



Constitution & Rules for Trials

Revised for 2023

CONSTITUTION

Name

The name of the Society, hereinafter called the Society is "The North of Ireland Sheepdog Society"

Objects

The main objects of the Society shall be to promote and foster within The North of Ireland, the breeding, training and improvements in the interests and the welfare and benefit of The Border Collie sheepdog to secure the better management of stock by improving the Shepherds dog, and to achieve such main object by such means as the Society may from time to time determine and in particular (but without limitation on the generality of the foregoing) by:

- 1)** The promotion or organisation of sheep dog trials, exhibiting either competitive or non-competitive and either in association or un associated with any other societies, bodies or persons, like or suitable occasions or events.
- 2)** The encouragement and assistance by advice, guidance or information of shepherds in the calling farmers of stockbreeders or keepers in regards to all matters pertaining to the sheepdog and the shepherds craft in relation to his dog.
- 3)** The income and property of the Society, whensoever desired shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society as hereinbefore stated and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to members of the Society, provided that nothing herein shall prevent.
 - (a)** The payment in good faith of reasonable and proper re-numeration and/or expense to any official or servant of the Society, or
 - (b)** The presentation by the Society to any member of the Society of any prize or prize money bona fide competed for and won by such member in any trial or other competitive event duly promoted and held by the Society in accordance with its objects.
 - (c)** The subscription to or the making of any presentation to anyone who has rendered special services to the Society or any organisation to when the Society, so desires to make any such subscription or presentation.

Membership

The membership of the Society shall consist of:

- (a)** Honorary Members
- (b)** Chairman
- (c)** Vice-chairman
- (d)** Secretary
- (e)** Treasurer
- (f)** Committee
- (g)** Annual Members

4) Honorary members shall be such persons who (whether as members of the Society or not) shall in the opinion of the Committee to worthy of being and be appointed as such by the Committee. Also, once a Chairman has served his three years in office he automatically becomes an honorary Committee member and as all Honorary members has no vote.

5) Any person being an owner, breeder, trainer of a Border Collie sheepdog or working Border Collie sheepdogs, or as a shepherd, or any other persons interested in furthering the objects of the Society, shall be eligible for membership of the Society as an annual member.

6) Every applicant for annual membership shall be lodged by the applicant with the Secretary and shall be upon an appropriate form and shall be accompanied by tender of the entrance fee for the time being fixed by the Committee and in the case of an application for annual membership, of the annual subscription for the then current year.

(6.1) Every new application for membership so presented shall be adjudicated upon by the Committee who shall in their absolute discretion and without assigning and reasons therefore determine whether such application shall be accepted or not.

(6.2) Any new competitor that has paid membership, if not approved by committee, will have their membership fee refunded.

7) The committee may from time to time by resolution increase or reduce the amount of subscription payable by members.

8) Members of the Society shall be entitled to run in:

(a) The North of Ireland Championships (by qualification)

(b) The Nursery Trials hosted by the Society in the regions and the Nursery Final if so qualified.

(c) The North v South Trial (by qualification)

(d) The Interprovincial Trial (by qualification)

(e) Be nominated for election as a committee member by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

9) Every member shall be entitled to compete personally or to enter a dog or dogs for competition at any of the Society's Trials subject to the Rules for Trials and to such members or dog or dogs being otherwise eligible for entry, and qualified if qualification is being operated

10) The Committee is prejudiced to, conflicts with, brings the Society into public disrepute or is capable of so doing, breaches any rules of the Society or commits any disciplinary offence which the foregoing is a non-exhaustive list shall be liable in the absolute discretion of the committee to:

(10.1) Suspension or expulsion from the Society

(10.1.2) Forfeiture in which or part of any prize won by him/her at any of the Society's trials for the current year, which prize is paid or delivered to him/her they shall return within the time fixed by the committee.

(10.1.3) Disqualification from competing at any of the Society's Trials for such a period as the committee may decide.

(10.1.4) Or any other penalty which the Committee may think fit.

(10.2) The Committee shall have absolute discretion without assigning any reason therefore to determine what, if any action, penalty or sanction should be imposed upon the member.

(10.3) If any disciplinary proceedings of the Committee or disciplinary Committee have been notified to any member then such member or members the subject of such disciplinary proceedings shall forthwith be precluded from enjoying any of the privileges of the Society as stated in Rule 8.

(10.4) If a member is found to be guilty of any disciplinary offence by the Committee throughout the currency of any disciplinary action, penalty or sanction the member shall not be entitled to any privileges of the Society as stated in Rule 8.

(10.5) If a member is found to be innocent of any disciplinary offence by the Committee, all actions, penalties or sanctions shall forthwith discontinue and all privileges of Rule 8 shall immediately be restored.

11) Any member may resign from the Society on giving one months' notice in writing to the Secretary but any member resigning shall remain liable for payment of any subscription or subscriptions in arrear due from him at the time of resignation.

Management

12) The committee shall consist of a maximum of 13 members. Namely the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and nine other members. Should made up of representatives from all regions.

(a) Any Committee member who fails to attend three committee meetings including the AGM in his/her term of office should give in a voluntary resignation and let another member take the position to benefit the Society.

(b) Three officers of the Committee shall stand down each year rotating, these members can be re-elected.

(c) Any letters of complaint must be signed by one serving committee member and accompanied by a deposit of £50 which may or may not be refunded as the committee decides.

(d) Any individual proposed to be a committee member has to have been a member of the society for the previous five years, or at the discretion of the committee.

13) The function of the committee shall be:

(a) To regulate and make all arrangements for the promotion and organisation of the Society's trials and other events in furtherance of the Society's objects and including except where otherwise provided for expressly, the appointment of officials and the assignment of their duties.

(b) Make such reports or recommendations in regard to the affairs of the Society to the members as the committee may think fit or the members may by resolution require.

(c) To act generally as an executive body in regard to all matters of questions of administration arising in regard to the Society and its affairs

(d) Should the Chairman for any reason be unable to, or fail, to carry out his duties to the satisfaction of the members he may be suspended and the Committee appoint one of their own or an experienced member of the Society until at the earliest opportunity a new chairman is elected by the members.

14) The Committee shall have the power to assign and delegate any of its functions to a subcommittee or subcommittees with or without power to act or to co-opt members.

15) The Committee may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit and determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of business

16) The Committee shall have full power and authority to administer the affairs of and to transact any business for the society, and to do all things necessary for the effective carrying out of the objects of the Society, save and except these matters which in accordance of these rules must be dealt with by the members at the Annual General Meeting which are to appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Chairman and to dismiss any of them and appoint another in his/her stead.

(a) To cause proper minute books, record books and books of account to be kept, showing the transactions of the Society.

(b) To decide and adjudicate upon questions and disputes which may arise in connection with any affiliated dog trial, the interpretation of rules or by-laws of the Society and to suspend or expel from membership of the Society any members in arrears with membership subscriptions or for refusing to okay the orders of the Committee of for any other reason.

(c) To hold enquiries into all members, questions or disputes and such enquiries may be conducted in such a manner as it thinks proper.

(d) To act as the agent of the Society and every member thereof for the purpose of carrying on the business of the Society and any acts done in pursuance of a majority resolution at a meeting of the committee shall be deemed the acts of the society.

(e) From time to time by resolution authorise any person to act as its agent in any matters relating to the affairs of the Society.

17) At every meeting of the Committee of the AGM the Chairman, or failing him the committee shall elect a senior member to occupy the chair.

FINANCE

18) The Treasurer shall keep true accounts of the assets and liabilities of the Society and of all monies received and expended by the Society. Also, the matters in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and shall present to the Committee from time to time and to the Annual General Meeting of the members.

19) All the funds of the Society shall as soon as possible after receipt thereof, be paid into the banking account of the Society. All accounts incurred in carrying on the business of the Society shall be paid by cheque on such banking account, signed by the Secretary and the Treasurer.

20) The subscription payable by an Annual Member shall be such sum per annum as the members shall from time to time decide in respect of each year. The annual membership runs from the AGM which takes place on the first Tuesday night in October to the AGM the following year. Membership becomes due on this date and can be paid at the AGM or at the first Nursery Trial attended or at any

time throughout the year. Points for NISDS Competitions will only be counted from date membership is paid.

21) The aforesaid fees shall be paid to the Secretary of the Society or any such assistant authorised by the Secretary

22) The accounts of the Society shall be made up on the last day of September in each year and shall be submitted to the members at their Annual General Meeting and a copy of the Annual Accounts and balance sheet shall be handed to the members attending.

MEMBERS

23) The function of the member shall be:

(a) To elect a Chairman of the Society and a Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

(b) The Chairman shall serve a period of three years as will the Vice Chairman.

(c) The Vice Chairman will then take over from the Chairman and a new Vice Chairman elected by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting who shall also serve a three-year period.

(d) Any member who has been expelled or suspended by the Committee shall not be eligible for election to the office of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or committees.

(e) To consider and decide upon the Society's rules for trials or the running of the Society. Any amendments proposed to rules for trials or the running of the society shall only be competent if it is on the agenda and proposed and seconded for the Annual General Meeting.

(f) At each Annual General Meeting the members shall nominate members for the Committee to replace these members coming off. The members coming off the Committee are also eligible for re-election.

(g) The Secretary and Treasurer shall hold office for three years after which time can be re-elected if so, wished by the members or another can be put in their stead.

24) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall hold office for three years from the close of the AGM at which they were elected until the close of the third meeting during their appointment. Should any of the above resign or be expelled or suspended from their post the Committee shall assign one of their own or a senior member to fill that position until a meeting can be held to appoint another person to that post.

25) The members shall meet at least once a year at a place fixed by them for the AGM which will take place on the first Tuesday night in October. All proposals passed at this meeting will take effect from that date.

(a) Every proposal shall be on the agenda for the AGM

(b) No proposal shall be competent of which notice has not been given to the Secretary on or before the last Friday in September.

(c) Each proposal shall be in writing, signed by a member of the Society and countersigned by another member of the Society.

(d) Special meetings of the members shall be held from time to time as and when necessary, The Chairman and the Committee shall determine at which place the meeting will take place.

(e) Every member shall be told the nature of the meeting and the business to be transacted and no other business shall or may be dealt with.

26) The members may at any time by written resolution passed by a majority of the members remove any one or more members of the Committee and any vacancy/vacancies created shall be filled by the members with a vote by the majority of the members.

27) At every meeting of the Committee or members proper minutes shall be kept by the Secretary and read to the committee or members at their next meeting.

28) At every meeting convened and held under this constitution.

(a) The Chairman of the meeting shall decide upon all questions or order, relevancy and competency and his ruling shall be final and not open to further discussion.

(b) All votes may be taken either by ballot and the votes counted by independent tellers, by calling the roll, or by show of hands. If upon a proposal by the Chairman to take a show of hands any member objects and be supported in such objection by at least a quarter of the members present rising in the places, the vote shall be taken by ballot.

(c) At any meeting convened and held under this constitution, the Chairman of such a meeting shall have a casting vote.

(d) At a meeting of the Committee at which the question of the disciplinary of a member is to be considered, the member shall be given not less than 14 days written notice of such a meeting which shall state the reason for such meeting at which his/her conduct is to be considered. Such notice may be given personally or sent by recorded delivery post in a pre-paid envelope addressed to the member at this last known address and such notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted.

(e) Such notice shall inform the member of his right to submit an explanation either personally or in writing to the meeting and that if the member is to appear personally, his right to be accompanied or represented by a legal adviser or friend if he so wishes.

DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

29) The Society shall not be dissolved except by vote of a general meeting of the Society especially called for the purpose upon the recommendation of the Committee and at which shall have been passed by 75% of the members present and eligible to vote thereon a resolution to dissolve the Society.

30) Notwithstanding that a dissolution of the Society is carried the Committee shall remain in office until the Society's affairs are finally wound up by them. In winding them up the Committee shall have full power to dispose of the Society's funds and property and settle all questions as they think fit at a meeting specially called by the Secretary for the purpose on 14 days' notice to the members and held at such time and place as the Chairman and Committee or the majority of them shall decide, or any adjournments of such meeting.

(a) If in the event of winding up, any assets remain after settlement of all outstanding debts and liabilities, these shall not be paid or transferred to the members of the Society but shall be paid or transferred to such charitable Institutions or Institution having objects similar to the Society or for such charitable purposes as the Society with the approval of the members shall decide.

ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

31) This Constitution may be altered, amended or varied in any respect by resolution duly passed by the majority of persons present and entitled to vote at a meeting of the members duly convened by notice of intention to move such resolution.

Any alteration or amendment made or any motion for alteration or amendment defeated shall not be discussed again until at least 3 years have elapsed, unless it has been presented with proper notice to a meeting of the committee and received 2/3 support of that committee meeting in which case such motion may be referred to the next meeting of members.

INDEMNITY

The Society shall indemnify and keep indemnified every officer, member, volunteer and employee of the Society from and against all claims, demands, actions and proceedings (and all costs and expenses in connection with or arising from) made or brought against the Society in connection with its activities, the actions of its officers, members, volunteers or employees or in connection with its property and equipment but this indemnity shall NOT extend to liabilities arising from wrong doing or wrongful omissions on the part of the officer, member, volunteer or employee sought to be made liable. The Secretary shall affect a policy of insurance in respect of this insurance.

RULES FOR TRIALS

GERNAL:

1) No person can compete in any of the Society's trials unless they are a member of the Society for the current year. Points for NISDS Competitions will only be counted from the date Membership is paid. Membership forms can be obtained from the Secretary and the application should be accompanied by the appropriate membership fee.

1.1) Entry fees for any of the Society trials must be forwarded with the entry from where applicable.

1.2) Entry forms must be submitted to the Secretary by the date specified on the entry form and no late entries accepted

1.3) A dog may be run by its owner or a substitute handler who must be a member of the Society.

1.4) Qualification for any of the Society trials will be by points obtained at Open trials that have been advertised in the farming press and or the ISDS website and are affiliated to the Society and the points sent to the Secretary no later than 14 days after the trial and accompanied by the appropriate fee for affiliation. The period the points will count will be 1st August to 31st July the following year.

1.5) Qualification may be varied by discretion of the members at the AGM.

1.6) The order of running for the North of Ireland Championship and the Nursery final will be made by a draw. The North v South and the Interprovincial will be run in reverse order with the lowest pointed dogs running first.

1.7) At the Nursery Final and North of Ireland Championship the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and judge will have the final say over the setup of the course.

1.8) Any Open Trial run on the same day as The Directors meeting, or any NISDS events including Nurseries the points will not count for NISDS Competitions.

1.9) The NISDS Championship and the Nursery Final will be rotated between the regions.

1.10) Persons hosting nursery trials do not have to be members of the Society.

1.11) Dogs qualifying on the same points will be divided by the dog that has gained the highest positions taking top place.

1.12) If more than one flock of sheep is to be used in any of the Society events a draw will be taken on the morning of the event to establish which order the sheep will run in.

1.13) Any member banned from the Society may not have his qualifying points accepted during the period of the ban.

1.14) In the case of dogs that have qualified for any event and not running for any reason or other, the next dog down the list will be eligible and the Secretary may continue down the list until the number of dogs needed has been fulfilled.

1.15) At all North of Ireland Sheepdog Society events including Nurseries the pen must be within 30 yards of the Judge.

1.16) Each NISDS open trial, will have 10 places awarded for NISDS points (1st place will receive 10 points and 10th will receive 1 point). These points can go towards all NISDS competitions.

OTHER NORTH OF IRELAND SHEEPDOG SOCIETY COMPETITIONS:

1.17) Any competitor who has qualified for the North v South or the Interprovincial and does not let the Secretary know in good time that they cannot attend will be barred from running the following year if they qualify.

1.18) The top 21 dogs qualified for the North v South trial will be posted at the nursery final. The top 5 dogs qualified for the Interprovincial Trial will be posted at the NISDS Championship.

1.19) The Interprovincial will be rotated around the provinces.

NURSERIES:

1.20) Each region to decide if toilets are required for Nursery Trials

1.21) A subcommittee of 4 people will be set up in each region to oversee the running of the nursery trials in that region and shall serve a term of three years after which they may be re-elected or others put in their stead.

1.22) At Nursery trials the running order will be rotated at each trial by a number agreed on by the Nursery Committee of that region according to the number of dogs running and the running order adhered to. Any new dogs entered after the first nursery must run at the last so as to keep the running order right with rotation.

1.23) Any dog that changes ownership within a nursery season keeps their points as long as they stay in their own region, points cannot be transferred to another region.

- 1.24)** A nursery trial cannot be run on the same day as the Interprovincial.
- 1.25)** Anyone wishing to run a nursery trial after Christmas must have their trial booked with their nursery committee before the 1st January.
- 1.26)** No judge shall judge any more than 2 nursery trials in any one region.
- 1.27)** A judge does not need to have been placed in Open Trials to judge a nursery.
- 1.28)** The Nursery Committee are the official course directors for the nursery trials and will discuss with host of trial about judge, but they are responsible for appointing the judge of these trials for each of their sections. If none of the committee is to be present, they must nominate someone beforehand for that duty.
- 1.29)** Any person running 2 nurseries must have a shed in one of them.
- 1.30)** A shed to be introduced at the 4th nursery trial in each region and will continue to and at the Nursery final.
- 1.31)** At the 4th Nursery all competitors must run on 4 sheep to facilitate the shed consisting of 2+2 thus ensuring nursery dogs are not asked to take a single.
- 1.32)** The Nursey Committee in the region where the final will take place must make sure that the venue and sheep are suitable for the Final.
- 1.33)** Four teams of three men/woman (one man/ woman from each region) will put sheep out at the Nursery Final.
- 1.34)** The nurseries are made up of Donegal section and Central & Eastern Section combined for the foreseeable future. At the Nursery heats 12 place will be taken for allocation of points.
- 1.35)** Dog Registration cards must be produced for all dogs running in nurseries to the Nursery Committee and any dog that has not got a card the owner must sign a declaration that this dog is unregistered.
- 1.36)** Any dog that has gained open points before 1st September or has made the National team will be barred from running at nurseries.
- 1.37)** Dogs running at nurseries must be under 3 years old on the 1st January of the year of the final.
- 1.38)** Programmes for the Nursery Final shall contain the registration number, breeding of the dog, DOB, handlers name and running order.
- 1.39)** The B Class is for handlers and dogs that have not gained open points and the B Class winner from each region will get a run in the final, but any B Class dog making the team will only have one run.
- 1.40)** Any B Class competitor who wins their region or the final will not be permitted to run in B class thereafter, or any handler who has gained open points.
- 1.41)** A beginner's section in each nursery region which may consist of a smaller course. The handler after sending their dog on an outrun can meet their dog on the fetch and walk the rest of the course with their dog if they wish so.
- 1.42)** Participants in the beginner's class may run a dog of any age in their first year running in that class provided that the dog has no open points.

1.43) Junior Members running in the B Class only, can run a dog any age as long as it does not have open points.

1.44) Fifteen dogs from each region will run in the Nursery Final plus the B Class winner unless the B Class winner is on the team.

1.45) Any nursery dog being absent from three consecutive nursery trials will be withdrawn from the running order and if the dog reappears at the nurseries thereafter shall be admitted to the end of the running order keeping any points it previously had.

1.46) Nursery regions entry fees are £10/ 10 Euro for their first dog then £5/ 5 Euro thereafter. Beginners class is £5/ 5 Euro.

1.47) All competitors must produce dogs ISDS identity card and permit its microchip to be read before it competes in its third nursery at the latest. Failure to do so will see any previous points null and void.

1.48) Members can only compete in one nursery region, society, association or club, for current season.

1.49) Anyone judging a Nursery Trial will receive a payment of £40 or 45 Euro.

1.50) In the event that any region does not have a B class competitor, the region with the majority of competitors of the B class will go through to the final.

NORTH OF IRELAND DOUBLE LIFT CHAMPIONSHIP:

1.51) Points for the NISDS Championship will be taken the dog's top scores in any 8 affiliated trials over the trial year.

1.52) The NISDS Championship will consist of the top 50-pointed dogs and will be held on the last Saturday in August. Any member who has qualified for the National team and not in the top 50 will get an un-judged run if they so wish.

1.53) NISDS Championship entry fee is £10/ 10 Euros per dog.

1.54) NISDS Championship has 6 overall placings.

1.55) No dog can run in a championship for two different societies.

Course Director

2) The Course Director shall call competitors in their turn according to the programme unless directed otherwise by the Committee.

(a) The Course Director shall ensure that sheep are presented correctly at the top of the field in a good time and give instruction for their removal at the end of the run.

(b) If requested by the competitor before the run starts to explain the course, the Course Director shall do so.

(c) After commencement of the run the Course Director shall not communicate with the competitor unless instructed to do so by the judge or if requested by a competitor to request the judge to deliberate on an unsound sheep.

(d) If the Course Director considers that a competitor has been disadvantaged by the letting out of sheep for some reason or other or if he/she considers the situation ripe for retirement he/she is empowered to approach the judge for his deliberation of the issue.

(e) The Course Director shall be available at all times during the trial to convey to the competitor any instruction from the judge.

(f) The Course Director is responsible at all times for keeping the course clear and ensuring that the competitors or their dogs are not interfered with in any way while competing.

Competitors

3) Competitors and/or others shall not take their dogs on to the course before or during the Competition.

(a) Handlers may inspect the course without their dogs before the trial commences.

(b) No dog suffering from an infectious disease shall be brought on the trial ground.

(c) Handlers must ensure their dogs are in good health and are fit to compete. If there is any doubt they shall not compete without a letter from a Vet.

(d) The Committee may require further veterinarian opinion if they have any reason to be concerned.

(e) No dog shall wear or carry anything that might in anyway assist his/her performance.

(f) Any competitor whose bitch is in season must notify the Secretary/Nursery Committee before she is due to run.

(g) Competitors shall keep their dogs under proper control at all times and any dog or owner interfering with another dog or competitor while working may be disqualified.

(h) No drug or medication may be given to a dog that may affect its performance or behaviour before or during a trial other than medication specifically prescribed or approved by a vet for that dog.

(i) The running of the trial will commence at such a time that the Committee shall decide.

(j) Each competitor must be ready when called by the Course Director and anyone failing to answer the call shall be disqualified and forfeit their run.

(k) Competitors are required to note that while the order of the programme will be followed strictly, the timing cannot be guaranteed.

(l) Any competitor wishing to know the course and have it explained to him/her must question the Course Director before they start their run. They cannot have questions answered once their run commences.

(m) By commencing their run the handler is presumed to know the course and follow it in all its details.

(n) Once a competitor starts their run they are entirely in the hands of the judge.

(o) Any competitor who receives assistance in any form while competing will be liable to disqualification.

- (p)** If a competitor touches a sheep, he/she is liable to disqualification.
- (q)** If not previously stopped on the instructions of the judge a handler will be called off at the expiry of the time limit but in the latter case the points to the stage at which he/she is called off will count.
- (r)** When the bell or horn will sound for time up the handler will cease working the sheep and will collect the sheep and remove them from the course immediately.
- (s)** Any competitor who retires or who leaves the field without the judge's permission will forfeit all points.
- (t)** The judge's decision is final providing their conduct is in accordance with the Society's Rules for Trials.
- (u)** Any competitor who has a question regarding the posting of points should immediately speak to the Secretary.
- (v)** Competitors are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and behaviour at a trial and any misdemeanour or abuse will be investigated by the Committee.
- (w)** Competitor or their agents are prohibited from approaching a judge to seek to discuss or influence the award of points. Such an approach is gross misconduct and will render them liable to investigation.
- (x)** Any information needed to give to a member can be sent by email, posts, text, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger.

Re-Runs

- 4)** The judge may instruct the Course Director to stop a dog at any point of his/her trial and order re-run if they consider the circumstances warrant such action.
 - (a)** The re-run will commence where the original run was stopped and the points scored before stopping took place will stand.
 - (b)** In the case of a re-run being ordered because of a wrong number of sheep having been let out or sheep having being wrongly marked or one or more sheep being unsound for working, the judge shall decide whether the run should be from the beginning or from which point it is to restart. If decided that the re-run start at any point other than the beginning the points scored up to that point of the restart shall stand.
 - (c)** It is the judge's discretion to grant a re-run on the basis of what he observes or what the Course Director brings to his attention. A competitor may not communicate with the judge to seek a re-run but he/she may draw the Course Directors attention to any irregularities.

Disqualification

- 5)** A dog that defends itself when attacked by a sheep shall be deemed not to have gripped unless the response is excessive
 - (a)** In the case of a dog gripping the judge shall immediately inform the Course Director whether or not the dog shall be disqualified.

- (b)** A competitor whose dog deviates significantly from the course is liable to disqualification.
- (c)** A competitor who receives outside assistance may be liable to be disqualified.
- (d)** Any dog interfering with another dog or competitor while working is liable to be disqualified.
- (e)** A competitor who is disqualified shall lose all their points.

Awards

6) All awards announced at any of the Society Trials are subject to the correction of any error that may be discovered within 4 weeks of the trial. Any error that may be discovered will be corrected and the awards announced readjusted accordingly. All trophies and prize money given out at the trials are given out subject to this rule and may be recalled. If recalled the holders will return them to the Secretary at once.

- (a)** All prizes and awards won at any of the Society Trials shall be paid at the trial and in the case of the handler gaining the award being absent the Secretary will convey the award to him or instruct another handler to convey the award to him/her.
- (b)** Any trophies won at the Society Trials shall remain the property of the Society and shall be returnable by the winners to the Secretary when required to do so by him/her.

Protests

7) Any competitor may lodge a written and signed protest against any contravention of any Rule for Trials or against any prize being awarded, delivered or paid. Protests must be lodged in writing with the Secretary before or at the close of the Trials and shall be accompanied by a deposit of £20.00 as evidence of good faith.

- (a)** Any protest complaint or request by a competitor must be made in the first instance to the Secretary who will then be responsible for calling together a meeting of the Committee as soon as is convenient. The Secretary will attend such a meeting for the purpose only of taking a Minute and advising the Committee on a proper interpretation of the Rules and will be responsible for communicating the decision of the Committee to the competitor. A majority decision of the Committee will be binding but the Secretary is not obliged to tell the competitor whether the Committee was unanimous or not.
- (b)** If the protest is refused the judges awards shall stand and the deposit may or may not be refunded as the Committee decides if the protest is sustained. The prizes involved shall be awarded as the Committee may decide and the deposit refunded.
- (c)** In deciding a protest, the Committee may order any competitor to whom a prize has been paid or delivered to return the same, and the other competitor shall be bound to do so within the time fixed by the Committee.

Equality of Points

8) If two or more competitors stand equal in total points the judge shall settle their priority either by the total of their points for Outrun, Lift and Fetch or in the case of this also being equal by the points of the next phase of work and so on as is necessary or ordering re-trials of any kind, dividing the prize money involved.

(a) In the cases of equality where a trophy is at stake and the judge orders re-runs, the re-runs will decide not only the trophy but also all cash prizes involved.

Convention of Rules

9) Any competitor official or member who contravenes any of the Rule for Trials or who is guilty of conduct on or off the field which in the opinion of the Committee is prejudicial to the best intent of the Society shall, in addition to any penalty which may be imposed by the judge be reported to the Committee for disciplinary action and in particular may

- i. Be suspended or expelled from the Society.
- ii. Forfeit any prizes won by him/her at any of the Society's Trials for the current year.
- iii. Be disqualified from competing or officiating at any of the Society's trials for such period as the Committee may decide.
- iv. Have any other penalty which the Committee consider suitable imposed.

(a) The Committee may authorise the Secretary to withhold any prize money due under (ii) above.

(b) The person against who the complaint has been made shall be entitled to appear before the Committee in person with or without a supporter, when he/she will be required to answer any questions put to him/her by any member of the Committee.

(c) Subject to the foregoing rules all questions and disputes in connection with any of the Trials or in connection with any of the foregoing Rules not already settled by the judge shall be decided by the Committee whose decision shall be final and binding and not subject to a Court of Law.

Amendments to Rules of Trials

10) Any amendments or alterations to the foregoing Rules shall only be made provided notice of the proposal is giving in writing signed by two members.

(a) Such notice must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than the last Friday in September in the year of the AGM which it is to be considered by the members.

(b) Should either of the members signing the notice fail to move it at the AGM it shall fall and not be raised again without notices as aforesaid.

Cancellation

11) Power is reserved by the Committee of the Society to cancel any of the Trials at any time at their discretion.

(a) The Committee while at the Trial are empowered to cancel or re-schedule the trial for which they are responsible for reasons of Law, Public Safety, Emergency or Weather.

