



## AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

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### July 2017 Executive Secretary's Report

#### Judge Approvals

<b><u>Provisional Rally Judge</u></b> Denice Norby (Colorado)	<b><u>Senior Rally Judge</u></b> Mary Isenhour-Long (North Carolina) Debra St. Jacques (New York) Rachel Brostrom (Massachusetts) Kathryn W. Howse (Colorado)	<b><u>Utility Obedience Judge</u></b> Shannon Jones (North Carolina)
<b><u>Non-Regular Breeder Judge</u></b> Tammy Gaboury-Csicsila (Washington)	<b><u>Senior Breeder Judge</u></b> Heather Herron (Michigan)	

#### 2018 Agility Finals Judge

Pamela Bryant Meeks (Texas)

#### Rescue Grant

##### Central Aussie Rescue and Support

Contact: Constance Cook

Location: St. Louis, Missouri (Midwest)

Website: [www.centraaussierescue.org](http://www.centraaussierescue.org)

E-mail: [centraaussierescue@gmail.com](mailto:centraaussierescue@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/CentralAussieRescue/>

#### Board Motions

##### **BD.17.131 Committee Procedures - BOD Directives (Revised)**

Approve: Gibson, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Oppose: DeChant, Gray, King, Roberts

Abstain: 0

*Motion carries.*

*Letter of Dissent from Roberts:* I feel that this motion does not help foster an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration between the Board and committees. As such, it is unnecessary.

Motion by Vest

Second by Silveira

**I move to accept the following changes to the Committee Procedures.**

Effective Date: Upon BOD approval

Rationale: To better define Committees management of Board Directives.

##### PROPOSED WORDING:

3 Agenda

The Board, Committee Members, and the General Membership determine Committee agendas.

a. First priority is given to **directives** submitted by the Board.

If a committee chair does not bring Board **directive** to the committee within a thirty (30) day period, the following steps will be taken:

First request: The committee Chair will be requested by the Liaison to give an explanation to the Board within fifteen (15) days detailing why the directive has not been addressed. The Board will notify all Committee members of the directive for awareness. The Chair will submit a time schedule for completion of the Board's directive. If the Board directive is not addressed in the timeframe provided by the Chair and as agreed upon by the Board, the Board may enact rule changes without input from the committee.

Second request: The Board will notify all Committee members that the directive has moved to second request status. The Board may enact rule changes without input from the committee and the Board will require election of a new chair.

Third request: The Board will enact rule changes without input from the committee and the committee members may be replaced.

b. Priority of other items is determined by the Chair.

#### CURRENT WORDING:

3 Agenda

The Board, Committee Members and the General Membership determine Committee agendas.

a. First priority is given to items submitted by the Board.

If a committee chair does not bring Board requests to the committee within a thirty (30) day period, the following steps will be taken:

First incidence: The committee chair will be requested by the liaison to give an explanation to the Board within fifteen (15) days detailing why the request has not been addressed with a time schedule for completion of the Board's request is not acted on by the committee within an appropriate time determined by the Board, the Board will enact rule changes without input of the committee.

Second incidence: The Board will enact rule changes without input of the committee and the Board will require election of a new chair.

Third incidence: The Board will enact rule changes without input of the committee and the committee members may be replaced.

b. Priority of other items is determined by the Chair or a committee vote.

#### **BD.17.133 Bylaw Amendment - Central Ontario ASC**

Approve: Unanimous

*Motion carries.*

Motion by Roberts

Second by Wesen

**I recommend we approve the requested change to Central Ontario ASC's Bylaws.**

#### COASC Bylaws

Section 9.3 Elections shall be held during the month of November and shall be conducted by mail and/or electronically.

#### **Emergency Motions**

##### **BD.17.146 Ultimate Air Dogs Contract**

Approve: Unanimous

*Motion carries.*

Motion by Gibson

Second by Vest

**I move to accept the contract between Ultimate Air Dogs and ASCA, outlining their agreement regarding ASCA's Dock Jumping program.**

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Parties Affected: All those who will participate in ASCA's new Dock Jumping program and all who are associated with the administration of ASCA's new Dock Jumping program.

Rationale: This motion is needed to approve the contract between Ultimate Air Dogs and ASCA, following the approval of the ASCA Dock Jumping program at the Board's Spring 2017 Meeting.

#### **BD.17.147 Georgia International Horse Park 2020 Contract**

Approve: Unanimous

*Motion carries.*

Motion by Gibson

Second by Vest

**I move to accept the contract between Georgia International Horse Park and ASCA, outlining their agreement regarding ASCA's 2020 National Specialty.**

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

Parties Affected: All those who will participate in ASCA's 2020 ASCA National Specialty and Finals and all who are associated with the administration of ASCA's ASCA National Specialty and Finals.

Rationale: This motion is needed to approve the contract between the Georgia International Horse Park and ASCA, following the approval of the 2020 Georgia International Horse Park Site at the Board's Spring 2017 Meeting.

### **Committee Recommendations**

#### **Conformation**

##### **CO.17.01 Conformation Finals Judge Draw**

Approve: Unanimous

*Motion carries.*

Motion by DeChant

**I move that Motion 2017-10 (A) Conformation Finals Draw, which has been approved by the Conformation Committee, be approved by the Board.**

Effective Date: June 1, 2018 (to be implemented for the 2019 Conformation Finals)

Rationale: This brings the conformation finals in line with other venues on finals judge draw and selection.

Motion by Liz Gibson

Second by Ray Schafer

I, Liz Gibson, make the following motion.

#### Results of the committee vote:

Approve: 9

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

Non-Voting: 1

#### PROPOSED WORDING:

##### 15.5 Judges Requirements

1. Three (3) ASCA Conformation Judges will be hired, **one from each area as stated below**, for the Conformation Finals by the National Specialty Host Club(s), who will submit the Conformation Finals slate to the ASCA Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed Judges slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate, along with comments and recommendations, will be returned to the Host Club(s) no later than thirty (30) days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Conformation Finals Judges slate, the Judge's names will be

posted within 7 days to the ASCA website on the "National Specialty Information" page and the judge information must be to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May-June issue.

2. Conformation Judge Eligibility:

- a. Judge must be of ASCA Senior Breeder status with a minimum of 3 years as a Senior Breeder Judge.
- b. Judge shall not be a conformation judge at the current ASCA Nationals or Pre-shows nor have judged at the previous ASCA Nationals or ASCA Pre-Shows.
- c. Judge shall not have judged the previous five (5) Conformation Finals.

Conformation Finals judges may participate in all Nationals events including all Nationals conformation events. All rules pertaining to the Conformation Finals Judges and their dogs regarding the Conformation Finals will abide by sections 7.4 to 7.7 per the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.

3. Selection of Judges; Once the host club, location and dates have been determined, the Business Office shall send a letter to all Senior Breeder Judges. Letters must be returned in 30 days to the ASCA Business Office.

4. Determining Availability and Qualifications; Judges for the Conformation Finals will be selected from the ASCA SR Breeder Judges who return the questionnaire to the Business Office by the designated date and have indicated they would be available. At that time, the Business Office shall determine the judge meets the requirements as list above. Two (2) names from each area shall be pulled by the business office and the names given to the host committee to hire from, in the order of the draw.

5. The areas consist of the following; West area; regions 1 and 2. Central area; regions 3 and 4. Eastern area; regions 5, 6 and 7.

6. The Senior Breeder Judge's selected shall not judge conformation six (6) months prior to the event.

CURRENT WORDING:

15.5 Judges Requirements

1. Three (3) ASCA Conformation Judges will be hired for the Conformation Finals by the National Specialty Host Club(s), who will submit the Conformation Finals slate to the ASCA Executive Secretary no later than February 1st of the year prior to the National Specialty being hosted. The Executive Secretary will forward the proposed Judges slate to the ASCA Board of Directors for review. Board approval of the Judges slate, along with comments and recommendations, will be returned to the Host Club(s) no later than thirty (30) days after receipt by the Executive Secretary. Once the Board has approved the Conformation Finals Judges slate, the Judge's names will be posted within 7 days to the ASCA website on the "National Specialty Information" page and the judge information must be to the Aussie Times Editor by March 15th for inclusion in the May-June issue.

2. Conformation Judge Eligibility:

- a. Judge must be of ASCA Senior Breeder Status.
- b. Judge may not have judged conformation three (3) months prior to the event.
- c. Judge shall not be a conformation judge at the current ASCA Nationals or Pre-shows nor have judged at the previous ASCA Nationals or ASCA Pre-Shows.
- d. Judge shall not have judged the previous three (3) Conformation Finals.

Conformation Finals judges may participate in all Nationals events including all Nationals conformation events. All rules pertaining to the Conformation Finals Judges and their dogs regarding the Conformation Finals will abide by sections 7.4 to 7.7 per the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.

**Dock Jumping**

**DJ.17.06 Dock Jumping Rules**

Approve: DeChant, Gibson, Gray, Kissman, Roberts, Silveira, Vest, Wesen

Oppose: 0

Abstain: King

*Motion carries.*

Motion by Vest

**I move to approve the rules for the Dock Jumping Program.**

Effective Date: Upon Board approval

Motion by Heidi Mobley  
Second by Tina Lass  
I approve the Dock Jumping Rules.

Results of the committee vote:

Approve: Unanimous

\*The approved rules can be found on the ASCA Website: <http://www.asca.org/home/business-office/rules-forms/>

## Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 13, 2017

**Present:** President Laura Gibson, 1st Vice President Ann DeChant, 2nd Vice President Rachel Vest, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Cindy King, Director Preston Kissman, Director Jean Roberts, Director Ken Silveira, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

**Absent:** Director Linda Gray

There is a quorum with 8 voting members of the Board present.

- Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm Central Time.

### Items in Executive Session:

There was one item that was discussed in Executive Session below. The time is marked for when ES was entered and exited. Only the notice of the person's violation and the penalties assessed are published.

- Gray joined the meeting at 6:02 pm.

### June Email Business

#### BD.17.134 June Email Business

Motion by Wesen to **ratify June email business**. Second by Vest.

Approve: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: Gray; *Motion carries*.

### Judges Education Committee

Resumes to join the Judges Education Committee were received from five members. Roberts will solicit for Stockdog Judge applicants and Wesen will solicit for Obedience, Rally, and Tracking Judge applicants.

#### BD.17.135 Members to Judges Education Committee

Motion by DeChant to **appoint Gina Larson, Pamela Bryant-Meeks, Rick Gann, Toni Viola Pearson, and Gail Karamalegos to form the new Judges Education Committee**. Second by Roberts.

Approve: Unanimous; *Motion carries*.

### Changes to Conflict Resolution Protocol

Counsel presented his recommended changes to the Conflict Resolution Protocol:

- 1) Below the Caption, add "EFFECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_, 2017" and insert the effective date. Conflicts which arise before the date are subject to the previous version of the Protocol.
- 2) Page 1, First Paragraph: Add "ASCA" between "other" and "event" in line 4;  
Also, add "between ASCA members" at the end of the third sentence in line 7—this clarifies that the Protocol is only applicable to disputes between ASCA members.
- 3) Delete the third "Conflict" regarding misconduct of a judge from the jurisdiction of Affiliate Clubs. Such are the same as Complaints against judges, which are only subject to Board resolution.
- 4) Delete Registry conflicts (3rd bullet) from Board jurisdiction. We want to clarify that Registry matters are not subject to the Protocol—the very problem we have with the Liebenow case.
- 5) Paragraph 1 of Process for Requesting Conflict Resolution at the ASCA Board Level
  - a) 2nd Sentence: Add "or postmarked" between "delivered" and "to"
  - b) 2nd Sentence: Add "by email or postmarked" between "Secretary" and "within"
  - c) 3rd Sentence: Add "by email or postmarked" between "Secretary" and "within"

- 6) Affiliate Level Disciplinary Guidelines Statute of Limitations: Change to read:  
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.
- 7) Affiliate Level Disciplinary Guidelines Subsequent Offenses: Change (b) (Fines) to “Fine of up to, but not to exceed \$1,000\*”. Penalty for subsequent offenses should have flexibility.
- 8) Board Level Disciplinary Guidelines: Change first sentence to read the same as (6) above.
- 9) Matters not Subject to the Conflict Resolution Protocol:
  - a) Number and put a spacing line between each of the categories, such as:
    - (1) Breeder-Buyer Disputes
    - (2) Breeder’s Code of Ethics
    - (3) Registry Issues
    - (4) Gross Misconduct (new category—see below)
  - b) In Breeder-Buyer Disputes, change 2nd sentence to read  
“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.”
  - c) Registry Issues: Change to read:  
“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.
  - d) Add new category as follows:  
“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.”  
I hope the Directors can come up with a couple of other examples of “gross misconduct” to include in the rule.
- 10) In “Offense—Consequence”: Delete the reference to Registration Violations.

The Board discussed item 2) and the inability of non-members to file requests for conflict resolution.

This statement was part of the old Dispute Rules: “A dispute does not include any claim by or against a nonmember of ASCA. Any such claim involving a nonmember of ASCA may be addressed to the Executive Secretary for presentation to the Board.” They also discussed item 3) and the intent of granting that authority to Affiliate Clubs. It is important that Affiliates can deal with a judge’s misbehavior on-site.

Silveira and Vest will work with Counsel to revise items 2) and 3) of his proposal, as well as changing “lifetime suspension” to “25-years” in all cases in the Conflict Resolution Protocol, and report back in August.

#### BD.17.136 Changes to Conflict Resolution Protocol

Motion by Gibson to accept numbers 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Counsel’s proposed changes to the Conflict Resolution Protocol. Second by Silveira.

Approve: 7; Oppose: Roberts; Abstain: King; *Motion carries.*

## Change to Policy Book

The Board discussed Counsel's recommended changes to the Policy Book and removed the words "whenever possible" from the last sentence.

### 15.3 Program Rules

Program rules for all ASCA programs may be adopted or amended by the Board of Directors. Any proposed changes or amendments to such program rules will be sent by the Board of Directors to the appropriate affected Committee for its review, comment and recommendations. It is ASCA's goal to seek Committee input in the adoption or amendment of all program rules ~~whenever possible~~.

Current wording:

### 15.3 Program Development

#### 15.3.1 Committee Review

Any program development, including rule changes, proposed by the Board of Directors, will be forwarded to the appropriate Committee for review, comment, and recommendations.

#### 15.3.2 Clarification of ambiguous rules

When the Board of Directors is made aware of a rule that may be poorly written or ambiguous, it shall take immediate steps to study the rule in question and to amend the rule, if necessary, so the rule states clearly the rule's intent. Should the proposed amendment change any ASCA program, the proposed amendment must be sent to Committee for review. For the sake of expediency, the Board of Directors may be made aware of a potential problem in the rules by any ASCA member or by any reported behavior which may be perceived as improper or contrary to any established intent, but is not clearly addressed in the rule itself.

### BD.17.137 Change to Policy 15.3

Motion by Silveira to **implement the changes to Policy 15.3 presented by Counsel, with the deletion of the last two words**. Second by Vest.

Approve: 6; Oppose: DeChant, Gray, King; Abstain: 0; *Motion carries*.

*Letter of Dissent from DeChant:* I am opposed to the change to 15.3.1 and 15.3.2. I see no reason to assert in this part of the rules that the Board of Directors may adopt or amend ASCA Program Rules. The Bylaws and other documents state this already. 15.3.1 and 15.3.2 have been in place since the early 90s and have been working fine as a reminder that the Board will forward changes to the Committee for review, comment, and recommendations. I feel that the change made is not necessary. Also, it was not sent to the Membership as a Motion. I am of the opinion that the Membership should see all Motions with the exception of those that must be confidential.

*Letter of Dissent from Gray:* I disapproved this revised motion because it wasn't sent to the ASCA-L before the board voted on it. Had it gone to the -L and voted on in the Aug cycle I would have approved.

*Letter of Dissent from King:* I feel eliminating the wordings "will be forwarded to the appropriate committee" to "ASCA's goal to seek committee input" takes the mandate of bringing BOD motions that effect programs to the committees. I feel better that the wording "whenever possible" was taken off the motion but I still am cautious of the need for a change.

## Modifications to Dog Aggression Rules

Counsel, Silveira, Vest, and Wesen will provide motions for the August cycle.

- The Board was in Executive Session from 7:11 to 7:20 pm to suspend Donald Little Jr. from all ASCA privileges for 5-years, and to fine him \$2,000, due to being suspended and fined in AKC for violating their Unauthorized Use of Club Funds policy.

## Dock Jumping Motions & Effective Dates

The Board discussed effective dates for recommendations from the Dock Jumping Committee and the application of Policy 15.4, which states that all changes to ASCA competitive program rulebooks will become effective on June 1 for the following competitive show/trial year.

Dock Jumping is not an established program with rules that are being changed - it is a developing program that needs these rules/documents to initially function. It is Counsel's opinion that Policy 15.4 is not being violated. The Dock Jumping Committee is working to put the pieces together so that the program may begin once everything is in place.

ASCA's contract with Ultimate Air Dogs became effective on July 12. No trials have been sanctioned yet. The intent is for competitors to begin collecting points only after the program begins.

## ASCA-L

The Board and Counsel discussed the pros and cons of continuing to use the ASCA-L as an official notification tool for ASCA. Analysis has shown that discussion on the list comes from a very small portion of the membership, and there are other ways for ASCA to reach significantly more members.

Several options were discussed: making it a read-only list, like a member suggested; taking ASCA's name off the list and letting it remain as a member discussion group; closing it down totally; moderating it; or doing nothing. The liability associated with the list was discussed as the primary reason for taking some sort of action, with improving the overall culture of ASCA being another reason.

- Counsel left the meeting at 7:41 pm.

When polled, four Directors (DeChant, Gray, King, Roberts) wanted to try moderation on the ASCA-L first and five Directors (Gibson, Kissman, Silveira, Vest, Wesen) wanted to try read-only. Roberts will contact Frank Butera to determine if making the ASCA-L read-only is an option.

## June Treasurer's Report

Wesen presented the Treasurer's Report for period ending June 30, 2017. Ending balance is \$171,880.18.

### BD.17.140 June Treasurer's Report

Motion by Vest to **accept the June 2017 Treasure's Report**. Second by Gibson.

Approve: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: Wesen; *Motion carries*.

## Introduction to Stock

The Board discussed a directive to the Stockdog Committee to produce a proposal for an Introduction to Stock Event.

### BD.17.141 Intro to Stock Directive to Stockdog Committee

Motion by Silveira to **direct the Stockdog Committee to produce a proposal for the Introduction to Stock Event, adhering to the goals and requirements listed below. This proposal must be returned to the Board by Monday, August 7, 2017.**

Second by Kissman.

Approve: 5; Oppose: DeChant, Gray, King, Roberts; Abstain: 0; *Motion carries*.

*Letter of Dissent from DeChant:* I opposed this motion as I thought that the motion should have been to send the program to the SDC not in the form of a Directive. The Directive is too specific which leaves little room for the SDC to do anything other than create exactly what a Board Subcommittee already created. I also think that three weeks (by August 7) is not enough time for the SDC to complete this process. I am for education for members re working stock with their dogs, I am all for members and Aussie owners being encouraged to work stock with their Aussies. I think ASCA can help with that. I do not think it should include a form, sanctioning, and an ASCA Stockdog Judge to oversee and fill out a form for many reasons. I think the ASCA SDC is the ideal group to work on a program with education and "how to" help for Affiliates to encourage them to hold intro to stock events. I support that 100% and I would like the SDC to have free rein to develop this.

*Letter of Dissent from Gray:* Asking the committee to rework the Intro to Stock in less than a month is a bit harsh on the committee. They are working on issues now and would have to stop to rework on the Intro to Stock into a useable program. Giving them until Nationals, as discussed, would take the pressure off to complete the task in less than a month. What's the rush?

*Letter of Dissent from King:* This directive to the SDC is setting them up for failure. To ask the committee to present a new program and include eight items that should be included in this time frame is not creating a good working relationship between the SDC and the BOD. I'm afraid this time frame will restrict the SDC to either agreeing to the subcommittee's proposal or not meeting the deadline. If the SDC does not meet the deadline I'm afraid it will be considered they didn't follow the directive and the subcommittee will proceed.



*Letter of Dissent from Roberts:* Giving the committee less than a month to rework the Intro to Stock is a hardship on the committee. In fact, I believe the committee is being set up to fail. They will have to stop all work on other issues, already before them, to work on turning the Intro to Stock into a useable program. Giving them until Nationals, as discussed, would take the pressure off and allow the committee to really present a quality product. If the goal is approval of the program developed by the Board subcommittee, then that subcommittee should just have moved forward with their idea.

**Comments & Rationale:** The purpose of this directive is to direct the ASCA Stockdog Committee to create an ASCA Introduction to Stock Event. The goals of this event are to provide Australian Shepherds and ASCA-approved herding breeds with an educational introduction to livestock in order to help develop the purpose of the breed, to stimulate interest in the Australian Shepherd Club of America and its Stockdog Program and to help increase participation of existing Members in ASCA by providing an introductory stock event, and to help increase ASCA's membership by bringing new individuals into the Stockdog Program who may not be ready to enter an arena trial. The ASCA Introduction to Stock Event should provide a format and guidelines for an educational event which will enable Affiliates to hold Introduction to Stock Events for their members. The Introduction to Stock Event is for educational purposes, and ASCA and its Instructors make no certification as to the inherent ability of the participating dogs to work stock. The Stockdog Committee may use the Board's Introduction to Stock Event proposal as a starting place for their proposal, or they may choose to start fresh.

These items should be included in the Stockdog Committee's finished proposal to the Board:

- An educational element which might include videos, illustrations, handouts and/or actual examples of work by a trained dog/handler.
- Format and guidelines to ensure that the educational element is consistent for all Affiliates.
- Stock used in the event must be dog broke and per the current Stockdog usage rules.
- Dogs cannot be disqualified by their actions during the work/introduction element of the event.
- ASCA Judges may approve a trainer/evaluator to conduct the work/introduction element of the event.
- The ASCA Judge may utilize a trainer/evaluator to conduct the work/introduction element of the event and will be responsible for completing the feedback form.
- Event must be sanctioned by ASCA
- Must include a feedback document, signed by the ASCA Stockdog Judge, which provides feedback on both the dog and the dog's novice handler.

### **Definition of Duties & Contact with Judges**

DeChant and Silveira will provide the below motion to the Conformation Committee, with revisions based on Director and member input, before being voted on by the Board.

#### Proposed Motion: Change to Conformation Rules – Definition of Duties & Contact with Judges

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

Rationale: These changes are being made to better define the roles and responsibilities of various positions at a Conformation show.

There has been confusion regarding the position of Show Secretary, Show Chair and Ring Stewards as well as the definition of Owner, Handler and Exhibitor. The Board of Directors have been asked to hear complaints regarding the application of these Rules. The Conformation Committee was directed to address these issues. The Committee was unable to fully address the issues involved in the scope of this motion. In a cooperative effort, two Directors and the Conformation Committee have agreed on the following changes for the full Board of Directors consideration and approval.

This motion is the result of three years' worth of work by Members, the Committee and some Directors. During this time, this motion has been placed on ASCA's discussion list with resultant Member input. Member input has modified the previous drafts of this motion.

This motion also intends to clearly define the authority and responsibilities as provided by ASCA's Rules and Regulations for each affected position.

Along with authority and responsibility comes accountability. All positions in ASCA are accountable to a supervising position and ultimately to an elected position which is accountable to the voting Membership.

Accountability is important for an organizations ability to efficiently conduct its programs fairly and uniformly.

This Rule clarification has been designed to eliminate any further confusion in this regard. It is hoped these changes will allow the Membership, Affiliates, Committees and Directors to better use and understand the necessity for the Rules.

Proposed changes:

Add to the following Section, leaving items 1.1 thru 1.6 as is, insert the following new 1.7 thru 1.13 and renumbering the present items of 1.7, etc. appropriately after the newly added items.

**1 General Explanations**

**1.7 Definition: Agent**

A person or persons appointed by the Owner/Owners of a dog/bitch to make or cancel entries in ASCA competitive Programs in their stead.

Such appointment may be either verbal or written.

**1.8 Definition: Exhibit**

Any ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd entered in any ASCA Sanctioned Program Show or Trial.

**1.9 Definition: Exhibitor**

Any Owner, Agent, Handler properly associated with any dog as further defined in this section.

**1.10 Definition: Handler**

The person who takes an entered ASCA Registered dog/bitch into the ring to be presented to the Judge of a class.

A dog may have a different Handler for each class said dog is eligible to compete in. For the purpose of Breeder Judge qualification, only the Handler presenting the dog/bitch in the Regular class will be allowed to count a subsequent awarding of Winners points. The Handler presenting the dog in the Winners class is ineligible to use the win toward Breeder Judge qualifications.

**1.11 Definition: Owner**

The name of the person or persons listed on the individual ASCA Registration Certification as such.

**1.12 Definition: Program**

Any competitive ASCA Event governed by an Official set of Rules, Regulations, Policies or Procedures that leads to a Title. Program may also be attached to any organized Member benefit, Educational endeavor, Policy, Procedure, etc. as determined by the ASCA Board of Directors.

**1.13 Definition: Venue**

The location at which any ASCA Event or Program is conducted.

**3.6 Show Secretary/Show Chair/Ring Steward**

Any person acting in the capacity of Conformation Show Secretary or Steward, shall not exhibit, act as an agent or handler at the show. Dogs owned wholly or in part by the above may be exhibited at the show. Stewards are allowed to show as provided in 3.6.3.4 of these Rules.

**3.6.1 Conformation Show Secretary**

The Conformation Show Secretary is authorized with the sole responsibility to fulfill the following duties as defined.

A Conformation Show Secretary must be a full ASCA Member in good standing. The Conformation Show Secretary must be on the Show Grounds for the entire show.

The Conformation Show Secretary may request any fellow Affiliate Member to assist him/her in the discharge of the following duties as defined. (Assisting shall mean working together with the Show Secretary, not replacing.)

- Completing Conformation Show sanction application and Show Flyer and submitting it to the Affiliate Show Coordinator for submission to the ASCA Business Office.
- Verbal or written discussion between the Host Affiliate and Judge relating to the hiring, contracting, making arrangements for Judge's travel and stay. (Assisting the Conformation Show Secretary without entering into verbal or written discussion with the judge in making travel, motel or other arrangements pertinent to getting the judge to the assignment and caring for the judge while he/she is conducting the Affiliate's business is not considered acting in the capacity of the Conformation Show Secretary.)
- Taking entries.
- Completing all paperwork, Judges Books, etc. with submission to the Affiliate Show Coordinator for submission to the ASCA Business Office. While the Show Secretary is responsible for completing the Judges Evaluation Form, the opinions of Exhibitors and Club Members may be included.

**3.6.2 Show Chair**

The Show Chair is defined as the overall Chair of an Affiliate Sanctioned Show that can be made up of a single Conformation Show or any combination of program events that can be individually sanctioned and managed by Show or Trial Secretaries under the supervision of the Show Chair.

A Show Chair must be a full ASCA Member in good standing.

If an Affiliate wishes to use the title of Show Chair in place of Conformation Show Secretary, they may. In this case, the Show Chair will be acting in the capacity of a Conformation Show Secretary and shall comply with the duties and restrictions assigned to the Conformation Show Secretary.

### **3.6.3 Stewards**

A Steward is not required to be an ASCA Member as he/she is supervised by the Conformation Show Secretary.

#### **3.6.3.1 Qualifications**

No person shall be asked to serve as a steward whose judging privileges have been revoked. Persons should be selected who are familiar with ring procedure, and the ASCA Conformation Rules and Regulations. It should be borne in mind that a good steward makes the work of judging easier by relieving the judge of necessary detail; by assembling classes promptly, he will be able to keep the judging program on schedule and eliminate to a large extent delays between classes. The Club should use its discretion in the assigning of more than one steward to a ring, but it is advisable that two stewards be asked to serve in those rings where judges have heavy assignments. Stewards will notify the judge when all the dogs are in the ring for each class and call his attention to known absentees. Under no circumstances will a steward make any notation in the judge's book or erase or strike out any notation made by the judge. Stewards will be responsible for returning to the Show Secretary upon the completion of the judging all prize money, trophies and ribbons not awarded. STEWARDS MUST HAVE IN MIND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO HELP THE JUDGE AND NOT TO ADVISE HIM.

#### **3.6.3.2 Non-Interference**

STEWARDS MUST REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING OR SEEMING TO DISCUSS THE DOGS OR THE EXHIBITORS WITH THE JUDGE AND MUST NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SHOW OR GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF SHOWING THE CATALOGUE TO A JUDGE. STEWARDS MUST NOT TAKE OR SEEM TO TAKE ANY PART IN JUDGING. When they are not actively engaged in their duties, they must place themselves in such part of the rings as will not interfere with the view of those watching the judging, and must not permit persons to crowd about the ring entrance and interfere with access to the ring.

#### **3.6.3.3 Posting of Results**

The Steward shall post the goldenrod copies of the judge's books at the conclusion of judging once, the judge has marked awards, placements, excused/disqualified dogs, entry counts, date(s) and signature. The goldenrod copies of the judge's books shall be posted in a conspicuous location away from the judges table for exhibitors to review.

#### **3.6.3.4 National Specialty**

Ring Stewards for National Specialty are able to exhibit, act as an agent or handler at the show as long as they do not compete under the judge they steward under.

## **8.5 Contact with Judges**

Any person acting in the capacity of Conformation Show Secretary, Ring Steward or persons responsible for contacting and/or hiring a judge, or judges, shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show. Dogs owned wholly or in part by the above may be exhibited at the show.

Contact shall be defined as any engagement with a potential Judge where the following activities transpire:

- Written or spoken request for availability to accept a judging assignment;
- Written or spoken negotiations or offering/approving a judging assignment;
- Assisting, verbally or in writing, a Judge with planning for hotel, transportation, meals or any other activity pertinent to the Judges assignment;
- Acting as a companion/assistant for the Judge on the day of the show.

## **8.7 Show Secretary**

Remove this section, as it has been added to 3.6.1 & 3.6.2.

~~The Show Secretary must be on the show grounds for the entire show.~~

## **14 Stewards**

Remove this section as it is now incorporated into 3.6.3.1-4. 1

### **14.1 Qualifications**

Clubs must appoint stewards in advance of the date of their show. No person shall be asked to serve as a steward whose judging privileges have been revoked. The club will, confirm to each person who accepts an invitation to steward, the date and location of the show, the time at which they are to report for duty, and their particular ring assignment. Persons should be selected who are familiar with ring procedure, and the ASCA Show Rules and Regulations. It should be borne in mind that a good steward makes the work of judging easier by relieving the judge of necessary detail; by assembling classes promptly, he will be able to keep the judging program on schedule and eliminate to a large extent delays between classes. The Club should use its discretion in the assigning of more than one steward to a ring, but it is advisable that two stewards be asked to serve in those rings where judges have heavy assignments. Stewards will notify the judge when all the dogs are in the ring for each class and call his attention to known absentees. Under no circumstances will a steward make any notation in the judge's book or erase or strike out any notation made by the judge. Stewards will be responsible for returning to the Show Secretary upon the completion of the judging all prize money, trophies and ribbons not awarded. STEWARDS SHOULD HAVE IN MIND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO HELP THE JUDGE AND NOT TO ADVISE HIM.

#### **14.2 Non Interference**

STEWARDS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING OR SEEMING TO DISCUSS THE DOGS OR THE EXHIBITORS WITH THE JUDGE AND SHOULD NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SHOW OR GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF SHOWING THE CATALOGUE TO A JUDGE. STEWARDS MUST NOT TAKE OR SEEM TO TAKE ANY PART IN JUDGING. When they are not actively engaged in their duties, they should place themselves in such part of the rings as will not interfere with the view of those watching the judging, and should not permit persons to crowd about the ring entrance and interfere with access to the ring.

#### **14.3 Posting of Results**

The Steward shall post the goldenrod copies of the judge's books at the conclusion of judging once, the judge has marked awards, placements, excused/disqualified dogs, entry counts, date(s) and signature. The goldenrod copies of the judge's books shall be posted in a conspicuous location away from the judges table for exhibitors to review.

#### **14.4 National Specialty**

Ring Stewards for National Specialty. Ring Stewards are able to compete as long as they do not compete under the judge they steward under.

### **System Report**

Vest reported on the ongoing progress of the Business Office system upgrade.

### **West Coast Nationals Site**

The Board heard updates on the search for suitable West Coast sites for Nationals. Silveira will get together with representatives from the facility in Redmond, Oregon, to discuss ASCA's needs and report back to the Board in August.

### **ASCA News & Postings**

The Board discussed putting out motions and Secretary's Reports via Constant Contact. Vest will work with the Webmaster to get a procedure in place.

#### **BD.17.142 Constant Contact for Member Notification**

Motion by Silveira to utilize Constant Contact to notify the membership with any and all official information, to include motions, committee news, etc., and that the Webmaster be directed to make those postings. Second by Vest.

Approve: Unanimous; *Motion carries.*

### **Consortium Application**

The Board discussed the proposed application to be filled out by those Affiliate Clubs that are interested in hosting a portion of the ASCA Nationals & Finals. Gibson will make revisions and bring to the Board for vote in August.

### **ASCA Trademark**

The Board discussed the unapproved use of ASCA's name in Facebook group and page names. Anyone wishing to use ASCA in the name of their group must fill out a trademark licensing form before being granted permission.

### **Membership Retention Survey**

The Board will discuss over email and possibly during the August meeting.

## **2017 Nationals & Finals Updates**

DeChant presented changes to the 2017 Obedience Finals and Stockdog Nationals & Finals.

### BD.17.143 2017 Obedience Finals Judge Change

Motion by DeChant to allow the judge change from Brenda Allison to Terry Papineau for the 2017 Obedience Finals. Second by Wesen.

Approve: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: Gibson; *Motion carries.*

### BD.17.144 2017 Stockdog Nationals & Finals Course Change

Motion by DeChant to allow the course change from Course C to Course H for Sheep in Stockdog Nationals & Finals, because the arena doesn't support Course C. Second by Silveira.

Approve: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: Gibson; *Motion carries.*

## **Merle Allele Investigative Committee Mission Statement**

Gray presented the committee's mission statement:

The Australian Shepherd Merle Allele Investigative Committee mission is to investigate current research into the merle gene and the possible ramifications of that research. We shall submit our findings in an informational report to be published for the membership and make recommendations as to how to address the merle modifications as a registry, in exhibition and in countries where breeding laws restrict merle to merle combinations.

Some Directors did not think that the last sentence of the Mission Statement did not accurately reflect the Board's goals for the committee.

### BD.17.145 Merle Allele Investigative Committee Mission Statement

Motion by Gray to approve the mission statement of the Merle Allele Investigative Committee. Second by Gibson.

Approve: Gray, King, Roberts; Oppose: 6; Abstain: 0; *Motion fails.*

Gray will request that the committee modify the last sentence of the mission statement and resubmit for Board approval.

- Gibson adjourned the meeting at 9:16 pm.