



**QUEENSLAND YARD & UTILITY TRIAL ASSOCIATION INC.**

# **COMPETITION RULES**

**WITH ALL AMENDMENTS TO 24 OCTOBER 2023**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DEFINITIONS .....	4
2	QYUTA CODE OF CONDUCT AND POLICIES.....	5
3	COMPETITION LEVELS .....	5
4	CLASSES OF DOG.....	7
5	FINALS.....	8
6	THE DRAW.....	9
7	THE COURSE .....	10
8	COURSE WELFARE & SAFETY .....	11
9	THE TIME LIMIT .....	12
10	BITCHES IN OESTRUS .....	12
11	CANES .....	12
12	MUZZLES .....	12
13	HANDLER'S ASSISTANT.....	13
14	SCORING OVERVIEW.....	13
15	JUDGES .....	14
16	WORKING THE TRIAL .....	15
17	WELFARE OF LIVESTOCK AND DOGS .....	18
18	RE-RUNS .....	19
19	PROTESTS.....	20
20	COMPLAINTS .....	20
21	CHAMPIONSHIPS GENERALLY.....	20
22	QUEENSLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (QSC).....	21
23	QUEENSLAND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (QRC) .....	22
24	REPRESENTATION.....	22
25	POINT SCORE AWARD .....	23
26	UTILITY TRIAL RULES.....	25

**27 TROPHIES .....27**  
**28 SPONSORSHIPS .....27**  
**29 ALTERATION TO THESE COMPETITION RULES .....28**

## 1 DEFINITIONS

“**Affiliated Trial**” means a yard dog trial and/or a utility trial which is conducted under the rules of the QYUTA by either QYUTA, or a Club or Body and for which the said Club or Body has paid an affiliation fee to QYUTA.

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

“**Handler**” means a person who:

- (a) nominates to work a dog in a particular Trial.
- (b) is working a dog in a Trial.
- (c) has worked a dog in a Trial.

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

“**Points Scoring Year**” is defined as being the calendar year starting 1 January and finishing on 31 December

“**Trial Organising Committee**” means the persons responsible for conducting the trial.

“**QYUTA**” means Queensland Yard & Utility Trial Association Incorporated.

“**Special Prize**” means a prize or trophy, offered for competition of dogs and/or handlers for which no entry fee has been charged.

“**Tail Turn**” is defined as when the dog turns 180 degrees from the livestock whilst working the livestock.

“**Utility Trial**” is a competition in which a dog and its handler must negotiate livestock through a predetermined yard and paddock course within a specified time limit.

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

“**Yard Dog Trial**” means a competition in which a dog and its handler must negotiate livestock through a pre-determined course, confined within permanent or temporary livestock yards, within a specified time limit.

## **2 QYUTA CODE OF CONDUCT AND POLICIES**

2.1 All handlers must abide by the QYUTA Code of Conduct and policies. The Code of Conduct and QYUTA policies are updated from time to time by the QYUTA Management Committee and the current versions are published on the QYUTA website.

2.2 The Trial Organising Committee is to ensure that they are familiar with the QYUTA Code of Conduct and policies. The Trial Organising Committee, without payment of any prescribed fee, can report to the QYUTA Secretary, by email, any breaches within seven (7) days of the occurrence. All Code of Conduct and policy breaches will be dealt with at a meeting of the QYUTA Management Committee and in accordance with the QYUTA Constitution.

## **3 COMPETITION LEVELS**

3.1 “Encourage”:

- (a) a handler eligible in accordance with rule 3.8 may compete; and
- (b) a handler who has never won a yard dog trial except no more than two (2) encourage yard dog trials;
- (c) a handler can win up to two (2) encourage yard dog trials after which the handler can only compete at a higher level than encourage level;
- (d) an encourage handler may enter and win one (1) encourage trial with a dog which has won at a higher level with another handler but the handler will break encourage status.

3.2 “Maiden”:

- (a) a handler eligible in accordance with rule 3.8 may compete; and
- (b) any dog which has not won at a maiden level or higher;
- (c) when a dog has won one (1) maiden trial, it has broken status.

3.3 “Novice”:

- (a) a handler eligible in accordance with rule 3.8 may compete; and
- (b) all dogs are eligible to compete except dogs who have won two (2) novice yard dog trials or any trial higher than a novice:

3.4 “Open”:

- (a) a handler eligible in accordance with rule 3.8 may compete;
- (b) all dogs are eligible to compete.

3.5 “Local”:

- (a) a handler eligible in accordance with rule 3.8 may compete;
- (b) for the competition of local dogs and/or handlers;
- (c) eligibility of dogs and handlers is at the sole discretion of the Trial Organising Committee;
- (d) no effect on status unless otherwise stated by the Trial Organising Committee;
- (e) for a handler to be eligible to compete in a local class at an affiliated trial, they must live within a distance that has been solely determined by the Trial Organising Committee.

3.6 “Junior”:

- (a) A handler eligible in accordance with rule 3.8 may compete; and
- (b) a handler under sixteen (16) years of age;
- (c) a junior can run any class of dog;
- (d) all dogs are eligible to compete;
- (e) entry to this class of event will be at the sole discretion of the handler’s legal guardian.
- (f) juniors may compete with assistance (the assistant must be a current member) to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants and livestock.

- 3.7 With the exception of junior level, it is not necessary to conduct separate trials for each competition level.
- 3.8 Any handler wishing to work a dog in an affiliated trial conducted under these trial rules must be a financial member of the QYUTA.
- 3.9 Any handler who works a dog in an affiliated trial at a level in which that dog is ineligible to compete may:
- (a) have all dogs run by that handler disqualified;
  - (b) be disciplined by the Management Committee of the QYUTA at a special meeting of the Management Committee. The handler shall have the opportunity to defend them self in accordance with Rule 13 of the QYUTA Constitution.
- 3.10 When special prizes are offered for the competition of encourage, maiden, novice dogs, the eligibility of the dogs and handlers will be determined by the criteria as described in rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and **Error! Reference source not found.**
- 3.11 A dog which wins a special prize, for which no entry fee has been charged, does not break its present status.
- 3.12 Breaking status is to have effect at the end of the affiliated trial.

#### **4 CLASSES OF DOG**

- 4.1 "Encourage Dog":
- (a) a dog which has not won at a higher level than encourage and has not yet won two (2) encourage trials.
- 4.2 "Maiden Dog":
- (a) is a dog which has not won a trial except at an encourage level;
  - (b) when a dog wins one (1) maiden it breaks status.
- 4.3 "Novice Dog":
- (a) a novice dog is a dog which has not yet won two (2) novice yard dog trials or higher.
- 4.4 "Open Dog":
- (a) an open dog is a dog that has won two (2) novice yard dog trials or one open yard dog trial.

4.5 Dog and handler may be restricted to class at the discretion of the Trial Organising Committee.

4.6 The status of a dog and a handler in a yard dog trial and utility trial are independent.

## 5 **FINALS**

5.1 Wherever possible a final must be conducted in all open trials.

5.2 If time permits, a final must be conducted in novice trials.

5.3 Irrespective of a final being held or not in any trial, the winning dog/s shall break status.

(a) In the event of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, a run off should be held, if time permits.

(b) In the event of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, both dogs break status.

5.4 The finalists shall be the highest scoring dogs in the first run.

5.5 The number of finalists is determined by the number of placings offered. The final shall consist of a minimum of four (4) placings plus one (1) per class. If several dogs are tied on the lowest score eligible for the final, then all go into the final.

5.6 All class levels must have a minimum of 4 placings.

5.7 The dog with the highest aggregate number of points is deemed the winner.

5.8 In an open trial, if two (2) or more dogs score an equal number of points for first place, a run-off may be conducted to determine the outright winner.

5.9 Where possible, the final shall be conducted in the same order as the dogs were drawn in the first run. However, if a handler has more than one (1) dog in the final, the handler's runs may be separated by other dogs.

5.10 No prize shall be awarded to a dog who, after being selected to compete in a final, fails to participate in that final.



## **6 THE DRAW**

- 6.1 A draw must be conducted to determine the order of working prior to the commencement of the trial.
- 6.2 Every handler with one or more dogs nominated in the trial must be drawn to work a dog and then follow in rotation until all the dogs are listed. Every handler must be drawn to work a dog before any handler is drawn to work their second dog.
- 6.3 All dogs must be drawn in order as nominated on the handler's entry form.
- 6.4 All open trials must be run according to the draw wherever possible or as directed by the Trial Organising Committee.
- 6.5 All handlers should be issued either with a copy of the draw or a copy can be displayed in a prominent position. A copy of the draw can also be made available utilising google sheets and the live scoring option. A public address system should be employed wherever possible to keep both the handlers and spectators informed.
- 6.6 That the following options for restricting entries be adopted as recommendations to Trial Organising Committees:
- (a) dogs may be restricted to their own classes as per rules;
  - (b) online, electronic and postal entries with a set closing date and time;
  - (c) Trial Organising Committees may restrict the number of dogs from each handler. If multiple entries are to be restricted, it must be done in consultation with the handler;
  - (d) if entries are to be received on the day, there may have to be a cut off time.
- 6.7 Excessive entries: a Trial Organising Committee can follow a list of ways to keep the balance between being able to conduct a successful trial and keeping the handlers happy:
- (a) a time budget may be done to calculate how many dogs can be run;
  - (b) restrict dogs to their class;
  - (c) consider cutting down on allocated time;
  - (d) consider re-designing part or all the course;
  - (e) consider whether a cut-off score or a ballot would give them time to run a successful trial.

6.8 That the Trial Organising Committee accept the following motions on how to conduct a ballot prior to commencement of the trial:

- (a) handlers with the highest number of dogs are asked to withdraw a dog of their choice from any round. This continues until the Trial Organising Committee has reached the number of dogs which they feel they are able to run;
- (b) wherever a dog is withdrawn, the handler's next drawn dog takes its place (provided they have one);
- (c) all handlers must be addressed prior to the final decision being made whether to implement a ballot or cut-off score;
- (d) when a ballot has been conducted and it eventuates that there is time to run one or more of the balloted-out dogs, the Trial Organising Committee must allow these dogs to run (but not encroach on the time needed to run a final). Dogs regain entry on last dog out, first dog back in;
- (e) in the situation that a Trial Organising Committee does not require a full round of dogs withdrawn, they must start at the first drawn handler of that round.

6.9 Affiliated trials must be open to all competitors, provided they are financial members of QYUTA and enter before the advertised closing date and time.

- (a) Must not close entries earlier than the advertised date/time.
- (b) If a time is not advertised then it will be deemed 11.59pm of the advertised date will be the time of entries closed.
- (c) Refer to Rule 6.6 for entry restriction options.
- (d) Excessive entries, refer to rule 6.7 for options.

6.10 Dogs which miss their run may be disqualified unless they are granted a run by the Trial Organising Committee in which case the handler will be added to the end of that round or where the Trial Organising Committee deem appropriate.

## **7 THE COURSE**

7.1 All yard dog trials shall be run over such course as the Trial Organising Committee determines.

7.2 Yard dog trial courses should include some of the following:

- (a) gather of livestock;
- (b) drafting race;
- (c) drenching / classing race;

- (d) trailer / truck;
- (e) ramp;
- (f) fill a woolshed;
- (g) put livestock away, and/or
- (h) any obstacle likely to be found in farm livestock yards.

## **8 COURSE WELFARE & SAFETY**

8.1 Yard dog trial courses should take into consideration:

- (a) when erecting the yards, the Trial Organising Committee must ensure that there are no sharp edges, protrusions or objects that may be hazardous or cause injury to the livestock, the dog, the handler or the judge;
- (b) where the yards are constructed from panels or portable yards, the Trial Organising Committee must ensure that they are securely fixed to prevent any movement when pressure is applied by the livestock;

8.2 Affiliated Trial Organising Committees should be aware of stressful sections of trial courses e.g., truck gateways etc. so that the public do not complain about dogs having to overwork livestock to get them through the course.

8.3 In yard dog trial courses that incorporate a drenching race, or other confined area into which all the livestock must be forced, the number of livestock to be worked shall be that number which allows each animal to stand comfortably. This number shall be determined by the Trial Organising Committee in consultation with the judge.

8.4 The drenching race – loading and unloading ramps shall be of sufficient width that will allow one animal to pass another comfortably. Suggested minimum width – 25" (625mm). (Exception: special purpose single-file race and ramps).

8.5 Prior to the commencement of the yard dog trial, a representative of the Trial Organising Committee should walk through the course with the judge and explain the order and content of the obstacles.

8.6 Prior to the commencement of the yard dog trial, the judge must address the handlers and advise the handlers how the trial is to be worked.

8.7 QYUTA recommends and encourages the least amount of man-handling of livestock as possible. Courses should be designed with this in mind.

## **9 THE TIME LIMIT**

- 9.1 A maximum time limit to complete the course will be set before the trial commences.
- 9.2 The course must be set so that the trial can be comfortably completed by a majority of handlers within the allotted time.
- 9.3 The composition of the course and livestock numbers will influence the time limit.
- 9.4 The time limit will be set by the Trial Organising Committee in consultation with the judge.
- 9.5 The judge must clearly call/signal to the handler and time keeper/scorer when the run is to commence. This will follow with a bell or similar device to signify the start of each run and expiry of allocated time limit.
- 9.6 The judge, at their discretion, can call time off.

## **10 BITCHES IN OESTRUS**

- 10.1 Any handler who works a bitch in oestrus shall be disqualified from further competition at the trial.
- 10.2 All bitches entered in a trial, if requested, must be made available by handlers to be inspected by a Steward nominated by the Trial Organising Committee, prior to being worked.
- 10.3 In the event of a disagreement, the bitch shall not work until the matter is settled by a Veterinarian or their representative. The Trial Organising Committee is liable for all expenses incurred if the result is negative. However, if the result is positive, the handler will be liable for all expenses.

## **11 CANES**

- 11.1 The use of canes/stick at trials is prohibited.

## **12 MUZZLES**

- 12.1 A dog may work in a muzzle, but will be penalised according to class rule as follows:
  - (a) encourage / junior / local shall incur no penalty;
  - (b) maiden / novice shall incur no penalty;
  - (c) open shall incur a 5-point penalty

12.2 Handlers will be allowed to replace a lost muzzle without loss of points but the clock will continue.

### **13 HANDLER'S ASSISTANT**

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

13.2 The assistant shall be selected by the handler in consultation with the judge.

13.3 The assistant will assist the handler at the discretion of the handler. The handler will be penalised for any infringement of the rules made by the assistant during the course of the run.

### **14 SCORING OVERVIEW**

14.1 Each dog will start with a maximum of 100 points.

14.2 Section points must be allocated to each section according to the degree of difficulty of the obstacles within the section.

14.3 Points are deducted for rule infringements, ineffective or inferior work by the handler or dog and for section/s not completed in the allocated time limit.

14.4 If a section is partly negotiated the judge may deduct a portion of the section points relevant to how much of the section was completed.

14.5 Any handler retiring their dog before the expiry of the time limit or being disqualified shall not receive a score and is not eligible for any special prizes.

14.6 The recipients of any special prizes shall be determined by the performance of the dog in the first run unless a special prize is designated exclusively for the finalists.

14.7 The process of recording a handler's score is set out in sub-rules (a) to (d) below and will be mandatory for all championship trials but will be a recommendation to Trial Organising Committees for all other trials:-

- (a) the judge at the outset of the trial will be provided with a small notebook with each detachable page listing the name of the handler and the dog;
- (b) at the completion of each run the judge will record the handler's score on the score page and remove that page and hand it to the timekeeper/scorer;

- (c) the timekeeper/scorer is to retain each score page for the duration of the trial for score verification, and
  - (d) it will be the responsibility of the Trial Organising Committee to ensure that any changes to the draw are communicated to the judge in a clear and timely fashion.
- 14.8 The Trial Organising Committee, in consultation with the judge, may decide to use a cut off score in a yard dog trial. An announcement is then to be made informing the handlers of the decision. A cut off score is when the handler's score becomes lower than what is required to make the final.
- 14.9 A cut off score referred to in rule 14.8 is to be implemented only after the first round has been completed and must not include single entry handlers in the last round.

## **15 JUDGES**

- 15.1 The QYUTA Management Committee shall be responsible for accrediting judges.
- 15.2 Judges must be financial members of QYUTA.
- 15.3 The association shall maintain a list of judges and their level of accreditation for the benefit of members and Trial Organising Committees. The list shall be published on the QYUTA website.
- 15.4 QYUTA accepts the status of interstate judges granted by their own state association. If an interstate judge is not a financial member of QYUTA, the judge may be required to become a day member if reciprocal membership is not available.
- 15.5 To be considered by the QYUTA Management Committee for appointment to the Novice Judges List, the financial member must complete a judge's school recognised by QYUTA, and
- (a) have won a maiden or higher at an affiliated trial, or
  - (b) accompany an open judge (for tutoring) for a minimum of ten (10) runs at an affiliated trial (excluding championship trials).
- 15.6 The QYUTA Management Committee have the right to override Rule 15.5 and can agree to appoint a judge

- 15.7 To be considered by the QYUTA Management Committee for appointment to the Open Judges List, a novice judge must be a financial member and have judged five (5) novice or lower affiliated trials and be assessed and approved by at least one (1) open judge who is a current financial member of QYUTA. If approved, the novice judge will then be considered by the QYUTA Management Committee for promotion to the Open Judges List.
- 15.8 To be considered by the QYUTA Management Committee for appointment to the Championship Judges List, the financial member must be on the Open Judges List, have won an affiliated open trial and judged a minimum of five (5) affiliated open trials. When these pre-requisites have been satisfied, the QYUTA Management Committee shall then consider promotion to the Championship Judges List.
- 15.9 A novice judge is eligible to judge novice, maiden, encourage, junior and local yard dog trials.
- 15.10 An open judge is eligible to judge all trials except a championship trial.
- 15.11 A championship judge is eligible to judge all trials.
- 15.12 Other than championship trials, in exceptional circumstances, the QYUTA Management Committee may approve use of a lower accredited or unlisted judge upon request from a Trial Organising Committee where they have been unable to obtain a properly qualified judge. This approval shall be limited to that particular trial and is not to be unreasonably withheld.
- 15.13 Trial Organising Committees are to be aware that accommodation, travelling fee and daily fee should be mutually agreed upon prior to the engagement of a judge.
- 15.14 At a trial the judge's decision shall be final on all matters concerning the working of dogs and livestock.

Any argument with, or harassment of judges may be disciplined by the QYUTA Management Committee under rule 13 of the QYUTA Constitution.

## **16 WORKING THE TRIAL**

- 16.1 The judge shall be in command of the trial from the time the handler, with their dog, on or off the lead, enters the yard. The dog must be released and under control before time commences.
- 16.2 Any dog leaving the yard/arena out of control or leaving its work may be penalised.

- 16.3 If the working of a dog is of inferior merit, the judge may terminate the trial before the expiration of the allocated time.
- 16.4 Any dog overworking livestock must be penalised. Any under working of livestock by the dog may be penalised.
- 16.5 Any dog which, in the opinion of the judge, deliberately chases livestock into fences, without genuinely trying to head and turn the livestock, must be disqualified.
- 16.6 A dog biting excessively and to the detriment of livestock must be disqualified. A handler disqualified under this rule must leash their dog and immediately exit the trial yard/arena.
- 16.7 In the event of any livestock escaping, the judge will decide if they consider the dog caused it. If so, the handler shall be disqualified. If not, the clock will be stopped and the livestock replaced.
- 16.8 A dog that comes up to start livestock and is ineffective should be penalised.
- 16.9 A dog that does not come up to start livestock when necessary and contribute to the flow should be penalised.
- 16.10 A tail turn by the dog should be penalised.
- 16.11 If a dog loses ground with its livestock, a penalty will be incurred.
- 16.12 A dog out of position may incur a penalty.
- 16.13 A cross on cast will incur a penalty.
- 16.14 A penalty may be incurred if livestock are not brought in as straight a line as possible to the obstacle.
- 16.15 If an animal breaks back, a penalty will be incurred.
- 16.16 All gates must be opened and closed by the handler. Failure to close or replace a gate will incur a penalty.
- 16.17 The handler must take up a position whilst negotiating a gateway or obstacle and not move from that position until the obstacle is negotiated. An infringement of this rule will incur a penalty.
- 16.18 When opening gates, the full arc of the gate should be cleared of livestock by the dog. The handler is not to move until the line of the gate



(when closed) is crossed by all livestock or the handler will incur a penalty.

- 16.19 In general circumstances, a handler, where possible, should walk in a direct and uninterrupted line between obstacles, i.e., not through or around livestock (the dog is to clear the handler's path).
- 16.20 Where the course is set incorrectly, (i.e., gate left open in draft) or the run is interfered with, the judge may stop the clock, rectify the problem and replace the livestock to the exact position so that there is no advantage or disadvantage to the handler or their dog.
- 16.21 The handler may assist their dog to shift the livestock but will incur a penalty.
- 16.22 In the drafting phase of any trial, the handler can use their body to avoid jamming an animal's head. Also, where the nominated livestock are past the gate of exit, the handler may turn an animal back without a penalty for handling that animal. However, the judge must penalise the handler if the judge considers overwork by the dog caused the situation.
- 16.23 If two (2) livestock become wedged in the race, mouth or neck of the draft after the dog has proven they are unable to be moved, the handler may turn the animal back without incurring any penalty.
- 16.24 When a misdraft occurs, appropriate points should be deducted by the judge. The handler will incur no further loss of points if the handler rectifies the error by substituting the misdrafted livestock before the entire mob has passed through the drafting race. Beyond this point, if corrections are possible, the misdraft is to be rectified by:
- (a) redrafting; or
  - (b) manually placing the misdrafted livestock in the correct pen(s).
- This will be done in consultation with the judge.
- 16.25 Where possible, the Trial Organising Committee should keep the same drafting sequence across all courses and all classes for the duration of the yard dog trial.
- 16.26 A dog defending itself should not be penalised.
- 16.27 A handler will not incur a penalty if an animal jams up through no fault of the dog.
- 16.28 A dog may contribute to the starting of the unloading of the race. No penalty will be incurred if the animal starts the unload. However, if the handler has to start

the unload, a penalty will be incurred.

- 16.29 A handler who handles their dog during the run should be penalised or disqualified at the sole discretion of the judge.
- 16.30 No handler shall be permitted in the competition area with any dog yet to compete in the yard dog trial.
- 16.31 All dogs tied up around the trial ground venue must be kept quiet and well away from the competition area.
- 16.32 No dogs are allowed in the back yards during the entire competition.
- 16.32 If at any stage of the trial run, the dog is to enter the back yards by any means, may result in disqualification at the judge's discretion.

## **17 WELFARE OF LIVESTOCK AND DOGS**

- 17.1 All handlers and Trial Organising Committees must abide by the QYUTA Animal Welfare policy (POL 1). Any breaches of this policy will be handled by the QYUTA Management Committee in accordance with the provisions in the QYUTA Constitution.
- 17.2 If, in the opinion of the judge, any handler ill-treats or mishandles their dog or livestock, the handler must be disqualified.
- 17.3 Prior to the commencement of the trial, the Trial Organising Committee, in consultation with the owner of the livestock, must agree the market value of the livestock. The Trial Organising Committee must then communicate this information to all handlers present at the trial. If during the course of the trial, the actions of the handler/dog contribute to the death of an animal, the handler will be liable for the agreed market value of the animal. In all other cases during the course of the trial, the Trial Organising Committee will be liable.
- 17.4 Subject to Rule 17.3, from the moment the livestock become the responsibility of the Trial Organising Committee, the committee shall be liable for any injury or death to the livestock.
- 17.5 Any handler who fails to make an effort to stand up an animal which goes down in a race or other confined area, or fails to free an animal caught in a fence, or shows disregard for the welfare of the livestock, must be penalised or may be disqualified.
- 17.6 The handler will not be penalised for handling the animal if the handler is

aiding a distressed animal.

- 17.7 Wherever possible, sufficient livestock should be obtained to provide fresh livestock for each dog. If this is not possible, the livestock must be rotated to avoid excessive stress.
- 17.8 Any livestock which become excessively distressed, or injured, must be replaced by healthy livestock prior to the next dog working.
- 17.9 If, in the judge's opinion, an animal is unable to complete the course, the clock should be stopped, and the animal replaced.
- 17.10 Any handler who abuses the livestock with any gate or gates (including drafting gates) must be disqualified.
- 17.11 All livestock must be inspected prior to being worked for any physical defects or injuries. Any injured or unhealthy livestock must not be worked.
- 17.12 All dogs to be worked should be vaccinated and in general good health.
- 17.13 Hessian or the like should be used at all trials where possible, so as the livestock being worked cannot view the livestock in the holding yards.
- 17.14 On trial days where the weather and circumstances may cause distress or harm to the stock, handlers or dogs, a meeting between the judge, stock owner (or their representative) and the Trial Organising Committee will decide if it is safe to continue (Refer Heat policy POL 2).
- 17.15 Weather referred to in rule 17.14 that may affect trial running includes but is not limited to:
- (a) excessive heat;
  - (b) excessive humidity;
  - (c) electrical storm;
  - (d) heavy rain or hail;
  - (e) excessive wind;
  - (f) excessive mud or ice on the ground;
  - (g) integrity or safety of the yards and surroundings.

## **18 RE-RUNS**

- 18.1 A re-run will be granted if any dog/livestock/handler/person, not belonging to that run, comes into the competition area and interferes with the trial.

- 18.2 The judge may order a re-run for the dog competing at any time during that dog's run.
- 18.3 Re-runs will be conducted at the discretion of the Trial Organising Committee in consultation with the handler and judge, preferably in the round in which they were originally drawn however sufficient time must be allowed for the dog and handler to refresh.

## **19 PROTESTS**

- 19.1 Any protest or situation arising at a QYUTA affiliated trial not provided for in these rules, will be dealt with at the trial by the QYUTA Management Committee members, if present. If less than three (3) QYUTA Management Committee members are present, then the judge, trial organiser and one (1) financial member of QYUTA at the trial shall adjudicate.
- 19.2 The decision of the group referred to in Rule 19.1, pursuant to the particular incident, shall be final.
- 19.3 The members of the group referred to in Rule 19.1 must, within seven (7) days, submit via email a report stating the circumstances of the protest and their decision, to the Secretary of the QYUTA. This report must be tabled at the next QYUTA Management Committee meeting where, if the QYUTA Management Committee deems fit, make any alteration to cover such contingency in the future.

## **20 COMPLAINTS**

- 20.1 Significant complaints regarding the running of a trial, or conduct / competency of judging or conduct of handlers, must be emailed to the Secretary within 7 days of the occurrence on the prescribed form and be accompanied by the current prescribed fee as pre-determined by the QYUTA Management Committee.
- 20.2 All complaints in accordance with Rule 20.1 will be dealt with at a meeting of the QYUTA Management Committee.

## **21 CHAMPIONSHIPS GENERALLY**

- 21.1 Application must be made to QYUTA Management Committee for any championship trial to be run.
- 21.2 The requirements for those candidates wanting to be added to the Championship Judge's List are detailed in Rule 15.8.
- 21.3 The process of scoring any championship is set out at Rule 14.7.

- 21.4 Entries for a QSC or QRC please refer to rules 6.9, 6.7 and 6.6.
- 21.5 Championships are designated as either a Queensland State Championship herein after referred to as a QSC or a Queensland Regional Championship herein after referred to as a QRC.
- 21.6 In the event of a tie in any QSC or QRC, all placings must be decided. If time does not permit a runoff to be held, results shall be determined by the faster time.

## **22 QUEENSLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (QSC)**

- 22.1 The QSC may move to a new location each year.
- 22.2 A QSC Trial is open entries to all dogs regardless of status.
- 22.3 The previous QSC handler and dog combination automatically pre-qualifies for the following year's competition.
- 22.4 The winners from any QRC pre-qualify for the QSC.
- 22.5 If the same dog qualifies twice for the QSC, then the next placed dog qualifies.
- 22.6 Guidelines for the hosting of the QSC:
- (a) preliminary event be held and no less than ten unqualified dogs gain entry into the first round of the QSC;
  - (b) the qualifiers from the preliminary event and the prequalified dogs go into the first round of the QSC on a zero score;
  - (c) QSC to be conducted over no less than two rounds, including the final;
  - (d) pre-qualified dogs do not have to pay entry money for the first round of the QSC, unless there is a separate event where prize money has been allocated;
  - (e) judges will be appointed by the QYUTA Management Committee;
  - (f) having judged a QSC trial, that judge may not be required to judge another championship event for five years, unless they declare availability.

## **23 QUEENSLAND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (QRC)**

- 23.1 The QRC areas will be determined by the QYUTA Management Committee.
- 23.2 There will be a **MAXIMUM** of sixteen (16) qualifying QRC trials for the QSC.
- 23.3 If a dog cannot fulfil its commitment as a Queensland Regional representative, the handler must notify the QYUTA Secretary as soon as possible. The QYUTA Secretary must then notify the next eligible dog's handler and the Trial Organising Committee of the QSC trial of the names of the eligible qualifiers.
- 23.4 Applications for championship status to run as a qualifying open trial for the QSC will be reviewed annually at the QYUTA Management Committee meeting following the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Applications received after the AGM may not run as a qualifying open trial for QSC.
- 23.5 Guidelines for the hosting of a QRC:
- (a) no less than ten (10) dogs in the first round of the regional championship;
  - (b) must be held over no less than two rounds, including the final;
  - (c) must be judged by a QYUTA approved judge.

## **24 REPRESENTATION**

- 24.1 The following criteria must be met to represent QYUTA at any interstate or national level competition in yard or utility:
- (a) Open Dog of the Year – most consistent dog;
  - (b) Highest placing QLD open dog at State Championship from previous year;
  - (c) if either dog is unavailable to be the QYUTA representative, then the new representatives will be chosen on a count back of open dog of the year points;
  - (d) any qualified Queensland representative must be a full financial member of QYUTA and reside in the state of Queensland;
  - (e) any qualified Queensland representative referred to in rule 24.1(d) should be prepared to attend any function or event that is required from time of selection.
  - (f) at each QYUTA Management Committee meeting, it may be discussed and updated which dog and handler is eligible for State representation

24.2 Queensland representatives are expected to appear and conduct themselves as following:

- (a) clean and well presented;
- (b) display sportsmanlike behavior in all aspects of the competition;
- (c) maintain a professional manner with spectators, competitors, trial hosts and all people attending or reporting on the event;
- (d) must ensure all interactions with the public, other handlers, dogs and livestock in accordance with the QYUTA's Code of Conduct and Animal Welfare policy (POL 1).

## **25 POINT SCORE AWARD**

25.1 That the Point Score system be as follows:

- (a) to run from 1 January to 31 December each year, herein referred to as the Points Scoring Year and only in conjunction with affiliated trials;
- (b) only handlers eligible in accordance with rule 3.8 may compete for awards and trophies;
- (c) in the case of a tie, the points from both placings shall be equally divided regardless of the class of membership of the handler;
- (d) points are only awarded to dogs owned or leased and worked by the handler; should a dog be sold, re-leased or returned to the owner during the year the points do not follow the dog;
- (e) If the dog is leased by the handler, the handler may be required to provide documentation in support the leased arrangement to the QYUTA Management Committee;
- (f) the handler point scores in Rule 25.3 will only apply if during the Points Scoring Year, a total of three (3) or more affiliated trials are held in the respective competition level.

25.2 The open and novice dog point scores as follows:

First	= 8 points
Second	= 5 "
Third	= 3 "
Fourth	= 1 "

25.3 The handler point scores as follows:

<b>Open</b>	
First	= 8 points
Second	= 5 “
Third	= 3 “
Fourth	= 1 “

<b>Novice</b>		<b>Maiden</b>	
First	= 8 points	First	= 8 points
Second	= 5 “	Second	= 5 “
Third	= 3 “	Third	= 3 “
Fourth	= 1 “	Fourth	= 1 “

25.4 The junior handler point score as follows:

First	= 8 points
Second	= 5 “
Third	= 3 “
Fourth	= 1 “

25.5 Junior points are awarded for the junior class at trials.

25.6 Encourage handler of the year point score is for eligible members in accordance with rule 3.8 who have not won a maiden or higher. Points will be awarded as follows:

First	= 8 points
Second	= 5 “
Third	= 3 “
Fourth	= 1 “

**25.7 When a dog or handler’s status is broken, points can no longer be accrued in that class.**

25.8 The QYUTA Management Committee, or relevant subcommittee or the Trial Organising Committee that conducts an affiliated trial will be responsible for sending in the results to the QYUTA Secretary within seven (7) days of the trial. The preferred method is via the QYUTA website or by email to the QYUTA Secretary ([secretary@qyuta.com](mailto:secretary@qyuta.com)).



## **26 UTILITY TRIAL RULES**

- 26.1 Definitions shall remain the same with the word “yard” replaced with “yard and utility”. And the phrase “.... confined within permanent or temporary livestock yards....” to be changed to “...confined within a specified area....”.
- 26.2 Rule 2 regarding Code of Conduct and policies shall apply to utility trials.
- 26.3 The competition levels and the progression through the competition levels, to be the same as Rule 3. However, the status of a dog in yard dog trials is to be completely independent of that dog’s status as a utility dog and vice versa. The same will apply to handler status.
- 26.4 Classes of dog will apply to utility dogs as it applies to yard dogs. The wording of the five (5) classes in Rule 4 to be changed to reflect utility dogs.
- 26.5 Rule 5 relating to the running of finals in yard dog trials shall apply to utility trials.
- 26.6 Rule 6 relating to the draw in yard dog trials shall apply to utility trials.
- 26.7 Rule 7.1 to be modified to contain two (2) sections as follows:
- (a) yard section must include the following as a minimum any two (2):
    - (i) gather of livestock;
    - (ii) drenching / classing race;
    - (iii) drafting race.

But may also include any of the following:

    - (iv) trailer / truck;
    - (v) ramp;
    - (vi) fill a woolshed;
    - (vii) put livestock away;
    - (viii) any obstacle likely to be found in farm yards.
  - (b) outside field section must include any two (2) of the following “arena type” obstacles for encourage, maiden or novice events, and any three (3) for open trials:
    - (i) winding peg;
    - (ii) gap;

- (iii) race;
- (iv) bridge;
- (v) pen;
- (vi) any obstacle likely to be found in a paddock situation on a livestock property.

26.8 Outside field section obstacles are to be separate and free standing from the yard section. A minimum distance of 20 meters between all obstacles is required.

26.9 Rule 8 regarding course welfare and safety shall apply to utility trials.

26.10 Rule 9 regarding time limits shall apply to utility trials.

26.11 Rule 10 regarding bitches in oestrus shall apply to utility trials.

26.12 Rule 11 regarding canes shall apply to utility trials.

26.13 Rule 12 regarding muzzles shall apply to utility trials.

26.14 Rule 13 regarding handler's assistants shall apply to utility trials.

26.15 Rule 14 regarding scoring overview shall apply to utility trials with the following additions:

- (a) there is no limit to the number of points that may be lost on any one section of the trial;
- (b) the judge will determine and notify the handlers prior to the beginning of the trial if a "move on" rule is to be applied;
- (c) include "utility" in place of "yard".

26.16 Throughout Rule 16, the term "yards" to be replaced with "course". Rule 16 will include the following additions

- (a) in utility trials, dogs crossing whilst attempting the outside obstacles may be disqualified at the judge's discretion;
- (b) the judge must notify handlers prior to the commencement of the trial if crossing outside will result in disqualification;
- (c) to include an addition at Rule 16.17 that the "... The position to be taken by the handler whilst negotiating the outside obstacles will be marked;
- (d) to include an addition at Rule 16.18 that the "...line of the gate or in utility trials, all livestock through or over the obstacle....".

- (e) a designated retrieval dog can be used at the discretion of the organising committee and stock donor. Only to be utilised within the paddock section.

- 26.17 Each competitor be provided with a minimum of three (3) livestock for the outside section of the course and Rule 8.3 applies for the yard section of the course.
- 26.18 Rule 17 regarding welfare of livestock and dogs shall apply to utility trials.
- 26.19 Rule 18 regarding re-runs shall apply to utility trials.
- 26.20 Rule 19 regarding protests shall apply to utility trials.
- 26.21 Rule 20 regarding complaints shall apply to utility trials.
- 26.22 Rule 25 regarding points scoring awards shall apply to utility trials.

## **27 TROPHIES**

- 27.1 The trophy year shall occur from 1 January to 31 December annually. All trial results must be received by the point score officer to be included in the point total.
- 27.2 Perpetual trophies, together with a replica trophy for the recipient to keep, may be awarded at an awards presentation event held annually and at the discretion of the QYUTA Management Committee.
- 27.3 Trophies available are detailed in the Trophy policy (POL 12).

## **28 SPONSORSHIPS**

- 28.1 Sponsorships are recommended for Trial Organising Committees to hold a trial.
- 28.2 The QYUTA may assist Trial Organising Committees in obtaining sponsors and has developed a sponsorship policy and sponsorship pack.
- 28.3 It is the responsibility of Trial Organising Committee to ensure that all sponsors advertising/promotional material are adequately displayed and promoted at the trial.
- 28.4 At the completion of the trial all advertising/promotional materials are to be returned to the sponsor or alternatively handed to the QYUTA Management Committee nominated person or a representative of the next Trial Organising Committee in an undamaged condition.

## **29 ALTERATION TO THESE COMPETITION RULES**

- 29.1 It is the responsibility of the QYUTA Management Committee to maintain and update these competition rules.
- 29.2 QYUTA Management Committee may amend these Competition Rules from time to time on a simple majority show of hands vote.
- 29.3 If a financial member wishes to suggest an alteration to the QYUTA Competition Rules, the member shall submit in writing their suggested rule change and an outline of the reasoning for the rule change to the QYUTA Secretary. The QYUTA Management Committee may consider the suggested rule change. If the suggested rule change is rejected by the QYUTA Management Committee no reason needs to be provided.