

## ASDA MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Alberta Stock Dog Association (“ASDA”) is to preserve the qualities of the working stock dog, to promote good Stockmanship and Sportsmanship. The ASDA will help promote, develop and grow the Handler and Dog through educational opportunities through both arena and field trial competitions.

## POINT RATING SYSTEM

The ASDA will track points earned by HANDLER/DOG Teams at ASDA sanctioned trials during the trial year.

- ◆ Each trial year runs August 1st through July 31st of the following year.
- ◆ Points will be awarded according to the USBCHA point system for all sanctioned trials
- ◆ The USBCHA awards points to all qualified Handler/Dog teams who place in the top 20%.
- ◆ The ASDA will aim to post all trial points earned in a sanctioned trial on its website, [www.albertastockdog.com](http://www.albertastockdog.com), under “Standings”.
- ◆ It is the Handler’s responsibility to enter each trial in the appropriate class.
- ◆ If a Handler is uncertain as to which class they should enter, the Handler should contact a director of the ASDA or the trial host for clarification.
- ◆ If a Handler enters a class in which they are ineligible to enter, that Handler will forfeit any winnings and points earned for that run and/or trial.

The ASDA will strive to ensure handlers are entering the correct class and assist the Trial hosts in ASDA sanctioned trials.

## ARENA SHEEPDOG TRIALS: RULES AND CLASSES FOR DOG AND HANDLER

NOVICE/NOVICE: The Novice/Novice class is for FIRST time and/or inexperienced Handlers that are new to dog trialing.

- ◆ This class is based on the HANDLER who may compete with any dog.
- ◆ Once a Novice/Novice Handler places in the top 20% more than 3 times, the Novice/Novice Handler must then move up to the Pro-Novice class after that current point year ends.
- ◆ If the Novice/Novice Handler chooses to move up to the Pro-Novice class during their Novice year they will be permitted to compete in the Novice/Novice Class at the ASDA Arena Finals for that current year.
- ◆ If the Novice/Novice Handler chooses to run in an Open class in any trial, that handler forfeits their NOVICE/NOVICE status.
- ◆ In the event a Novice/Novice class is not offered in a trial, a Novice/Novice Handler can enter the Pro-Novice class without forfeiting their Novice/Novice status.

PRO-NOVICE: The Pro-Novice Class is based on a Dog/Handler Team

- ◆ Open Handlers can compete with a novice dog
- ◆ A Novice Handler moving up may compete with any dog.
- ◆ If permitted by the Trial Host, the Dog/Handler Team may cross enter into the Open Class.
- ◆ Once a Dog/Handler Team places in the top 20% more than 3 times, the Dog/Handler Team must then move up to the Open Class after that current point year ends.
- ◆ If the Dog/Handler Team chooses to move up to the Open Class during the current points year, that Dog/Handler Team will be permitted to compete in the Pro Novice Class at the ASDA Arena Finals for that current year.
- ◆ If a Dog/Handler Team chooses to compete in the Open Class at a major event, such as the Calgary Stampede, and

that Dog/Handler Team then places in the top 20% and/or makes the Finals at said event, that Dog/Handler Team shall IMMEDIATELY move up to the Open Class at all future competitions.

OPEN: The Open Class is for any Dog/Handler Team.

- ♦ An Open Handler may enter the Pro-Novice class and the Nursery class provided the dog is eligible in each case.
- ♦ An Open DOG/HANDLER Team CANNOT DROP DOWN TO A LOWER CLASS WITHIN THEIR CAREER TOGETHER.

NURSERY: The Nursery Class is for Dogs under 3 years of age (as defined by the USBCHA)

- ♦ Nursery dogs can be entered by any Handler (Novice, Open or Pro-Novice).
- ♦ A Nursery dog can accumulate points up until July 31st of the trial year.
- ♦ Eligible Nursery Dogs may run at the ASDA Arena Finals, or any other trials that host a year end competition and specify Nursery eligibility.
- ♦ Records for date of birth may be requested for proof of age.
- ♦ Following the USBCHA Rules, a dog who turns 3 years of age on or after July 1st of the trial year is eligible to run at the Nursery Finals.
  - For example, any dog born on or after July 1, 2022 is eligible to run at the 2025 Nursery Finals.

## FIELD SHEEPDOG TRIALS : RULES AND CLASSES FOR DOG AND HANDLER

NOVICE: The Novice/Novice class is for FIRST time and/or inexperienced Handlers that are new to dog trialing.

- ♦ This class is based on the HANDLER who may compete with any dog.
- ♦ Once a Novice/Novice Handler places in the top 20% more than 3 times, the Novice/Novice Handler must then move up to the Pro-Novice class after that current point year ends.
- ♦ If the Novice/Novice Handler chooses to move up to the Pro-Novice class during their Novice year they will be permitted to compete as a Novice/Novice at the ASDA Field Trial Finals for that current year.
- ♦ If the Novice/Novice Handler chooses to run in an Open class in any field trial, that handler forfeits their NOVICE/NOVICE and INTERMEDIATE status.
- ♦ In the event a Novice/Novice class is not offered in a trial, a Novice/Novice Handler can enter the Pro-Novice class or the Intermediate class without forfeiting their Novice/Novice status.

INTERMEDIATE: The Intermediate class is Handlers that are moving from the Novice/Novice class to the Pro Novice class.

- ♦ This class is based on the Handler and the Handler can compete with any dog.
- ♦ Once the Handler has placed in the top 20% more than 3 times in the Intermediate Class they must move up to the Pro Novice class after the current point year ends.
- ♦ If the Handler chooses to move up to the Pro Novice class within the current year, the Handler will be permitted to compete in the Intermediate ASDA Finals for that current year.

- ◆ An Intermediate Handler may enter the Pro-Novice class if there is not an Intermediate class offered and will not forfeit their Intermediate status by doing so.
- ◆ If an Intermediate Handler chooses to compete in an Open Field Trial that Intermediate Handler forfeits their Intermediate status.

PRO NOVICE: The Pro Novice Class is based on a Dog/Handler Team

- ◆ Open Handlers can compete with a novice dog or a Novice/Novice Handler moving up into the Pro Novice Class.
- ◆ A Novice/Novice Handler may compete with any dog.
- ◆ If permitted by the Trial Host, the Dog/Handler Team may cross enter into the Open Class.
- ◆ Once a Dog/Handler Team places in the top 20% more than 3 times, the Dog/Handler Team must then move up to the Open Class after that current point year ends.
- ◆ If the Dog/Handler Team chooses to move up to the Open Class during the current points year, that Dog/Handler Team will be permitted to compete in the Pro Novice Class at the ASDA Field Trial Finals for that current year.
- ◆ If the Dog/Handler Team chooses to compete in the Open class at a field trial and then places in the top 20% and/or qualifies for a Double Lift Final, that Dog/Handler Team shall IMMEDIATELY MOVE up into the Open Class for all future competitions.

OPEN: The Open Class is for any Dog/Handler Team.

- ◆ An Open Handler may enter the Pro-Novice class and the Nursery class provided the dog is eligible in each case.
- ◆ An Open DOG/HANDLER Team CANNOT DROP DOWN TO A LOWER CLASS WITHIN THEIR CAREER TOGETHER.

NURSERY: The Nursery Class is for Dogs under 3 years of age (as defined by the USBCHA).

- ◆ A Nursery dog can be entered by any Handler.
- ◆ Following the USBCHA Rules, a dog who turns 3 years of age on or after July 1st of the trial year is eligible to run at the Nursery Finals.
  - For example, any dog born on or after July 1, 2022 is eligible to run at the 2025 Nursery Finals.
- ◆ A Nursery dog can accumulate points up until July 31st of the trial year. Eligible Nursery Dogs may run at the ASDA Field Trial Finals, or any other trials that host a year end competition and specify Nursery eligibility.
- ◆ Records for date of birth may be requested for proof of age.