



**JONDARYAN WOOLSHED WORKING DOGS**

# **STOCKMANS CHALLENGE RULES**

**WITH ALL AMENDMENTS TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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## 1 DEFINITIONS

**Cross** is defined as a manoeuvre in which a dog moves between the handler and any livestock whilst both dog and handler are within the same yard.

**Exhibition Event** is defined as not being part of a competition but instead serves the function of demonstrating the skills of the handler and the dog.

**Event Organising Committee** means the persons responsible for conducting the event.

**Handler** means a person who:

- (a) nominates to work a dog in a particular event and
- (b) is working a dog in an event and/or
- (c) has worked a dog in an event.

**Move on** rule is defined as after the handler has had a reasonable attempt at the paddock obstacle, the handler may “move on” to the next obstacle, with the judge’s consent, but forfeits the points for that obstacle.

**Section** is defined by the number of obstacles in a course. A section for judging purposes is defined as being from the end of the previous obstacle to the end of the current obstacle.

**Working Cross** is when the dog moves between the handler and the livestock to hold or drive the livestock in a deliberate direction.

## 2 COMPETITION LEVELS

- 2.1 Competition levels will be advanced, novice and elementary.
- 2.2 Each competition level may have a different course and time.
- 2.3 An exhibition event can be held for any competition level referred to in Rule 2.1.
- 2.4 All the rules contained in this rule book are also applicable to an exhibition event.

## 3 CLASSES OF DOGS

- 3.1 The Jondaryan Woolshed Working Dogs Event Organising Committee will be adopting the dog status of QWSDAI and the dog status of QYUTA Yard and or Utility.
- 3.2 To be eligible to enter the Elementary level, the dog must not have won a novice trial with any working sheep dog, yard and utility trialling association in Australia.

- 3.3 To be eligible to enter the novice level, the dog must be classed as a novice dog as defined in the competition rules of any working sheep dog, yard and utility trialling association in Australia.
- 3.4 To be eligible to enter the advanced level, a dog eligible in accordance with Rule 3.3 and a dog classed as an open dog defined in the competition rules of any working sheep dog, yard and utility trialling association in Australia.
- 3.5 If a handler runs a dog in an advanced exhibition event level, the dog is not eligible to run in any other competition level at the event.
- 3.6 Entry to any exhibition event shall be at the discretion of the Event Organising Committee.

## 4 **FINALS**

- 4.1 Wherever possible a final must be conducted in all advanced events.
- 4.2 If time permits, a final should be conducted in novice and elementary levels.
- 4.3 The finalists shall be the highest scoring dogs in the first run.
- 4.4 The number of finalists is determined by the number of placings offered. If several dogs are tied on the lowest score eligible for the final, then the fastest time will go into the final.
- 4.5 All competition levels must have a minimum of 4 prize placings. Prize placings may be awarded in an exhibition event and shall be at the discretion of the Event Organising Committee.
- 4.6 Where possible, the final shall be conducted in the same order as the dogs were drawn in the first run. However, if a handler has more than one (1) dog in the final, the handler's runs may be separated by other dogs.
- 4.7 No prize shall be awarded to a dog who, after being selected to compete in a final, fails to participate in that final.
- 4.8 The dog with the highest aggregate number of points is deemed the winner unless there are equal points in which case the fastest time shall be deemed the winner.
- 4.9 If any other placings are tied on points at the end of the final then the fastest time will precede the slower time.

## 5 **ENTRIES**

- 5.1 Closing date will be defined on entry form but once the maximum runs for the event are reached the Event Organising Committee shall be entitled to close entries earlier.

5.2 If the maximum runs are exceeded, the Event Organising Committee may determine to reduce the number of runs each handler will be permitted to run. This will be done in consultation with each handler.

5.3 Event Organising Committee may need to alter the program by combining competition levels due to unforeseen circumstances if the need arises.

## 6 THE DRAW

6.1 A draw must be conducted to determine the order of working prior to the commencement of the event.

6.2 Each handler must be drawn to work their first dog before the handler is drawn to work their second dog.

6.3 All dogs must be drawn in order as nominated on the handler's entry form.

6.4 If a Stockmans Challenge is being run in conjunction with another event/trial, the draw can be varied at the discretion of the Event Organising Committee so as to minimise the impact of handler/dog clashes.

## 7 THE COURSE

7.1 All Stockman's Challenge dog events shall be run over such course as the Event Organising Committee determines.

7.2 The number of sheep to be used will be determined by the Event Organising Committee.

7.3 Panels can be made of any type of materials not necessarily sheep panels.

7.4 The course must include some of the following:

Name	Description
44 Gallon Drums	To be used in various ways
Brush Wings	These will be a framed wing filled with dead brush or similar
Corridor	Consists of panels and may include a gap and pen
Draft Race	Panelled race with draft gate and pen
Driving	Driving the sheep through an obstacle of wide panels from a stationary position  A working cross is permitted
Droving	The handler must be behind ALL the sheep during the droving until all the sheep cross into the free working zone
Drum (large) or similar	This is a single obstacle that handler and sheep must keep on their <b>LEFT</b> hand side
Faux Surface	A ground level area with an unusual texture within a short race
Gap	Between 2 panels or similar or panel and fence

Gate	The gate should open in either direction and include panels either side
Hold	An area specified by Judge for sheep to be held in
L Shaped Obstacle	Consisting of various materials, not against fence
Logs	To be used in various ways
Missing Gate	A marked area with no panels
Overpass	This could be a one way or both directional obstacle
Pen	An enclosed area with or without a gate
Race	A straight through set of panels
Touch	sheep held in specified area and touched by handler
Straw Bales	To be used in various ways
Turning Marker	This is a single obstacle e.g. Flag that handler and sheep must keep on their <b>RIGHT</b> hand side
Tyres	Any number of tyres may be used in various ways
Underpass	Obstacle for sheep to pass through or under
Z Shaped Obstacle	Consisting of various materials e.g. straw bales

7.5 Any other obstacle that the Event Organising Committee sees fit.

## 8 THE TIME LIMIT

8.1 Time allowed to be decided by Event Organising Committee in consultation with the judge prior to commencement of the event.

## 9 SCORING OVERVIEW

9.1 Points for each obstacle or section will be determined by Event Organising Committee along with the course layout.

9.2 Each handler will start with a minimum of 100 points but can be up to 200 points.

9.3 The number of points will be determined by the number of obstacles and/or length of course.

9.4 The judge at the outset of the event will be provided with a small notebook with each detachable page listing the name of the handler and the dog.

9.5 At the completion of each run the judge will record the handler's score on the score page and remove that page and hand it to the timekeeper/scorer

9.6 Points can be forfeited in the following situation, but not limited to, rule infringements, sheep or handler off course, over work of dog or sheep, unnecessary contact by handler with either sheep or dog, dog toileting in ring and poor stockmanship as the Judge deems fit.

## 10 WORKING THE EVENT

- 10.1 Each obstacle and/or section must be genuinely attempted by than handler and their dog before the handler can proceed to the next obstacle and/or section.
- 10.2 If an obstacle or a section is not genuinely attempted and/or completed correctly, all points for that obstacle and/or section will be lost.
- 10.3 The judge shall be in command of the event from the time the handler, with their dog, on or off the lead, enters/departs the event arena. The dog must be released and under control before time commences.
- 10.4 Should a sheep leave the arena whilst a dog is working the event, time is to stop as signalled by the judge. Any sheep must be replaced before time is restarted by judges signal.
- 10.5 If the dog has excessively chased the sheep to the extent of it jumping out then the dog shall be disqualified.
- 10.6 A free working area will be a defined area where the dog can be introduced to sheep. The handler must remain in the free work area until all sheep have entered the course as determined by the Event Organising Committee. A free working area can also be in front of any obstacle as determined by the Event Organising Committee.
- 10.7 With the exception of the “corridor”, a handler can not pass the entry to the obstacle and or section until the sheep have cleared the obstacle and or section.
- 10.8 The handler may be permitted to walk through some obstacles as Event Organising Committee determine. e.g. Gate.
- 10.9 Handler will be able to work anywhere by drawing or droving the sheep, but points will be deducted if the sheep and/or handler are off course. The exception is in the drive section where the handler is in a stationary position.
- 10.10 Handler may assist dog but may incur a penalty if they touch either sheep or dog.
- 10.11 Start of time is signalled by the judge and judging shall commence.
- 10.12 Should the Event Organising Committee along with the Judge choose to substitute the commencement at Rule 10.11 with a cast, judging will start when indicated by the Judge.
- 10.13 Time will cease once the sheep are in the designated area and the gate is closed. Judging will cease once the handler and dog have exited the arena.

## 11 **JUDGES**

- 11.1 Judges do not have to be accredited with any trialling association but must be experienced in sheep trialling and/or stockmanship with a sound knowledge of the rules.
- 11.2 A suitable judge shall be invited by the Event Organising Committee.
- 11.3 The judge's decision is final.

## 12 **COURSE WELFARE AND SAFETY**

- 12.1 When erecting the obstacles and or fencing, the Event Organising Committee must ensure that there are no sharp edges, protrusions or objects that may be hazardous or cause injury to the livestock, the dog, the handler or the judge.

## 13 **RERUNS**

- 13.1 The judge may order a re-run for the competing dog at any time during that dog's run.
- 13.2 The rerun must take place at the end of the round or event as mutually agreed between judge & handler.

## 14 **BITCHES IN OESTRUS**

- 14.1 Any handler who works a bitch in oestrus shall be disqualified from further competition at the event.

## 15 **CANES**

- 15.1 The use of canes/stick at this event is prohibited.

## 16 **MUZZLES**

- 16.1 Muzzles are only permitted in the Elementary level. No penalty will be incurred.

## 17 **HANDLERS ASSISTANT**

- 17.1 Prior to competing, any handler requiring assistance may apply to the judge to have an able-bodied person to assist them with any physically demanding task likely to be encountered in the event.

## 18 **WELFARE OF LIVESTOCK AND DOGS**

- 18.1 If, in the opinion of the judge, any handler ill-treats or mishandles their dog or livestock or there is excessive over work of sheep or dog, the handler may be disqualified.



- 18.2 If in the judge's opinion, a dog bites excessively or viciously without provocation, such dog should be disqualified. However, should a dog bite the front part of the sheep when stuck up or in defence against an aggressive sheep or bite a sheep on the hind quarters when jammed on an obstacle, such dog should not be disqualified.
- 18.3 If during the course of the event, the actions of the handler/dog contribute to the death of an animal, the handler will be liable for the agreed market value of the animal. In all other cases during the course of the event, the Event Organising Committee will be liable.
- 18.4 Any livestock which become excessively distressed, or injured, must be replaced by healthy livestock prior to the next dog working.

## 19 **COMPLAINTS**

- 19.1 Complaints regarding the running of the event, or conduct of handlers must be in writing and handed to the Event Organising Committee prior to the end of the event.
- 19.2 All complaints will be dealt with at a meeting of the Event Organising Committee.

## 20 **PROTESTS**

- 20.1 Any protest or situation arising at the event not provided in these rules, will be dealt with at the event by the Event Organising Committee.