

# Dock Jumping Program Rules

June 2022



Established 1957

These rules were last updated:

Date of Change	Section Changed	Related Motion
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12-27-2022	3.1 General Descriptions and Appendix A: Definitions	DJ.22.04, DJ.22.05
2-27-2022	New Section 2.2.3.1 Trial Location Weather Guide	DJ.22.03
2-27-2022	2.2.4 Sanctioning Request Form	DJ.22.02
1-27-2022	4.2.3 Apprenticing Requirements and Procedures	DJ.22.01
10-26-2021	2.2.6 Official Entry Form	
5-27-2021	2.8.1 Judges Expenses	DJ.21.07
5-27-2021	3.2.5 Championship Level	DJ.21.01
5-27-2021	4.2.1 Requirements to Become a Judge	DJ.21.02
5-27-2021	4.2.2 Application Process	DJ.21.03
5-27-2021	4.2.3 Apprenticing Requirements and Procedures	DJ.21.05
5-15-2021	Changes for June 2021 edition	

Shaded and ~~strikethrough~~ areas indicate rule changes with **effective date** listed.

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**Found at the Back of These Rules:**

ASCA's Code of Ethics for Judges

ASCA's Dog Aggression Rules & Incident Report Form

ASCA's Conflict Resolution Protocol & Request Form

# ASCA Dock Jumping Rules and Regulations

## Chapter 1 General Information

### Section 1.1 Rules Governing ASCA Dock Jumping Trials

#### 1.1.1 Governing Rules

Dock Jumping trials sanctioned only by the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) are governed by ASCA's "Dock Jumping Rules and Regulations", by any rules and regulations set forth in the Premium for each trial (which shall not conflict with the "Dock Jumping Rules and Regulations"), and by the Bylaws of the Australian Shepherd Club of America.

#### 1.1.2 Reports of Abuse

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 or in any other manner prejudicial to the best interest of the sport shall be dealt with promptly.

#### 1.1.3 Definition of Premises

The limits are the boundaries of the grounds. Premises constitute a larger area, its boundaries not well defined. It consists of the land, building(s), and all parking areas adjacent to and a continuation of the show grounds where any ASCA event are held, whether held separately or in conjunction with each other. Any area inside the limits is on the premises, but an area does not have to be within the limits to be considered within the premises.

### Section 1.2 Purpose of Dock Jumping Trials

The purpose of an ASCA Dock Jumping Trial is to demonstrate the ability of the dog and its handler to function as a team and show mutual trust. The dog should show a willingness and eagerness to work for the handler. The handlers should always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike fashion and be courteous of the dog's wishes.

### Section 1.3 Eligibility for Entry

#### 1.3.1 Age

All healthy, trained dogs over six (6) months of age are eligible to compete for qualifying scores in ASCA Dock Jumping Trials.

#### 1.3.2 Bitches in Heat

Bitches in heat, lame, or blind dogs are ineligible for entry.

#### 1.3.3 Dog Breeds

All ASCA Dock Jumping trials shall be open to purebred and mixed breed dogs except at National Specialties. Nationals is for Australian Shepherds Only.

#### 1.3.4 Artificial Devices on Dogs

**Collar** - The dog must wear a properly fitted collar. Prong/pinch collars are prohibited in the competition area. Electronic collars are prohibited on the grounds of an ASCA sanctioned performance event.

**Leash** - The dog should be on leash while accessing the dock whereby the leash will be removed before getting set to jump. Retractable and/or long-line leashes are prohibited in the dock/pool area (defined in [Section 2.3](#)).

#### 1.3.5 Participation in Trials

Participation is a privilege afforded by the Host Club(s) and may be extended or withdrawn by the Host Club's Trial Committee based on suitable cause only. Refusal of entries shall be reported to the ASCA Business Office. No dog that is owned or co-owned by the judge or a member of the judge's immediate family (Husband, Wife, Father,

Mother, Son, Daughter, Brother, or Sister, Father in law, Mother in law, Son in law, Daughter in law, Brother in law, or Sister in law) may show in a class in which that judge is judging, however, For Exhibition Only (FEO) entries may be accepted from anyone in the judge's immediate family and/or household and they may show any dog in a class in which that judge is judging.

No entry shall be accepted from a dog or handler disqualified from the ASCA Dock Jumping Program; a dog or handler disqualified from all ASCA programs; or a person not in good standing with ASCA.

### 1.3.6 Other Restrictions

All dogs must jump off the dock or the ramp without being physically assisted with forward motion. All dogs must jump, freely and independently without the handler's physical assistance.

Violations of rule:

1. **1st offense** - Verbal Warning from Judge.
2. **2nd offense** will result in disqualification by the judge for that class.

If the handler pushes or throws the dog off the dock, they are immediately disqualified for the class. If this happens a second time, they will be disqualified for the entire event.

### 1.3.7 Communicable Disease

A. 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:

1. Shows clinical symptoms of canine influenza, distemper, infectious hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease, or
2. Has been confirmed by a veterinarian to have a communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the show, or
3. Has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the show in a household in which there were veterinarian-confirmed cases of canine influenza, distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease.

B. The ASCA Board of Directors reserves the right to call a quarantine if the situation warrants. The length and details of such quarantine will vary depending on the specific disease and the gravity of the situation.

C. **Protocol for Communicable Disease Notification:**

1. In the event that a host Affiliate is made aware of a dog exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease, the hosting Affiliate will in turn investigate, following the steps outlined in the **ASCA Conflict Resolution Protocol**, observe the dog, and, if warranted, remove the dog. Dogs that within thirty days prior to the show have traveled or have been kenneled with a dog exhibiting symptoms may also be removed. In the case of removal of a dog(s), the Affiliate shall immediately report it to the ASCA Board via the Executive Secretary by emailing the Affiliate Health and Safety Report. The Affiliate Club shall provide a copy of the report to the owner of the dog(s).
2. Owners who believe that their dogs have contracted a communicable disease while at an ASCA event or have attended an ASCA event within the incubation period of a communicable disease should report the illness to the ASCA Board of Directors by contacting the Executive Secretary and submitting the Owner's Health and Safety Report form. All reports will be kept confidential.
3. Reports received by the Board will be investigated by an assigned Director, per normal Board procedure, to assess the extent of the communicable disease risk. The assigned Director will investigate and will report findings and a recommendation to the Board within three working days.
4. In instances of reported cases of communicable disease during or following the ASCA National Specialty, ASCA will send out a notice to the membership through its official means of communication, notifying members of the report of the disease and providing educational information concerning the disease in question. Affiliate clubs scheduling events within thirty days of the ASCA National Specialty should be aware of possible financial losses if a quarantine is necessary.

5. The owner of a dog that has been in contact with another dog which has been confirmed by a Veterinarian to have a Communicable Disease will be required to provide Veterinarian documentation to the ASCA Affiliate or the ASCA National Specialty Committee in order to receive an entry refund. This rule will be in force prior to or after the close of entries.

## Section 1.4 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.

### 1.4.1 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 (Trial Chairman, 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 DOCK/POOL area and Show Grounds:

1. **DOCK/POOL AREA:** The Dock/Pool area 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.
2. **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.

## Chapter 2 The Dock Jumping Trial

### Section 2.1 Title Achievements

ASCA Dock Jumping Titles can be achieved in two ways.

1. ASCA Affiliate Clubs or
2. Approved Dock Jumping Organizations

Approved Dock Jumping Organizations will host their own sanctioned shows, have their own insurance and rules. These organizations will then send ASCA the results for the Business Office to record. ASCA will record the jump length per the divisions stated in rule 3.2 and 3.3.

**Ultimate Air Dog is the Approved Dock Jumping Organization.**

## Section 2.2 Trial Administering and Sanctioning

### 2.2.1 Affiliate Clubs

An Affiliate Club must be in good standing with ASCA and have the exclusive right to schedule, sanction and conduct official ASCA programs. 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 because of any connection with an ASCA sanctioned event. Normal event sponsorship or advertisement by any individual(s), corporation(s) or business(es) shall not be in conflict with this rule. Individuals, corporations, or businesses that enter into an agreement 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 in conflict with this rule.

### 2.2.2 Sanctioning an Event outside a State/Area

ASCA Affiliate Clubs shall not request sanctioning for any event to be held outside of their state/area in a 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 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 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.

### 2.2.3 Trial Locations and Dates

An ASCA Affiliate may not hold an ASCA sanctioned Dock Jumping trial within 200 miles of another ASCA Affiliate sanctioned dock jumping trial, on the same or overlapping dates, without written consent from the club who has first right to that date.

The use of the Club name for event purposes cannot be transferred. Each Affiliate Club, which holds a sanctioned event at least once in every two 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 (2) years. If the Affiliate Club having first right to the dates 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 Affiliate Club shall still have first right to the date 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 Affiliate Club wishing to use a preexisting date until the ASCA Business Office has been notified that the Affiliate Club with the preexisting date will not use the event date that year. If paperwork must be held pending receipt of the notification from the Affiliate Club or with the preexisting date, the ASCA Business Office will notify the second Affiliate Club within fourteen (14) days upon receipt of the Sanctioning Request Form. To facilitate timely receipt of materials, Affiliate Clubs wishing to use a preexisting date should contact the Affiliate 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 Affiliate Club or 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 Affiliate Club, if there is one. If a date has not been previously claimed, the Affiliate Club whose sanctioning is postmarked first shall be awarded the date.

#### 2.2.3.1 Trial Location Weather Guide

If the average temperature is either 60 degrees Fahrenheit or less during the day or 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less in the evening, it is highly recommended that the club provides an inside facility for the dock jumping. If the inside facility is not available and the dock jumping is being held outside, the club must provide an indoor room or a sided tent, which is temperature controlled, so that exhibitors can crate their dogs to keep dogs warm

between jumps and safe. This room or sided tent must be located close to the pool and set up for easy access between jumps. **New section effective 2-27-2022.**

### **2.2.3.2 Trial Cancellations**

If sanctioning paperwork has been filed for a trial and the club decides to cancel the trial (before the trial starts), the club's trial chairman must notify the Business Office immediately. Upon request, sanctioning fees will be held for use on a future date. The club shall reimburse the judge for normal trial expenses incurred that cannot be used at a future date. Once notification of the club's intent to cancel the trial is received, the Business Office will notify the Judge of record that the trial has been canceled.

If the trial cannot be opened or completed by reason of acts of GOD, civil disturbances, environmental conditions, fire, public emergency, riots, or any other cause beyond the control of the Trial Committee, it may be canceled. Considerations for safety shall be assessed for all dogs, exhibitors, judge, and Trial Committee. The Trial Committee should seek input from the exhibitors and the judge of record, but the decision to cancel is the trial Committee's decision and that decision is final. The refund of entries is at the discretion of the Trial Committee.

### **2.2.4 Sanctioning Request Form**

An ASCA Affiliate must submit an official Dock Jumping Trial Sanction Request to the Business Office at least 60 days in advance of the proposed trial date. Sanctioning requests submitted via email or facsimile must be received during the Business Office hours of operation no later than 60 days prior to the trial date. Sanctioning requests submitted via mail must be postmarked 60 days prior to the trial date. The sanctioning fee (as set by the ASCA Board of Directors) must be submitted with the application. The sanctioning fee will be assessed for each day of the trial.

A Club may request to sanction a one-day Dock Jumping trial or two or more days of Dock Jumping trials, held on consecutive days. The sanctioning request form shall consist of a single form for either a one-day trial or consecutive days of trials and shall list the date and the classes offered per day (including partial days). For recording purposes, the Business Office will assign a separate 'event' number for each trial day.

Clubs may offer a maximum of six (6) classes per 'trial day'. This can be any combination of Launch and/or Fetch it classes. ~~The maximum number of ASCA sanctioned classes per trial day are four (4) Launch distance classes and two (2) Fetch-it classes. An Affiliate requesting sanctioning for the ASCA National Specialty may not offer more than four (4) distance classes and two (2) Fetch-it even if the 'trial' is spread over multiple days.~~ **Changes effective 2-27-2022.**

The ASCA Business Office will not accept responsibility for sanctioning requests lost in the mail. It is recommended that Clubs retain proof of mailing for all sanctioning requests submitted via mail. It is the responsibility of the Club to obtain confirmation of receipt from the Business Office of any sanctioning requests submitted electronically. If the Host Club with the preexisting dates postmarks or electronically submits their sanctioning request form past the 60-day deadline and it is not received 45 days prior to the event, they will lose first right to this date for that year.

Affiliate Clubs must have their Show Coordinator (an ASCA Member in good standing and appointed by the Affiliate Club on file at the Business Office) sign the reverse side of the Dock Jumping Trial Sanction Form. The Show Coordinator will be responsible for accurate filing of the trial sanctioning along with appropriate fees in a timely manner. The Show Coordinator is also responsible for insuring all trial reports, with appropriate fees, are submitted to ASCA after the show in a timely manner.

A Dock Jumping Trial Chairman shall be listed on the Dock Jumping Trial Sanction Form and must be an ASCA member in good standing.

#### **2.2.4.1 Late Sanctioning Fees**

Late Sanctioning Fees: Sanctioning requests received between 45-60 days prior to an event will be accepted upon payment of a fine (see ASCA's [Schedule of Fees](#)) past the 60-day postmark deadline; or past the 60-day electronic receipt deadline. Sanctioning requests received by the Business Office less than 45 days prior to a sanctioned event will not be accepted under any circumstances. Clubs submitting delinquent sanctioning request three times will lose all late sanctioning privileges for a period of two years.



The sanctioning fee (as set by the ASCA Board of Directors) will be submitted with the application. The sanctioning fee will be assessed for each day of the trial. The fee for a partial day shall be the same as a full day.

### 2.2.5 Trial Premium

Clubs may offer a maximum of six (6) classes per 'trial day'. This can be any combination of Launch and/or Fetch it classes. Clubs may set entry limits per trial. As standard practice judges may not judge more than 240 jump runs per day. Only one trial per day. A copy of the premium shall be sent to the ASCA Business Office along with the trial sanctioning paperwork. The Business Office will acknowledge receipt of sanctioning paperwork and approval of the premium. Premiums cannot be distributed until approved. A copy of the premium is to be sent to the judge(s) who is/are to officiate and should be distributed and/or posted to prospective exhibitors at least four (4) weeks in advance of the proposed trial date.

The premium must include all the information listed in [Section 2.2.5.1](#) below. An Entry Form and a QTracker Number and Service Membership Application, or a link to the 'Application' on the [ASCA Website](#), must be included with the premium. These forms can be downloaded from the [ASCA Website](#).

A Host club may wish to provide additional information such as week-end packages, how checks should be made payable, where to send entry forms and requests for additional information such as e-mail address, etc. Any ASCA affiliate 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.

Additional information regarding QTracker numbers could also be listed (i.e., If your dog is an ASCA registered Australian Shepherd, fill in your dog's registration number where designated on the entry form. If your dog is not an ASCA registered Australian Shepherd and you would like to earn ASCA titles, you will need to obtain an ASCA QTracker number for your dog. The ASCA Business Office will track qualifying scores earned only by ASCA registered dogs. Once you have an ASCA QTracker number, use it as your dog's "ASCA Registration Number" on all entry forms).

#### 2.2.5.1 Premium: Required Information

The Dock Jumping Trial Premium shall include the following information:

1. The proposed date and location of the trial.
2. The length of Dock (short or normal dock).
3. A listing of all classes offered for each day.
4. A listing of entry fees and description of any discounts or price reductions offered.
5. The date and time for the closing of entries.
6. A statement either allowing for day-of-trial entries or for accepting pre-entries only.
7. A description of prizes and awards.
8. The name(s) of the judge(s)/alternate judge(s) who is/are to officiate.
9. A description of any restrictions for entry into the trial.
10. A statement that the trial will be held under the current rules and regulations of ASCA.
11. A statement that no entry shall be accepted from a dog or handler disqualified from the ASCA dock jumping program; a dog or handler disqualified from all ASCA programs; or a person not in good standing with ASCA. A list of such dogs will be supplied by the Business Office along with the sanctioning paperwork.
12. An official ASCA approved entry form shall be included (see [Section 2.2.6](#)).
13. The name, phone number and email address of the trial chairman. Other trial officials may also be listed.
14. A copy of the current QTracker Number and Service Membership Application or a link to the current 'Application' available on the [ASCA Website](#). (This information is not required for the ASCA Nationals and pre/post-trial premiums.)

### 2.2.6 Official Entry Form

Clubs that generate entry forms to send out in premiums, and/or clubs that post the entry form electronically (on server lists, web sites, etc.), must submit to the ASCA Business Office at the time that they are requesting

sanctioning of the event, a copy of the entry form which they plan to use. The entry form must be approved by ASCA before sanctioning is granted. The entry will not be considered acceptable until all information has been completed and the entry form has been submitted with the proper entry fees.

All entry forms shall be 5-1/2" by 8-1/2" (i.e., the size of one-half of an 8-1/2" by 11" piece of paper) (14.85 cm by 21 cm, i.e., the size of one-half of an A4 paper (21 cm by 29.7 cm piece of paper). Entry forms put up at web sites by the hosting club must use .pdf format so that the front of the entry form is no larger than 5-1/2" by 8-1/2" (14.85 cm by 21 cm with A4 paper) when downloaded and printed and the site must have on the same web page (by the side of the front of the entry form), the agreement form which when downloaded is no larger than 5-1/2" by 8-1/2" (14.85 cm by 21 cm with A4 paper) such that both the front of the entry form and the agreement that normally is on the back of the entry form appear together on one 8-1/2" by 11" (14.85 cm by 21 cm with A4 paper) page when printed.

<p><b>The entry form shall include the following information:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trial date(s)</li> <li>2. Name of Host Club</li> <li>3. Dog's Registration Number</li> <li>4. Dog's Full Name, Call Name, Breed, Birthdate, Sex</li> <li>5. Owner's Name</li> <li>6. Handler's Name</li> <li>7. Owner/Handler's Address, City, State, Zip</li> <li>8. Owner/Handler's Phone Number</li> <li>9. Classes Entered</li> </ol>	<p>The following statement must appear on the front of the form: <b>"Exhibitor/owner must read and sign reverse side of this form."</b></p> <p>The back of the entry form shall include an <b>"Agreement"</b> containing indemnity clauses. These sections must be reproduced verbatim (including punctuation and case of letters; in paragraph 1.5 of the Agreement, fill in the name of the club through which sanctioning is obtained; also, fill in the name of the owner/manager of the site). After all the indemnity clauses the following sentence must appear <b>"I have read, understood, and acknowledge the above Agreement"</b> followed by signature line for owner or exhibitor, date, signature of Parent or Legal Guardian of Minor, and telephone number of Legal Guardian of Minor.</p>
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**AGREEMENT (Revised 10/8/2020):** IMPORTANT LEGAL AGREEMENT—Please read the following carefully as it, among other things, may prevent you from suing ASCA® and persons/entities affiliated with it. This agreement could even require you to defend them from demands and suits by third parties that include an assertion of wrongdoing by you. (1) The person signing this Agreement represents being authorized to enter into it on behalf of him/herself, as well as (if different) the owner(s)/exhibitor(s)/handler(s) of the dog(s) for which an entry form is being submitted (all these parties collectively referred to herein as "Applicant"). (2) "Releasees" here collectively refers to the Australian Shepherd Club of America® (ASCA®); its affiliate clubs; and the officers and board of directors, staff, contractors, insurers, attorneys, and agents of ASCA® and of those clubs. (3) This Agreement voluntarily is entered into by Applicant in exchange for the acceptance of the associated entry form and permission to participate in related activities. (4) Applicant agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of ASCA® and any other rules and regulations applicable to this event. (5) Applicant certifies that the entered dog will not pose a hazard to people, property, stock animals, or other dogs, and further that the dog is current with rabies shots along with any other vaccinations required by its state of residence. (6) Applicant acknowledges and assumes the risks to Applicant and Applicant's dog associated with participation in the event, among which could be ones associated with poor condition of the facilities and surrounding areas; security measures or lack of them; electrical appliances; fittings; show rings; the presence of unfamiliar persons; and the presence/involvement of other animals—whether stock, dogs, or otherwise. (7) Applicant further agrees to comply with all recommended and required health and safety precautions, among which may be those related to social distancing; quarantining; wearing of face coverings; and non-participation of persons exhibiting symptoms or for whom there otherwise has been a likelihood of recent exposure to COVID-19 or other contagious diseases. (8) Applicant additionally acknowledges and agrees to assume the risks associated with taking part in the event though others might neglect compliance with health and safety precautions/requirements or pose an undue risk of spreading disease. For example, as is true as to any public event, there is some risk that Applicant and/or those affiliated with Applicant may catch COVID-19 or another contagious disease at the event. (9) To the maximum extent permissible, this

release is to be interpreted under Texas law, without application of its choice of law rules. (10) To the extent that Applicant—or another party suing on behalf of Applicant, or suing to recover based on injuries/death/damage to Applicant/Applicant’s dog/Applicant’s property—sues ASCA® (or a board member or staff member or agent of ASCA®) as a defendant, the sole appropriate forum (to the maximum extent permitted by law) for the suit shall be the state or federal courts serving Brazos County, Texas (where ASCA® has its headquarters). (11) Applicant hereby releases and waives any claims Applicant otherwise might assert against the Releasees as to any injury or damage claim connected in any way to any alleged act or omission arising out of, or occurring concurrent with, the event and related activities, interactions, communications, and even adjacent premises. (12) This release is made not only as to Applicant but also for anyone who might assert a claim on behalf of Applicant or based on purported injury or damage to Applicant/Applicant’s dog/Applicant’s property, as well as any heir, beneficiary, assignee, executor, trustee, agent, or survivor of Applicant. (13) Applicant further agrees to assume sole responsibility for and indemnify and hold Releasees harmless from related claims, demands, judgments, and settlement payments. (14) These waiver, release, and indemnification provisions extend even to claims or demands asserting that the acts or omissions resulted in bodily injury or death or from intentional wrongdoing, as well as to attorney fees and other costs of defense. (15) The duties of indemnification further extend to any claims or demands asserted against Releasees that are alleged to have arisen out of the acts or omissions of Applicant, Applicant’s dog, or others affiliated with Applicant. Among other things, this means that Applicant would pay the legal defense of Releasees if someone sued them based on a claim Applicant carelessly exposed the claimant to COVID-19. (16) Applicant’s promises in this agreement apply without regard to the type of claim or cause of action asserted against Releasees. (17) To the extent any provision of this agreement is unenforceable, the remainder of it nonetheless is to be enforced. (18) This agreement is to be interpreted to provide Releasees with the maximum permissible legal protection from—among other things—claims and suits pursued by Applicant (and/or those acting on behalf of Applicant or over injury/damage to Applicant), as well as from ones based on the purported wrongful acts or omissions of Applicant. (19) Nothing in this Agreement requires you to indemnify Releasees from claims by third parties that involve no allegations of improper acts or omissions by you, those affiliated with you, nor your dog(s). (20) Applicant acknowledges having read, understood, and had the opportunity for independent legal review of this document prior to signing it.

## Section 2.3 Dock Jumping Equipment

### 2.3.1 Club Equipment

Equipment that must be provided by the host club includes proper equipment for the activity such as dock, pool, etc.

A. **Dock** - The dock used for dock jumping competitions must be of sturdy construction, with some sort of surface, such as AstroTurf, outdoor carpet, or even rubber matting, to make for better traction and prevent slipping. The dock must be a minimum of 35 feet and a maximum of 40 feet. For distance jumping, it must sit 2 feet (24 in) off the surface of the water.

B. **Pool** - The pool or natural body of water for dock jumping should be at least 4 feet deep, 17ft across and 40ft long. It must be clean, free of debris, and clear of algae. In the case of a pool, it must have a safe exit ramp or steps for the dog to exit the water.

C. **Fetch It Extender** - The fetch it extender reaches from the side of the pool out 4 feet over the edge of the water at various distances. The object is for the dog to catch and pull or knock down the bumper. The bumper is hung at the end of the extender and is moved out in 1-foot increments after each successive catch or knock down. The length of each jump is measured from the edge of the dock to the bumper and the greatest distance jumped will be recorded for each dog.

D. **Fetch It Object** - The object for fetch it must be a bumper with strings at either end to attach it to the fetch it extender.

### 2.3.2 Exhibitor Equipment

Equipment that must be provided by the exhibitor. An exhibitor must provide the following for each entered dog:

A. **Collars** - Collars are optional but if worn must follow these guidelines. Special training collars (prong, spikes on the inside or outside, or electronic collars) or collars that are either too tight or so large that they hang down unreasonably in front of the dogs are not permitted. Collars must properly fit the dog and be approved by the Judge. Collar tags or other items hanging from the collar are prohibited on the dock. Dogs may not wear items of adornment, such as, but not limited to, scarves, bandannas, caps, or sunglasses while on the dock.

B. **Leashes** - All dogs must be on a lead, except when it is their turn on the dock. A lead must be long enough to allow the dog to move freely, but not so long as to cause over socialization or to wrap around any equipment. Prohibited leads are any type of long-line or retractable leashes. Leashes should not have significant give... No bungee type leads.

C. **Chase/Throw Object** - An object that is used to ask the dog to jump but is not a requirement. The object can be anything that does not sink, is not edible, does not dissolve in water, and is not a living or dead animal. Further, it is not required that the dog retrieve the object from the pool to achieve its score.

D. **Other Equipment** - Wetsuits and life jackets (no logos/sponsorships or names of any kind) and Personal Video equipment on dog are allowed if they are in good working order, fit tightly and do not inhibit the jumping ability of the dog.

## Section 2.4 Trial Officials and Staff

### 2.4.1 Trial Officials

Every ASCA sanctioned Dock Jumping Trial shall have the following officials:

1. **ASCA Approved Dock Jumping Judge(s)** (see also [Chapter 4](#)) - The Dock Jumping trial shall be officiated by one judge from the ASCA Approved Dock Jumping Judges list. The judge shall be responsible for inspecting the equipment and verifying that it meets ASCA specifications, and that the equipment is in safe condition for the trial. The judge is solely responsible for measuring jumps. ALL DECISIONS OF THE JUDGE SHALL BE FINAL.

2. **Trial Chairman** - The Trial Chairman shall distribute prepared premium lists to potential exhibitors, be responsible for the preparation of the show catalog, be familiar with the paperwork in the show sanctioning packet, provide QTracker Number and Service Membership forms, and verify the final show reports which are sent to the ASCA Business Office with the official marked catalog. The ASCA Dock Jumping Trial Chairman must be on the grounds during the Dock Jumping trial. The Trial Chairman is responsible for the preparation and completion of all paperwork that must be returned to ASCA.

### 2.4.2 Showing to the Judge

The person hiring the Judge(s) for the Dock Jumping Trial will be allowed to compete in the Dock Jumping Trial. The Dock Jumping Trial Chairman and other members of the Show Committee will also be allowed to compete in the Dock Jumping Trial.

## Section 2.5 Awards and Ribbons

### 2.5.1 Awards for Classes

The judges shall award up to four placements (either Ribbon or Medals), where possible, in each jump category and division, where possible, based on the dog's score. First place must be awarded to the dog with the longest/highest score, second place to the dog with the next-highest score and so forth. In case of a tie, the dog's other jump in the Launch will be the tie breaker. Clubs may offer more placements if they choose to. A silver jump ribbon or rosette may be offered for each additional jump in each division. Each ribbon awarded at the trial shall have the words "ASCA Sanctioned Trial" printed on it (synonyms such as "event" may be used for the word "trial"). The ribbon or rosette shall be printed with the host club's name and the placement awarded. The ASCA logo may be used in awards if an ASCA affiliate is hosting a sanctioned show, trial, or dock jumping competition. The ribbons or rosette shall each have a place on the back for exhibitors to record the date of the trial, the judge's name, and the class. Ribbons will be no smaller than 2" x 6" with a card on the back.

**Ribbons colors shall be as follows:**

1st - Blue  
2nd - Red  
3rd - Yellow

4th - White  
5th - Pink  
6th - Green

7th - Purple  
8th - Brown  
Jump - Silver

### 2.5.2 Additional Ribbons

The club may offer a Silver Jump ribbon. The Jump ribbon would be given for each additional jump in each division. The Jump ribbon must be no smaller than 2" x 6" with a card on the back. Additional ribbons and awards may be offered such as Personal Best.

### 2.5.3 Awards for High in Trial

Awards for High in Trial (HIT) are not mandatory. However, such awards shall be given at the ASCA National Specialty and the National Specialty Pre or Post Trials. When such awards are given at the ASCA Trials, ASCA National Specialty and the National Specialty Pre or Post Trials, computation for these awards shall be done in the following manner:

A. Separate awards will be given to a team in these specific categories.

1. **Featherweight Category** - The Featherweight category is for a dog under 16" at the withers. Featherweight HIT will be awarded at events where there are 2 or more Featherweight dogs. If there is only one featherweight at an event, it will compete with the other dogs.
2. **Regular Category** - The Regular category is for a dog over 16" at the shoulder.
3. **Veteran Category** - The Veteran category is for a dog 7 years of age on the day of the event. If there is only one veteran dog at an event, it will compete with the regular category dogs.
4. **Junior Handler** - Handlers aged 17 or under.

B. **Point Calculations** - Points will be accumulated after each Launch. The points schedule is the same points the dog would receive for titles. (Chart located in [Section 3.2.5](#)) If there is a tie, the HIT will be award to the dog with the longest distance jump.

C. The computation for high scoring awards shall be posted for the competitors.

## Section 2.6 Bonus Round

Bonus Round is not mandatory. Bonus Round (Distance Jumping only.) **NOTE:** Bonus Round Launches will not count towards ASCA Dock Jumping titles.

**Bubble** - All teams' top scores (usually 5 teams in each division) will be tabulated into overall event divisional rankings. This is the bubble. Time allowing, the event chairman will update the bubble after each launch. After the last launch of the event, the event chairman's desk will close for the event chairman to formulate the bubble for the Bonus Round. This is a tedious process, and questions must be directed to other event staff during the time to allow the bubble to be completed.

**Divisional Bonus Round** - The top five teams in each division will qualify for the divisional Bonus Round. Once the Bonus Round bubble is posted, it is each competitor's responsibility to check in with the event chairman. ALL FINALISTS must check in.

Bonus Round 1st alternates may choose to wait and see if all finalists have checked in. A cut off time for Bonus Round check-in will be designated at each event. If a finalist does not check in by this time, the next in line, or the 1st alternate, will be put into the Bonus Round. It is the 1st alternate's responsibility to find out if they have been placed in the Bonus Round, and subsequently check in with the chairman. It is not the responsibility of the event chairman to track down alternates and will not be done. The divisional Bonus Round will be run in reverse order of rankings, the lowest scored team shall go first. Bonus Round will start with Spring, Classic, Deluxe, Fly, Elite, Pro, and shall finish with Ultra.

## Section 2.7 Submission of Records

After each ASCA sanctioned Dock Jumping Trial the following paperwork shall be submitted to the ASCA Business Office: a completed results book, ASCA Official Entry Forms for all entries, Gross Receipts Report (including payment for event membership dues), Late Filing Fees (if applicable), Sanction Grant, and Conduct Evaluation of Judges. The above paperwork/forms must be postmarked no later than fifteen (15) days after the close of the show. See ASCA's [Fee Schedule](#) for penalty for non-compliance. Other penalties may be imposed by the Board of Directors of ASCA.

### 2.7.1 Scoring and Results Report

Clubs must submit a complete results report of all dogs entered in all classes, including scratches, no-shows, and eliminated jumps. Results report shall be 8-1/2" by 11" (or 21 cm by 29.7 cm for A4 paper) in size; all information must be legible; either an original or a copy is acceptable. Multiple rounds of a class may not be listed in columns across a single page. Sample pages of acceptable format are available from the ASCA Business Office.

Corrections to the results report may be made by the host club during the trial. Competitors must have the opportunity to review any corrections made to the results. Once the trial has ended, the results report must be submitted to the ASCA Business Office as posted at the trial. Any scoring errors discovered after the close of the trial must be submitted to the ASCA Business Office who shall make the corrections to the results. An explanation must accompany the requested change to the results. Result reports must not be changed by anyone (except for the ASCA Business Office) after the close of the trial.

### 2.7.2 Event Membership Dues

Event Membership Dues (see ASCA's [Fee Schedule](#)) must be submitted along the marked catalog. Dues shall be computed for all Launch and Fetch-it runs for all dogs listed in the book, including dogs scratched, and eliminated runs.

### 2.7.3 Submission of Entry Forms

The original entry forms for all dogs and owner/handlers reported on the results form (marked book) must accompany the results form (marked book) and be sent to the ASCA Business Office. The ASCA Business Office keeps all entry forms for a period of one year; the Business Office can make available to a club an entry form, if for some reason the club has need of a specific entry form after the date that the entry form has been sent to the ASCA Business Office.

## Section 2.8 Other Financial Responsibilities

### 2.8.1 Judges Expenses

Whenever an ASCA Affiliate Club is responsible for making arrangements with and paying for the services of a Dock Jumping trial judge, the Affiliate club is encouraged to execute a contract with each judge they hire so both the club and the judge have a clear understanding of the financial arrangements. If the club does not fulfill its financial obligations as specified in the contract, ASCA will not sanction any of the club's future events until the financial obligations are fully met.

The contract should include the following items as a minimum:

1. Transportation (airline coach fare or agreed upon amount for driving); airport parking; shuttle fees; driving to and from the airport; if the judge purchases the ticket as agreed upon with the host club, the host club shall reimburse the judge promptly upon receipt of evidence of payment for the ticket; statement indicating the club will assume the costs for ticket change if the club changes or cancels the event and that the judge will assume costs for ticket change if the judge does not meet the ticket itinerary.
2. Meals, snacks, and refreshments to be reimbursed, charged to the club's credit, and/or furnished in kind (address any limitations on numbers of and amount for meals, including taxes and gratuities; ascertain any special dietary requirements for meals, snacks, and refreshments).

3. The host club's arrangements for lodging during the trial (lodging in a member's home is by mutual agreement between the judge and the host club; clubs should indicate in the contract that charges made to the hotel room which have not been agreed upon by the host club must be paid by the judge when checking out of the hotel).

4. Other agreements between the club and the judge such as kenneling charges for the judge's dogs.

5. The Judge's fee. The fee rate for classes scheduled at a sanctioned trial event is one dollar (\$1.00) per entry for both Launch and Fetch It as listed in the jumping order catalog, whether or not the dog runs, or a minimum fee of \$75 per day.

### 2.8.2 Other Trial Expenses

It is the host group's responsibility to ensure that all financial obligations for holding the trial are promptly paid. All financial obligations for rental of equipment, for the site, for ribbons, for food and refreshments, etc., shall be promptly fulfilled. Judges shall be reimbursed for the expenses they have incurred (travel and meals). The judging fee (see rates in [Section 2.8.1](#) above) should be given to the judge at the conclusion of the trial.

## Chapter 3 Championship Program - Sanctioned Classes, Divisions, and Levels

### Section 3.1 General Descriptions

The ASCA Dock Jumping Program titling structure is based upon classes, divisions, and levels. The classes are Launch and Fetch it.

A. **Launch** - This is the competition measuring the distance of a dog's jump. The dog's distance is measured from the end of the dock to where the base of the tail breaks the water's surface. A launch has a series of two rounds (cycles) of distance jumping competition. The longer jump for each dog will become its official score. The jump must be an intentional jump by the dog and handler. A jump is defined as the handler intending for the dog to go into the pool. If a dog jumps into the pool without the intention of the handler, the dog may be reset for an intentional jump. The jump must be called as not intentional PRIOR to the jump distance being read or recorded. The reset can only happen one time per launch. The dog has a total time of 4 minutes on the dock to complete both jumps that equal to the launch. **Changes effective 12-27-2022.**

B. **Fetch It** - This is another competition that measures the distance a dog jumps. A bumper is suspended out and over the edge of the water at varying distance and the dog must jump and catch or knock down the Fetch It bumper. The dog jumps further distances until they have missed 2 jumps at the same distance or 3 total missed jumps.

### Section 3.2 Launch Divisions

Each jump is placed in a division depending on the distance jumped.

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A. 1" to 9'11" Spring    | E. 20'-22'5" Elite  |
| B. 10' to 14'11" Classic | F. 22'6 -24'11" Pro |
| C. 15' to 17'5" Deluxe   | G. 25'+ Ultra       |
| D. 17'6 to 19'11" Fly    |                     |

#### 3.2.1 Novice Level

To earn this title a dog must jump in the same division five times at an ASCA licensed dock jumping events. No points will be calculated during the Novice title achievement.

#### 3.2.2 Advanced Level

A dog must earn a Novice level title before it is eligible to earn points towards an Advanced title. For an Advanced title, the dog must earn 25 points in the same division as the Novice title.

### 3.2.3 Excellent Level

A dog must earn an Advanced level title before it is eligible to earn points towards an Excellent title in the same division. For an Excellent title, the dog must earn an additional 25 points in the same division as the Advanced title. This is a total of 50 points.

### 3.2.4 Master Level

A dog must earn an Excellent level title before it is eligible to earn points towards a Master title in the same division. For a Master title, the dog must earn an additional 25 points in the same division as the Excellent title. This is a total of 75 points.

### 3.2.5 Championship Level

A dog must earn a Master level title before it is eligible to earn points towards a Championship title in the same division. For a Championship title, the dog must earn an additional 25 points in the same division as the Master title. This is a total of 100 points.

Launch	Division	Distance	Points
1" - 9'11"	Spring	1" - 7'11"	1
		8' - 8'5"	2
		8'6" - 8'11"	3
		9' - 9'5"	4
		9'6" - 9'11"	5
10' - 14'11"	Classic	10' - 12'11"	1
		13' - 13'5"	2
		13'6" - 13'11"	3
		14' - 14'5"	4
		14'6" - 14'11"	5
15' - 17'5"	Deluxe	15' - 15'5"	1
		15'6" - 15'11"	2
		16' - 16'5"	3
		16'6" - 16'11"	4
		17' - 17'5"	5
17'6" - 19'11"	Fly	17'6" - 17'11"	1
		18' - 18'5"	2
		18'6" - 18'11"	3
		19' - 19'5"	4
		19'6" - 19'11"	5
20' - 22'5"	Elite	20' - 20'5"	1
		20'6" - 20'11"	2
		21' - 21'5"	3
		21'6" - 21'11"	4
		22' - 22'5"	5
22'6" - 24'11"	Pro	22'6" - 22'11"	1
		23' - 23'5"	2
		23' 6" - 23'11"	3
		24' - 24'5"	4
		24'6" - 24'11"	5
25' +	Ultra	25' - 25'5"	1
		25'6" - 25'11"	2
		26' - 26'5"	3



		26'6" - 26'11"	4
		27'+	5

## Section 3.3 Fetch It Divisions

Each jump is placed in a division depending on the distance jumped.

- |                         |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| A. 10'-12'11" Spring    | C. 16' to 18'11" Deluxe | E. 22'-24'11" Elite |
| B. 13' - 15'11" Classic | D. 19' to 21'11" Fly    | F. 25'+ Pro         |

### 3.3.1 Novice Level

To earn this title a dog must jump in the same division ~~five~~ **three** times at an ASCA licensed dock jumping events. No points will be calculated during the Novice title achievement. **Changes effective 12-27-2022.**

### 3.3.2 Advanced Level

A dog must earn a novice level title before it is eligible to earn points towards an Advanced title. For an Advanced title, the dog must earn 15 points in the same division as the Novice title.

### 3.3.3 Excellent Level

A dog must earn an Advanced level title before it is eligible to earn points towards an Excellent title in the same division. For an Excellent title, the dog must earn an additional 20 points in the same division as the Advanced title. This is a total of 35 points.

### 3.3.4 Master Level

A dog must earn an Excellent level title before it is eligible to earn points towards a Master title in the same division. For a Master title, the dog must earn an additional 25 points in the same division as the Excellent title. This is a total of 60 points.

### 3.3.5 Championship Level

A dog must earn a Master level title before it is eligible to earn points towards a Championship title in the same division. For a Championship title, the dog must earn an additional 15 points in the same division as the Master title. This is a total of 75 points.

Fetch It	Division	Distance	Points
10'-12'	Spring	10'	1
		11'	3
		12'	5
13' - 15'	Classic	13'	1
		14'	3
		15'	5
16' - 18'	Deluxe	16'	1
		17'	3
		18'	5
19' - 21'	Fly	19'	1
		20'	3
		21'	5
22' - 24'	Elite	22'	1
		23'	3
		24'	5
25'+	Pro	25'	1
		26'	3
		27' +	5

## Section 3.4 Basic Titles

ASCA dock jumping titles must be earned successively. A dog can earn titles from multiple divisions. Equivalent titles from other venues may not be substituted for ASCA dock jumping titles. If several titles are won from the same division the higher title will remove the lower title in the dog's name. The following chart lists the basic titles for all class levels and division:

Class	Division	Level	Title
Launch	Spring	Novice	LS-N
Launch	Spring	Advanced	LS-A
Launch	Spring	Excellent	LS-E
Launch	Spring	Master	LS-M
Launch	Classic	Novice	LC-N
Launch	Classic	Advanced	LC-A
Launch	Classic	Excellent	LC-E
Launch	Classic	Master	LC-M
Launch	Deluxe	Novice	LD-N
Launch	Deluxe	Advanced	LD-A
Launch	Deluxe	Excellent	LD-E
Launch	Deluxe	Master	LD-M
Launch	Fly	Novice	LF-N
Launch	Fly	Advanced	LF-A
Launch	Fly	Excellent	LF-E
Launch	Fly	Master	LF-M
Launch	Elite	Novice	LE-N
Launch	Elite	Advanced	LE-A
Launch	Elite	Excellent	LE-E
Launch	Elite	Master	LE-M
Launch	Pro	Novice	LP-N
Launch	Pro	Advanced	LP-A
Launch	Pro	Excellent	LP-E
Launch	Pro	Master	LP-M
Launch	Ultra	Novice	LU-N
Launch	Ultra	Advanced	LU-A
Launch	Ultra	Excellent	LU-E
Launch	Ultra	Master	LU-M
Fetch It	Spring	Novice	FS-N
Fetch It	Spring	Advanced	FS-A
Fetch It	Spring	Excellent	FS-E
Fetch It	Spring	Master	FS-M
Fetch It	Classic	Novice	FC-N
Fetch It	Classic	Advanced	FC-A
Fetch It	Classic	Excellent	FC-E
Fetch It	Classic	Master	FC-M
Fetch It	Deluxe	Novice	FD-N
Fetch It	Deluxe	Advanced	FD-A
Fetch It	Deluxe	Excellent	FD-E
Fetch It	Deluxe	Master	FD-M
Fetch It	Fly	Novice	FF-N
Fetch It	Fly	Advanced	FF-A

Fetch It	Fly	Excellent	FF-E
Fetch It	Fly	Master	FF-M
Fetch It	Elite	Novice	FE-N
Fetch It	Elite	Advanced	FE-A
Fetch It	Elite	Excellent	FE-E
Fetch It	Elite	Master	FE-M

A dog can earn titles from multiple divisions. If several titles are won from the same division the higher title will remove the lower title in the dog's name.

## Section 3.5 Championship Titles

Championship titles can be won in either the Launch or the Fetch It class. It is possible to be awarded multiple championship titles from different divisions. The following chart lists the Championship titles for all class levels and divisions:

Class	Division	Title
Launch	Spring	DTCH-Ls
Launch	Classic	DTCH-Lc
Launch	Deluxe	DTCH-Ld
Launch	Fly	DTCH-Lf
Launch	Elite	DTCH-Le
Launch	Pro	DTCH-Lp
Launch	Ultra	DTCH-Lu
Fetch It	Spring	DTCH-Fs
Fetch It	Classic	DTCH-Fc
Fetch It	Deluxe	DTCH-Fd
Fetch It	Fly	DTCH-Ff
Fetch It	Elite	DTCH-Fe
Fetch It	Pro	DTCH-Fp

### 3.5.1 Ultimate Championship Titles

Ultimate Championship Title can be won when a championship is achieved in both the Launch and the Fetch Classes. The Ultimate Championship title are symbolized with U in front of the DTCH, e.g., UDTCH-Lu,Fd.

### 3.5.2 DTCH Title Designation

Subsequent DTCH titles in the same Division will be followed by a numeric designation reflecting the number of times that the dog has met the requirements of the DTCH title as outlined below. e.g., DTCH-Lf2 or DTCH Fd5.

## Chapter 4 Judges

### Section 4.1 Licensed Dock Jumping Judge Qualification Requirements

#### 4.1.1 Approved Dock Jumping Judges from Other Organizations

Any Judge who has been approved for a minimum of one year through North American Diving Dogs, Ultimate Air Dog, United Kennel Club, or DockDogs may apply to be an ASCA Dock Jumping judge.

#### 4.1.2 Application Process

Outside Registry Judges in good standing with the above organizations may judge ASCA Dock Jumping Trials after they complete and send a Qualification Form to the ASCA Business Office. The applicants must be in good standing with ASCA.

Judging an ASCA Dock Jumping Trial is a privilege not a right. Approval to judge Dock Jumping for other organizations is not a guarantee of approval to judge any ASCA Dock Jumping. Judges must follow ASCA Dock Jumping Regulations and adhere to ASCA's Code of Ethics. Any documented failure to perform on this level may result in the revocation of judging privileges by the ASCA Board of Directors without regard to any other qualifications or for former service.

## **Section 4.2 ASCA Dock Jumping Judge Applicants**

### **4.2.1 Requirements to Become a Judge**

Applicants who wish to apply to become an ASCA Dock Jumping Judge, without affiliations other than ASCA, must have the following qualifications.

#### **Qualifications:**

1. Two ASCA Advanced Dog titles from Launch and/or Fetch-it
2. Two ASCA Excellent Title from Launch and/or Fetch-it
3. One ASCA Master Title from Launch and/or Fetch-it, or the equivalent point value of 75 that would be equal to a Master Title. If point value is used, applicants must have accumulated points from at least three different ASCA sanctioned shows.
4. Titles and points can be from more than one dog handled.
5. All titles must be achieved by the handler. Handler is defined in [Appendix A](#).

### **4.2.2 Application Process**

- A. All applicants must be at least 21 years old.
- B. Submit an application to the ASCA Business Office. Upon verification of the qualifications, the applicant will be sent an Open Book test.
- C. Show proof of completion of one ASCA Dock Jumping Trial Chairman assignments.
- D. Pass with 100% the ASCA Dock Jumping Open Book Test. The test may be retaken until all questions have been answered correctly. Test can only be taken three times in a row. If the test is still not correct, then the applicant must wait one year from the date of the last test before retaking the test.
- E. Once items a through d above are completed and approved, the applicant must complete the Apprentice Judge requirements, below.
- F. Upon completion of all steps above, the applicant must send all information to the ASCA Business Office. Once confirmed the ASCA Business Office will then forward the applicant's information to the Board of Directors for approval.

### **4.2.3 Apprenticing Requirements and Procedures**

- A. The Apprentice must complete minimum of two apprentice assignments with organizations that use sight, not computers, for measurements of the jumps.
- B. The applicant should contact the judge and the affiliate club for approval prior to the trial.
- C. The Apprentice must judge a minimum of 100 total Launch jumps. This count is a 100 for both assignments combined.
- D. The Apprentice will observe from the most advantageous position(s) poolside and score each dog as if they were the Judge. The Apprentice shall score each dog independently from the Judge and without interference from spectators or competitors.
- E. After judging is completed, the official Judge and the Apprentice will confer and review their scores, discussing how each arrived at their score. This time should be positive and educational, giving the Apprentice confidence and knowledge to further their judging experience.
- F. The Official Judge shall complete the Dock Jumping Apprentice Judge Evaluation (available from the Business Office) at the conclusion of the apprenticing assignment and return the form to the ASCA Business Office.

G. The Judge applicant must complete and return the Apprentice Judge Comparison Report (available from the Business Office) and their score sheets within 15 days of the trial to receive credit for the apprenticing assignment.

H. Apprenticing can take place at National Specialties. The apprentice must contact both the trial chairman and the judge to get approval. Only one person can apprentice per Nationals. If there is more than one person applying, the trial chairman will choose randomly at least two weeks prior to the event and notify each apprentice applying.

### **Section 4.3 Emergency Judge**

In the event of an emergency where a judge cannot fulfill their assignment, the Trial Chairman and or ASCA Affiliate, may choose an Emergency Judge with the following qualifications in order of priority (i.e. all eligible candidates in Item 1 must be attempted before Item 2 is considered, etc.).

1. Contact/hire another ASCA approved Judge not entered in the trial.
2. Contact/hire an ASCA approved judge entered in the trial.
3. Contact/hire an ASCA Apprentice Judge not entered in the trial.
4. Contact/hire ASCA Apprentice judge entered in the trial.
5. Contact/hire a judge from another approved dock jumping venue (NADD, UAD, UKC, or DockDogs).
6. Contact/hire a person entered in the trial with the most experience in the ASCA Dock Jumping program (completed the most DTCH titles).

The Emergency Judge will abide by the rules in the ASCA Dock Jumping Rulebook.

The Trial Chairman/ASCA Affiliate and Emergency Judge will contract fees and expenses to be paid for the assignment prior to judging first run of the trial.

### **Section 4.4 Judging Limits**

As standard practice judges may not judge more than 240 jumps runs per day.

## APPENDIX A: Definitions

**Bubble** - A divisional ranking of dog/handler teams after all launches are completed. The bubble indicates the top five teams that proceed into the bonus round.

**Distance Jumping** - Also known or referred to as Launches. This is the competition measuring the distance of a dog's jump. The dog's distance is measured from the end of the dock to where the base of the tail breaks the water's surface. In summation, a dog takes a running start down the competition dock, from whatever point the handler chooses to place the dog, and jumps into the water, usually after a chase object.

**Chase Object** - This is an object that may be used to ask the dog to jump but is not a requirement. The object can be anything that does not sink, is not edible, does not dissolve in water, and is not a living or dead animal. No food is allowed on the dock or pool. Further, it is not required that the dog retrieve the object from the pool to achieve its score.

**Dock** - The dock is the surface used for dock jumping competitions. It must be of sturdy construction with some sort of surface, such as AstroTurf, outdoor carpet, or even rubber matting, to make for better traction and prevent slipping.

**Fetch It Jumping** - This is a competition measuring the length/distance of a dog's jump that includes the dog pulling or knocking a bumper down from the Fetch-it apparatus for the jump to count.

**Fetch It Object** - The object used for "Fetch It" must be a bumper with strings at either end to attach it to the fetch it extender.

**Handler - Launch** - Handler is defined as the person that is throwing the object. If two people are on the dock, it is defined as the person at the end of the dock near the water.

**Handler - Fetch-It** - Handler is defined as the person with the dog. If two people are on the dock, it is defined as the person at the end of the dock near the water.

**Pool** - The pool is a body of water that is either a self-contained pool or natural body of water that is used for dock jumping.

**Throw Object** - This is an object that may be used to ask the dog to jump but is not a requirement. The object can be anything that does not sink, is not edible, does not dissolve in water, and is not a living or dead animal. Further, it is not required that the dog retrieve the object from the pool to achieve its score.

**Launch** - This is the competition measuring the distance of a dog's jump. The dog's distance is measured from the end of the dock to where the base of the tail breaks the water's surface. A launch has a series of two rounds (cycles) of distance jumping competition. The longer jump for each dog will become its score. The jump must be an intentional jump by the dog and handler. A jump is defined as the handler intending for the dog to go into the pool. If a dog jumps into the pool without the intention of the handler, the dog may be reset for an intentional jump. The jump must be called as not intentional PRIOR to the jump distance being read or recorded. The reset can only happen one time per launch. The dog has a total time of 4 minutes on the dock to complete both jumps that equal to the launch. **Changes effective 12-27-2022.**



# AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

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Office Contact: [manager@asca.org](mailto:manager@asca.org)

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

## Code of Ethics for ASCA Judges

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 to indicate the correct direction of the track, nor place markers or articles 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:**

- 1. Solicitation is the repeated contact and/or the use of influence, persuasion, or coercion in an effort to obtain a judging assignment.
- 2. 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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## Dog Aggression Rules

### Chapter 1 Disqualified Dogs

#### Section 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.

#### Section 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.

#### Section 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.

#### Section 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.

#### Section 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:
  1. The person bitten
  2. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog
  3. Any and all witnesses, including Judge/s
- D. Supporting photos of the offending dog and the wound.
- 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.

#### Section 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.

#### **Section 1.7 Review by Counsel**

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

#### **Section 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.

#### **Section 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.

#### **Section 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.

### **Chapter 2 Excused Dogs**

#### **Section 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 program, 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.

#### **Section 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.

#### **Section 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:
  - 1. The person threatened or person owning the dog that was aggressively threatened or attacked.
  - 2. The owner and/or the owner's agent of the offending dog.
  - 3. 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.

#### **Section 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.

## **Section 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.

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

### **Section 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.

### **Section 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.

### **Section 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.

### **Section 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.

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

### **Section 4.1 Right to Reinstatement**

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

### **Section 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.

### **Section 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.

### **Section 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.

### **Section 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. 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.



Information on ☐ Dog or ☐ Person That Was Attacked:

☐ Injuries or ☐ No Injuries

Registered Name of Dog		ASCA Registration #
Name of Dog's Owner	Phone #	Email

OR

Name of Person	Phone #	Email

Was veterinary or medical attention received? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

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

Written Statement from <input type="checkbox"/> Attacked Person or <input type="checkbox"/> Owner of Attacked Dog (Attach additional pages if more space is needed.)	
ASCA Member ID# (if applicable)	Signature Below

Witness Statements:

Name of Witness #1	Phone #	Email
Written Statement (Attach additional pages if more space is needed.)		
ASCA Member ID# (if applicable)	Signature Below	
Name of Witness #2	Phone #	Email
Written Statement (Attach additional pages if more space is needed.)		
ASCA Member ID# (if applicable)	Signature Below	

Name of Witness #3	Phone #	Email
<b>Written Statement</b> (Attach additional pages if more space is needed.)		
ASCA Member ID# (if applicable)	Signature Below	
Name of Witness #4	Phone #	Email
<b>Written Statement</b> (Attach additional pages if more space is needed.)		
ASCA Member ID# (if applicable)	Signature Below	

**Investigation Findings:**

<b>Summary of the Investigation</b>	
<b>Recommendation from Investigating Committee</b>	
<b>Date of the Affiliate's Recommendation</b>	<b>Date the Owner of the Offending Dog was Notified of the Affiliate's Recommendation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Written or <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal

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

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

**The ASCA 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 ASCA's Counsel.**



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## Conflict Resolution Protocol

**EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 2016 | REVISED JULY 2017**

**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.

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. Questions not answered by this document should be referred to the ASCA Executive Secretary.

### **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:

1. 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.
2. Conflicts, complaints, or disputes arising from affiliate bylaws or rules.
3. Conflicts arising from the improper actions by a judge which are correctable at the time of the event (not the decision of the judge).

#### **Board of Directors**

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

1. Conflicts with a Judge that cannot be mediated at the show/trial.
2. Conflicts or disputes originating with the ASCA Board regarding the ASCA Bylaws.
3. 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.

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.

WHAT	WHEN
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 such action shall be considered fully satisfied and absolved and a further infraction of the rules after that three-year period shall be 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 such action shall be considered fully satisfied and absolved and a further infraction of the rules after that three-year period shall be 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, 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
<b>Violation of ASCA Rules &amp; Regulations</b> (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.)	<u>1st offense</u> , 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. <u>2nd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine. <u>3rd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 1-year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000. <u>4th offense</u> , same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000.
<b>Misconduct against a Judge</b> (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.)	<u>1st offense</u> , 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. <u>2nd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine. <u>3rd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 1-year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000. <u>4th offense</u> , same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000.
<b>Unsportsmanlike / unprofessional conduct during an event</b> (Please refer to the Personal Code of Conduct for additional guidance.)	<u>1st offense</u> , 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. <u>2nd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine. <u>3rd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 1-year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000. <u>4th offense</u> , same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000.
<b>Disorderly conduct at an event</b> (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.)	<u>1st offense</u> , 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. <u>2nd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 6 months suspension and/or \$200 fine. <u>3rd offense</u> , same or similar offense - 1-year suspension and/or a fine up to \$1000. <u>4th offense</u> , same or similar offense - 5 years to life suspension and a fine up to \$1000.
<b>Actions detrimental to the interest of ASCA</b>	Membership suspended no less than 25 years and all associated privileges revoked.



# AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

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## Conflict Resolution Request Form

If you find the need to file a request for conflict resolution or find that you are involved in a conflict/dispute, please refer to the Conflict Resolution Protocol, at the back of all ASCA program rule books. Please try to resolve problems yourself, without a formal request for resolution, whenever possible. If you are unable to resolve a problem, use this form to file a formal request for conflict resolution with an Affiliate or the ASCA® Board of Directors under ASCA®'s Conflict Resolution Protocol, which must be read and followed in this formal procedure.

**If you fail to complete all fields, your request will not be processed.**

<b>Your Name</b>		<b>Name of party about whom you are complaining</b> (You must serve a copy of this form to everyone you name here.)	
<b>Today's Date</b>	<b>Date of event giving rise to this request for resolution</b>	<b>Date you first learned of the event</b>	
State the grounds for your conflict. Include reference to ASCA® rules, regulations and bylaws which have been violated. Confine your statement to this space if possible. Lengthy statements are discouraged.			
<b>Sign Here</b> By doing so you certify that you have attempted to resolve this conflict informally and that you have served parties with this form as required.			