disqualifying an Excused Dog

A Judge or Affiliate, or its Show/Trial Committee, which has excused a dog pursuant to Section 2 (Excused Dogs) below, may further disqualify the dog if, in such Judge's, Affiliate's or Show/Trial Committee's opinion, the attack on another dog was so severe that disqualification is warranted.

### 1.5 Incident Report

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee shall submit a report of any such incident to the Business Office including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. The entry form for any dog which has been disqualified
- b. The “Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs”
- c. Written statements from:
  - i. The person bitten
  - ii. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog
  - iii. Any and all witnesses, including Judge/s
- d. Supporting photos of the offending dog and the wound **(Effective April 2017)**
- e. Statements describing wound/s, if any, from victim and/or attending medical professionals
- f. A summary of the investigation and the findings by the Show/Trial Committee with their recommendations

## **1.6 Materials to ASCA Board of Directors**

The Business Office shall submit the materials submitted by the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee concerning any such incident to the Executive Secretary, who shall forward these materials to the Board of Directors and ASCA's Counsel. The Business Office will provide the report and all supporting documentation to the owner of the offending dog at the owner's request.

## **1.7 Review by Counsel**

ASCA's Counsel shall review the materials and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

## **1.8 Ineligibility**

Any dog which has been disqualified by a Judge or Show/Trial Committee under this Rule shall immediately be ineligible to participate in any ASCA event in any discipline unless and until such dog is reinstated by the Board of Directors.

## **1.9 Appeal**

The owner of any dog disqualified under this Rule may appeal such disqualification to the Board of Directors in accordance with the program specific reinstatement process in effect or a process outlined by the Board of Directors. While the appeal is pending, the dog remains disqualified.

## **1.10 ASCA Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors has authority to disqualify any dog whose conduct the Board finds is subject to this Rule or whose actions demonstrate aggressive behavior which the Board finds is likely to cause injury or damage to persons or animals, regardless of whether or not the dog was disqualified or excused from the ring/trial arena by the Judge or Show/Trial Committee.

# **2 Excused Dogs**

## **2.1 Excusal**

A dog which exhibits aggressive behavior towards people or aggressively threatens or attacks another dog shall be excused from the ring/trial arena by the Judge or from the Show Grounds by the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee. The Judge shall mark the dog "Excused" on the score sheet, in the Judge's Book or the Judge's Report depending on the venue, shall take steps to inform the owner or owner's agent of the dog as soon as reasonably possible and shall give the Show/Trial Secretary a brief report of the dog's actions on the "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs", which shall be submitted to the Business Office with the Show/Trial Results.

## **2.2 Jurisdiction**

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over any dog that threatens or attacks another dog outside of the ring/trial arena as described below. The Affiliate or Show/Trial Committee has jurisdiction if the Judge did not witness the occurrence in their own ring/trial arena. The Affiliate or Show/Trial Committee shall make a decision to simply warn or excuse the dog from further competition at such show or trial. The decision to excuse a dog should be based on the incident investigation which shall cover all circumstances surrounding the Incident. If the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee decides to excuse a dog, the Board of Directors will either validate or invalidate the Affiliate's decision, basing its action on the details of the investigation and a recommendation from Counsel.

## **2.3 Incident Report**

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee shall submit a report of any such incident to the Business Office including but not limited to the following:

- a. The entry form for any dog which has been excused
- b. "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs"
- c. Written statements from:
  - i. The person threatened or person owning the dog that was aggressively threatened or attacked
  - ii. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog
  - iii. Any and all witnesses, including Judges
- d. Supporting photos

- e. A summary of the investigation and the findings by the Show/Trial Committee with their recommendations

## **2.4 Report and Documentation to Owner**

The Business Office will provide the report and all supporting documentation to the owner of the offending dog at the owner's request.

## **2.5 ASCA Board of Directors**

If a dog has been excused for its behavior under this Rule on two separate occasions, the Business Office shall notify the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall take whatever action it deems necessary which may include disqualification.

# **3 Definitions under the Dog Aggression Rules**

## **3.1 Ring/Trial Arena**

The "ring/trial arena" is the bounded area in which judging of an ASCA event occurs and over which the Judge has authority pursuant to the Dog Aggression Rules. The boundary is defined by physical barriers plus a buffer zone extending ten (10) feet from such physical barriers.

## **3.2 Show Grounds**

The "show grounds" are the boundaries of the grounds on which ASCA events are being held. They include, but are not limited to, all areas outside the ring/trial arena (including the buffer zone) set aside for grooming, holding of dogs, and parking of vehicles of the exhibitors.

## **3.3 Disqualified Dog**

A "disqualified dog" is a dog no longer eligible to participate in any ASCA program event from the time of disqualification.

## **3.4 Excused Dog**

An "excused dog" is a dog which has been asked to leave the ring/trial arena for aggressive behavior or instability of temperament. Such a dog is not eligible to compete further in the program from which excused at the event, but may participate in other programs at that event. An "excused dog" also refers to a dog that has been excused from an event for aggressive behavior or instability of temperament outside the ring/trial arena by the Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee.

# **4 Reinstatement of Dogs Disqualified under the Dog Aggression Rules**

## **4.1 Right to Reinstatement**

A dog disqualified under the Dog Aggression Rules has no right to be reinstated for competition.

## **4.2 Reinstatement**

ASCA will consider reinstatement of a dog disqualified under the Dog Aggression Rules in accordance with the program specific reinstatement process in effect or a process outlined by the Board of Directors after the dog satisfactorily completes the reinstatement process.

## **4.3 Documentation for Reinstatement**

To be considered for possible reinstatement, documentation showing the dog has attended obedience training, handling classes and/or behavioral therapy with letters from trainers and/or behavioral specialists stating the dog has completed training and/or behavioral therapy and is not a threat must be submitted along when applying for reinstatement.

## **4.4 Other Considerations for Reinstatement**

Successful completion of a reinstatement program is not a guarantee that the Board will reinstate the dog. ASCA's Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may consider other conditions before reinstatement. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, requiring the dog's owner to carry a personal liability policy for the dog in an

amount determined by the Board. The Board may also require that such policy include ASCA as an additional named insured at such owner's sole cost and expense.

#### **4.5 Eligibility**

There are various conditions that lead to disqualifying a dog for biting/menacing. Not all dogs may be eligible for reinstatement as some conduct is so egregious that reinstatement will never occur. No dog is entitled to reinstatement and following the reinstatement procedures is no guarantee the Board will reinstate. ~~At least six months must transpire from the date of disqualification notification from the ASCA Business Office and a request for reinstatement.~~ While there is no waiting period before an owner may apply to the BOD for reinstatement of a dog, if a dog is denied reinstatement, the owner must wait one year before reapplying. **(Effective September 2017)**



## **AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA**

6091 E State Hwy 21  
Bryan, TX 77801  
[www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org)

[asca.execsec@gmail.com](mailto:asca.execsec@gmail.com)

P: (979) 778-1082  
F: (979) 778-1898  
[manager@asca.org](mailto:manager@asca.org)

### **ASCA Dog Aggression Rules Affiliate Incident Report Worksheet**

The Affiliate or its Show/Trial Committee must perform an investigation of any incident in which a dog has injured a person or another dog, whether it occurred in the ring/trial arena or on the show/trial grounds.

Name of Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Name of Offending Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_  M or  F

Registered Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Was the dog **EXCUSED**  or **DISQUALIFIED**  ?

Name of Person Injured: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Registered Name of Injured Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_  M or  F

Registered Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Where on the show grounds did the incident occur? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Incident Investigation**

Members of Investigation Committee:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Written Statements**

(If more space is needed, please include additional pages with this report.)

**Written statement from person injured OR owner of injured dog:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member or  Non-Member

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written statement from owner of offending dog:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member or  Non-Member

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of WITNESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written statement:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member or  Non-Member

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of WITNESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written statement:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member or  Non-Member

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of WITNESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written statement:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member or  Non-Member

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Did the victim seek medical attention?**      YES       NO

If **YES**, written statement from attending medical professional must be provided to the ASCA Business Office as soon as possible, preferably included with the incident report.

**Summary of the Investigation:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Investigation Committee Recommendation:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Date that the owner(s) was notified of the Affiliate's decision:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checklist of items that MUST to be sent to the ASCA Business Office:**

- The entry form for any dog which has been disqualified
- The "Explanation Form for Disqualified or Excused Dogs"
- This filled-out investigation report worksheet and any additional pages
- Supporting photos of the offending dog (for identification purposes)
- Supporting photos of the wound

*The Board of Directors will either validate or reverse the Affiliate's decision, basing its action on the details of the investigation and a recommendation from Counsel.*





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# **ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol**

**EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 2016**

*This ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol replaces the ASCA Dispute Rules, which are no longer in effect.*

The purpose of ASCA's rules is to protect and advance the interests of the Australian Shepherd as a purebred dog and to encourage sportsmanlike conduct at dog shows, working, agility, rally, tracking and obedience trials and at any other event where Australian Shepherds participate. The purpose of our rules is to ensure fair participation in our program events, civil conduct among our members and integrity in our registry. Sometimes conflicts and disputes will arise, and, in those cases, the following protocol has been established to resolve such conflicts and disputes. Membership in ASCA is a privilege, not a right. Members may be disciplined or membership may be suspended by the Board of Directors for cause detrimental to the interest of ASCA or to its programs, policies, objectives or the harmonious relationship of its members, as determined by the Board of Directors. Questions not answered by this document should be referred to the ASCA Executive Secretary. The ASCA Conflict Resolution Form is included with each sanctioning packet sent to Affiliate Clubs. Copies of the ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol and ASCA Conflict Resolution Form must be available at all ASCA-sanctioned events.

## **FIRST DECIDE WHO SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR REQUEST FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

### **Affiliate Club**

It is the duty of the Affiliate to deal initially with conflicts which occur during or in connection with its events. The Affiliate Club should receive these requests for conflict resolution:

- Conflicts, complaints or disputes arising from violation(s) of rules at ASCA-sanctioned events sponsored by an affiliate, including violations of ASCA Bylaws, ASCA program rule books, ASCA Policy, or ASCA codes of conduct
- Conflicts, complaints or disputes arising from affiliate bylaws or rules
- Conflicts arising from the ~~misconduct of~~ improper actions by a judge which are correctable at the time of the event (not the decision of the judge)

**ASCA Board of Directors**, via the ASCA Executive Secretary, should receive these requests for conflict resolution:

- ~~Complaints against judges~~ Conflicts with a Judge that cannot be mediated at the show/trial
- Conflicts or disputes originating with the ASCA Board regarding the ASCA Bylaws
- ~~Conflicts or disputes originating with the ASCA Board regarding the ASCA Registry~~
- Appeals of decisions by an affiliate

## **PROCESS FOR REQUESTING CONFLICT RESOLUTION AT THE AFFILIATE LEVEL**

1. The request for conflict resolution is filed on an official ASCA Conflict Resolution Form. The form must be delivered to the Affiliate President or the Affiliate Member in charge of the event. Ordinarily, requests for conflict resolution must be filed on the day the conflict occurs. If the form is not delivered to the Affiliate President immediately, it must be delivered within 48 hours of discovery of the conflict or 48 hours of the event which incited the conflict. In an extreme emergency, a request may be filed orally. Oral requests must be followed up in writing on the official Conflict Resolution Form. Conflicts filed orally are to be dealt with immediately. In the case of an oral request, the Affiliate President or the Affiliate Member in charge of the

event will determine whether immediate action must be taken or whether the request for resolution can be heard later. The decision to entertain or reject requests for resolution made after an event rests with the Affiliate, but in no case should a request be entertained which is not received by the Affiliate within five (5) days of its event.

2. A hearing body with a minimum of three members is chosen. The Affiliate President will determine the hearing body. If the Affiliate President is not present when an oral request is made, the Affiliate Member in charge of the event will determine the hearing body. This is normally either the Affiliate Board of Directors or the event committee; however, other ASCA members (program judge, experienced competitor, etc.) who are on site but who were not involved in the situation may also be appointed to the hearing body, even if they are not a member of the hosting affiliate. No party to the conflict or his/her immediate family may be a member of the hearing body. The person who determines the hearing body will chair the hearing body.

3. The complaint is delivered to the hearing body.

4. In cases involving an accused party, the chair of the hearing body advises the accused parties of their rights: to know of the testimony against them, to rebut such testimony, to question all witnesses through the investigator, to present witnesses on their own behalf and to testify on their own behalf.

5. The hearing body conducts the hearing as soon as possible. Any necessary inquiry will be pursued by the hearing officials.

6. When deciding a case of a conflict involving multiple parties, ALL parties shall be notified of the request for conflict resolution and are to be given copies of the form, ALL parties will be allowed to state their case, and ALL parties should be questioned by the hearing body. The hearing body shall make a good faith effort to obtain factual information concerning the conflict, including obtaining information from persons that witnessed the incident other than the person(s) filing the request for resolution or the person(s) involved in the conflict. This provision does not assume or admit that the hearing body is bound by any state or U.S. Constitutional requirement of due process.

7. After all parties have been heard and the investigation is complete, the hearing body will deliberate and reach a decision.

8. The hearing body will announce their decision as soon as possible. Normally this would occur immediately following the hearing. Investigations should be complete within 21 days of the receipt of the request for conflict resolution.

9. If after review and investigation of the conflict or dispute, the hearing body is of the opinion that a rule violation has occurred, the hearing body may take such disciplinary action consistent with the provisions of these rules as it deems appropriate. The hearing body shall refer to the Affiliate Level Disciplinary Guidelines in determining what disciplinary actions to take, if any.

10. All parties involved in the conflict will receive the decision in writing. A copy of this decision, a copy of the request for resolution and a summary of the investigation will be sent to the ASCA Executive Secretary.

11. The decision of the hearing body shall be final and binding unless a written notice of the member's intention to appeal the decision is received by ASCA's Executive Secretary within 7 days of the date of the letter notifying said member of the disciplinary action taken against him/her.

## **PROCESS FOR REQUESTING CONFLICT RESOLUTION AT THE ASCA BOARD LEVEL**

1. The request for conflict resolution is filed on an official ASCA Conflict Resolution Form and sent to the ASCA Executive Secretary ([asca.execsec@gmail.com](mailto:asca.execsec@gmail.com)). The form must be delivered **or postmarked** to the ASCA Executive Secretary **by email or postmarked** within 5 days of the discovery of the conflict or within 5 days of the event which incited the conflict. In the case of an appeal of an affiliate decision, the form must be delivered to the ASCA Executive Secretary **by email or postmarked** within 7 days of the receipt of the Affiliate's decision.

Email address: [asca.execsec@gmail.com](mailto:asca.execsec@gmail.com)

Postal address: ASCA Executive Secretary, c/o ASCA Business Office, 6091 E. State Hwy. 21, Bryan, Texas 77808-9652

2. Upon receipt of the request for conflict resolution, the Executive Secretary will forward the request to all members of the ASCA Board of Directors and will assign a Director to head the investigation of the conflict. All parties named in the request for conflict resolution will be notified by the Executive Secretary and be given a copy of the official Conflict Resolution Request Form.
3. In the case of conflicts involving an accused party, the accused party may file a written answer within 14 days of his/her receipt of the Conflict Resolution Request Form. The Director assigned to investigate the conflict will attempt to contact all involved parties so that they may present their sides of the conflict orally. This provision does not assume or admit that ASCA is bound by any state or U.S. Constitutional requirement of due process.
4. The Director will conclude the investigation and will present his/her findings and recommendation in writing to the Board within 21 days of being assigned the request by the Executive Secretary. A summary of each witness's testimony, including the questions asked, should be part of the written recommendation. The Board of Directors will discuss and vote on the findings and recommendation at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting following the 21 days.
5. Temporary Measures in Emergency Cases: When necessary, the Board may impose immediate temporary measures to remain in effect pending its decision.
6. The Board, through the Executive Secretary, will deliver dated notice of the decision to both parties within 7 days of the Board vote on the motion. There is no appeal from a Board decision.

## TIMELINES FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

*An Affiliate and the Board of Directors may summarily rule against any party who fails to comply with these timelines.*

<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
Filing of Request for Conflict Resolution	A request may be filed immediately for situations requiring emergency action at the Affiliate level. All other requests must be filed within 48 hours of the incident requiring resolution, to the Affiliate (up to 5 days with extenuating circumstances) and within 5 days to the Board, whichever should receive the request.
Notification of Named Parties	Immediately in the case of emergency requests for conflict resolution; before the investigation of the conflict begins
Investigation by Affiliate-Level Hearing Body	Completed immediately for emergency situations; Complete within 21 days of receipt of Conflict Resolution Form for all others
Decision by Affiliate-Level Hearing Body	Completed as soon as possible and provided in writing to all parties involved in the conflict.
Appeal to ASCA Board of Directors	Within 7 days of the date of the letter notifying said member of the disciplinary action taken against him/her.
Investigation by Board of Directors	Completed within 21 days of being assigned
Response from Accused Party	Within 14 days of their receipt of the Conflict Resolution Form
Decision by Board of Directors	At first Board meeting following the 21-day investigation

## **AFFILIATE LEVEL DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES**

Statute of Limitations: Three (3) years after disciplinary action, is taken against a member ~~will have a clean record~~ such action shall be considered fully satisfied and absolved and a further infraction of the rules after that three-year period ~~will shall be dealt with~~ treated as a first offense.

### **First Offense**

- a. Letter of instruction, reminding member of ASCA's rules, OR letter of reprimand
- b. Fine not to exceed \$100\*
- c. Both of the above

### **Subsequent Offenses**

- a. Letter of Reprimand
- b. Fine of up to, but not to exceed \$1,000\*
- c. Referral to Board of Directors for further action
- d. Combination of a, b, and c above

\*Failure to pay a fine will result in a member not being in good standing with ASCA, which will result in loss of member privileges; see section 14 of the ASCA Policy Book.

## **BOARD LEVEL DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES**

Statute of Limitations: Three (3) years after disciplinary action, is taken against a member ~~will have a clean record~~ such action shall be considered fully satisfied and absolved and a further infraction of the rules after that three-year period ~~will shall be dealt with~~ treated as a first offense. The Board of Directors will use the Consequences Guidelines below as a guide when resolving conflicts.

## **ENFORCEMENT of BOARD SANCTIONS**

All ASCA Affiliates shall honor sanctions imposed by the Board and shall refrain from taking actions which tend to minimize or lessen such sanctions. For example, if a member is suspended from participating in competitions, Affiliates shall prohibit such participation.

## **NOTICE of SANCTIONS**

Final decisions imposing sanctions against any ASCA member shall be published in the official newsletter.

## **ACTIONS DETRIMENTAL to the INTEREST of ASCA**

The protocols outlined in this document are intended to help parties resolve conflicts associated with their participation and membership in ASCA. It is the duty of the ASCA Board of Directors to be active protectionists regarding ASCA. Membership in ASCA is a privilege, not a right. A member may be disciplined or membership may be suspended by the Board of Directors for intentional actions taken by such member which are detrimental to the interests of ASCA or its programs, policies, or objectives, as determined by the Board of Directors.

## **MATTERS NOT SUBJECT TO THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROTOCOL**

1. Breeder-Buyer or Co-Owner Disputes: ASCA does not resolve Breeder-Buyer disputes or disputes between co-owners of dogs. ASCA will only take action to enforce the judgments or decisions of a court of competent jurisdiction ~~when any such dispute is raised~~, unless otherwise provided for in the ASCA Registry Rules.

2. Breeder's Code of Ethics: The Breeder's Code of Ethics is a statement of conduct and principles that ASCA requires all breeders of Australian Shepherds to adhere to in order to maintain the integrity of the Australian Shepherd and ASCA's registry. Any complaint relating to a violation of ASCA's Breeder's Code of Ethics shall not be subject to this protocol.
3. Registry Issues: Conflicts or disputes concerning ASCA's Registry are not subject to this Conflict Resolution Protocol. Conflicts or disputes concerning the Registry shall be presented to the ASCA Executive Secretary who shall then present them to the ASCA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall make a final determination of any such Registry issue presented to it. The ASCA Board of Directors may impose such discipline as it deems appropriate against any person found to have violated ASCA's Registry Rules, up to and including suspension of membership for up to 25 years and imposition of fines of up to \$10,000. Imposition of a suspension of membership privileges for a period longer than 1 year or a fine of more than \$1,000 shall require the affirmative vote of at least seven (7) Directors. The Board of Directors retains the authority to handle a registry issue at any time without the filing of a formal request for Conflict Resolution.
4. Gross Misconduct: Gross misconduct by a member, including, but not limited to, theft of ASCA property, theft of property of an ASCA Affiliate Club, physical abuse of a member, or intentional criminal conduct at an ASCA event, will not be tolerated. What constitutes "gross misconduct" shall be determined by the ASCA Board of Directors. If the ASCA Board of Directors determines that a member has engaged in gross misconduct, the Board may impose a suspension of membership upon such person of up to 25 years and a fine of up to \$10,000. Imposition of a suspension of membership privileges for a period longer than 1 year or a fine of more than \$1,000 shall require the affirmative vote of at least seven (7) Directors.

# Consequence Guidelines

Offense	Consequence
<p><b>Violation of ASCA Program Rules/Regulations or Club Regulations</b></p> <p>(Affiliate Club Regulation offenses are to be dealt with by the Affiliate first. If the Affiliate recommends the ASCA Board investigate and impose sanction, the following will apply.)</p>	<p><b>1st offense</b>, letter of education and/or letter of reprimand, depending on offense, intent and whether education seems more appropriate for the situation; in the case of reprimand, a \$100 fine may also be assessed; first offenses deemed severe enough may receive second offense consequences</p> <p><b>2nd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine</p> <p><b>3rd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 1 year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000</p> <p><b>4th offense</b>, same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000</p>
<p><b>Misconduct against a Judge</b></p> <p>(Including but not limited to attempting to influence a judge, verbal abuse, public criticism of a judge's decision; depending on severity of misconduct and in cases of physical abuse, the consequence will start at the 2nd offense level)</p>	<p><b>1st offense</b>, letter of education and/or letter of reprimand, depending on offense, intent and whether education seems more appropriate for the situation; in the case of reprimand, a \$100 fine may also be assessed; first offenses deemed severe enough may receive second offense consequences</p> <p><b>2nd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine</p> <p><b>3rd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 1 year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000</p> <p><b>4th offense</b>, same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000</p>
<p><b>Unsportsmanlike / unprofessional conduct during an event</b></p> <p>(Please refer to the Personal Code of Conduct for additional guidance.)</p>	<p><b>1st offense</b>, letter of education and/or letter of reprimand, depending on offense, intent and whether education seems more appropriate for the situation; in the case of reprimand, a \$100 fine may also be assessed; first offenses deemed severe enough may receive second offense consequences</p> <p><b>2nd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine</p> <p><b>3rd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 1 year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000</p> <p><b>4th offense</b>, same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000</p>
<p><b>Disorderly conduct at an event</b></p>	<p><b>1st offense</b>, letter of education and/or letter of reprimand, depending on offense, intent and whether education seems more appropriate for the situation; in the case of reprimand, a \$100 fine</p>

<p>(Including but not limited to abusive or foul language/ verbal altercations, destruction of property; in cases of physical altercation, the consequence will start at the 2nd offense level)</p>	<p>may also be assessed; first offenses deemed severe enough may receive second offense consequences</p> <p><b>2nd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine</p> <p><b>3rd offense</b>, same or similar offense - 1 year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000</p> <p><b>4th offense</b>, same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000</p>
<p><b>Registration violations</b></p> <p>(Including but not limited to submission or intentional falsification or intentional submission of any falsified paperwork (ASCA, OFA, CERF, etc.), submission of application containing a false signature of one of the owners, selling or buying ASCA registration papers, refusing to produce dogs or records, non-compliance with ASCA rules and regulations on recordkeeping and identification)</p>	<p><del>1st offense</del>, letter of education and/or letter of reprimand, depending on offense, intent and whether education seems more appropriate for the situation; in the case of reprimand, a \$100 fine may also be assessed; first offenses deemed severe enough may receive second offense consequences</p> <p><del>2nd offense</del>, same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine</p> <p><del>3rd offense</del>, same or similar offense - 1 year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000</p> <p><del>4th offense</del>, same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000</p>
<p><b>Actions detrimental to the interest of ASCA</b></p>	<p>Membership suspended no less than 25 years and all associated privileges revoked</p>

Effective: November 10, 2016

Revised: July 17, 2017

