

Policy Book: Changes to Sections 8.4 & 10.5, Confidentiality

Motion by Vest Second by Dexter

I move to add the following to the Policy Book

Comment/Rationale: To add transparency to letters written about ASCA Judges, ASCA Affiliates, and ASCA members. This motion should reduce the number of letters that may be injurious in nature, personal attacks without substantiation, and absolute untruths. If a member feels strongly about a situation, an official complaint should be filed to bring closure to the issue.

Current language Policy Book 8.4:

- a. The Board of Directors has determined that the following are confidential:
 - i. Employee records
 - ii. Individual registry files, except for review by the current owner and/or co-owner.
 - iii. Disciplinary complaint files.
 - iv. Letters from members regarding Judges' applications.
 - v. Letters from members regarding Judges
 - vi. Letters from members regarding officials of ASCA, its affiliates and licensees detailing actions during an ASCA sanctioned event. Revised 02/28/10
- b. ASCA will keep confidential and not disclose the name and identifying information of the author of all written comment letters detailing actions of any of the following individuals:
 - i. Judge Applicants
 - ii. Judges
 - iii. Officials of ASCA, its affiliates and licensees detailing actions during an ASCA sanctioned event. Such letter will be forwarded to the individual named and complained of in the letter with identifying information redacted and seeking a response. Added: 03/08

Change to:

8.4 Confidentiality

- a. The Board of Directors has determined that the following are confidential:
 - i. Employee records
 - ii. Individual registry files, except for review by the current owner and/or co-owner.
 - iii. Disciplinary complaint files if related to the topic detailed in ii above.

REMOVE Section 8.4 b in its entirety and re-locate in the Policy Book, section 10.5

This is the current section 10.5

10.5 Filing of Complaint Letters

~~a. Any communication that requests inclusion of a complaint letter in a Judge's or member's file shall also be sent to the person the complaint is about advising him/her that he/she may prepare a rebuttal statement that will also be placed in the file.~~

~~b. The person requesting the inclusion of the complaint letter will be sent a letter advising him/her of this policy before the complaint letter is sent on to the Judge or member. If they withdraw their request, the letter will not be included in the Judge's or member's file or be sent onto the Judge or member.~~

~~Effective: 07/01~~

a. ASCA will adhere to the confidentiality policy of Section 8.4 and not disclose the name and identifying information of the author of all written comments.

b. Any communication that requests inclusion of a complaint letter/e-mail in a Judge's or member's file shall also be sent to the subject of the complaint advising him/her that he/she may submit a rebuttal statement that will be placed in the file.

c. The person requesting the inclusion of the complaint letter/e-mail will be sent a letter advising him/her of this policy before a redacted version of the complaint letter/e-mail is sent on to the Judge or member. If the writer withdraws his/her request, the letter/e-mail will not be included in the Judge's or member's file or be sent onto the Judge or member.

d. Letters/e-mails of complaint will be forwarded to the individual named in the complaint. Such letters/e-mails will have all information identifying the author redacted. The forwarding letter/e-mail will seek a response from the subject of the complaint.

e. The Board of Directors will take no action on an application to become a judge until completion of the preceding process. Revised 02/28/10

Removing the proposed 8.4 b from the present motion and moving it to section 10.5 would have section 10.5 read:

10.5 Filing of Complaint Letters

a. Any communication that requests inclusion of a complaint letter/e-mail in a Judge's or member's file shall also be sent to the subject of the complaint advising him/her that he/she may submit a rebuttal statement that will be placed in the file.

b. The person requesting the inclusion of the complaint letter/e-mail will be sent a letter advising him/her of this policy. ASCA will disclose the name and identifying information of the author of all written comment letters detailing actions of any of the following individuals:

i. Judge Applicants

ii. Judges

iii. Officials of ASCA, its affiliates and licensees detailing actions during an ASCA sanctioned event.

c. If the writer withdraws his/her request, the letter/e-mail will not be included in the Judge's or member's file or be sent to the Judge or member.

d. Letters/e-mails of complaint will be forwarded to the individual named in the letter/e-mail. The forwarding letter/e-mail will seek a response from the subject of the complaint.

e. The Board of Directors will take no action on an application to become a judge until completion of the preceding process if a complaint letter has been filed.

Revised 02/28/10

Approve: Aufox, Berryessa, Dexter, Dolan, Gann, Hellmeister, Vest; Disapprove: Westerman; Non-voting: Davenport.

The motion is approved.

Policy Book: Section 9.11, Membership List

Motion by Dolan Second Berryessa

I move to add the following to the Policy Book:

9.11 Membership List

ASCA's Membership List or membership information shall not be sold or transmitted to any person or organization, without the express approval of any such sale or transfer by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Comment/Rationale: This change documents the motion to the same effect made and passed by the BoD during the April 2009 voting cycle. That motion reads:

09:06 SALE OF MEMBERSHIP LIST

Motion by Aufox Second by Dolan

I move that ASCA's Membership Lists or Membership information shall not be sold or transmitted to any person or organization, without the express approval of any such sale or transfer by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

The voting period for the enclosed motion has closed. The voting went as follows: Approve: Dolan, Westerman, Aufox, Gann, MacRoberts, Davenport; Disapprove: Berryessa, McNamara;

The motion is approved.

Approve: Berryessa, Dexter, Dolan, Gann, Hellmeister, Vest, Westerman; Non-voting: Aufox, Davenport.

The motion is approved.

99:10 Tracking Committee: Motion 4-10

Motion by Berryessa

Motion by Berryessa to approve the following:

This is Tracking committee motion 4-10. It has passed the committee. Here is the tally.

Voting in favor of this motion: Marja Teelgelbeckers, Celeste Kelly, Susan Schroeder, Becky Parker, Betty Mueller, Carol McQuade, Margaret Abrahamson, Jan Wesen, Renea Dahms.

Abstain: Linda Gray,

Not voting: Anne Hershey, and Maria Kremers.

Motion 4-10

I, Celeste Kelly move, and seconded by, Renea Dahms, that we add the number of passes behind each of the following titles, TD, TDU, and TDX, by changing the following sections, 3.3, 4.3, and 5.2 to read:

Section 3.3. The TD Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog (TD) title to:

- a) ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs,
- b) Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP number,
- c) any other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number, and will permit the use of the letters "TD" after the name of each dog that has passed an ASCA sanctioned Tracking Dog (TD) Test.

As soon as a dog has been certified by both Judges to have passed a Tracking Dog (TD) Test, it may be entered in either a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test or a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test for which entries have not closed.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TD title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TD title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TD2, TD3, TD4, etc.

Section 4.3, The Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Title to:

- a) ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs,
- b) Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP number,
- c) any other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number, and will permit the use of the letters "TDU" after the name of each dog that has passed an ASCA sanctioned Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test.

As soon as a dog has been certified by both Judges to have passed a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, it may be entered in either a Tracking Dog (TD) Test or a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test for which entries have not closed.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TDU title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TDU title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TDU2, TDU3, TDU4, etc.

Section 5.2. The TDX Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Title to:

- a) ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs,
- b) Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP number,
- c) any other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number, and will permit the use of the letters "TDX" after the name of each dog that has passed an ASCA sanctioned Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TDX Title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TDX Title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TDX2, TDX3, TDX4, etc.

Grandfather clause: Dogs who already hold any of the titles (TD, TDU, or TDX) will have that title counted, and the second time they pass at that level, the title will then be designated, TD2, etc.

Comments on the motion: A well trained tracking dog should be able to repeat passes at whatever level training has been accomplished. Since tracking is pass/fail, as long as the minimum requirement is met the dog passes. There is no numerical score to show a difference (i.e., 170 vs 200 in obedience).

Multiple passes prove the dog's expertise without a doubt. Each test has different, weather, terrain, and scent conditions, etc.

Dogs who train tracking for live finds or evidence must keep their skills honed by regular work at whatever timeframe(s) they choose to work. Having the chance to continue to test, gives these dogs a chance to continue to proof their skills. For example, a dog who titles a TD on a Midwest prairie, can re-title in desert conditions, or in the more tropical and different grass conditions of Florida; or if it titles in the middle of summer in the lowlands by a river, it can proof that work in the late fall in the mountains. Every test is different, and every call to serve as a tracking dog is different. Tracking cannot be compared to any other ASCA performance event.

Folks should receive visible credit for their work. This numerical pass number will reward the team of dog and handler, and it will encourage folks to keep their dogs in ASCA Tracking instead of moving to another Club's programs.

We have been asked by the membership for this option. Tests with titled dogs seeking more PASSES will fill slots if the test entry is not completed by dogs who do not hold titles. This will help defray the cost of the test for the host club, and it should encourage more Tracking Tests to be held.

The Office told us this would neither be expensive nor difficult to do.

Tracking is a non-competitive sport. We need more ways to showcase our sport which is one that has real time value to mankind, and our sport needs to be more aligned with the other ASCA programs.

Here are how these sections read now:

Section 3.3 The TD Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Title to registered dogs, dogs with LEP, ILP numbers, and to dogs with "an ASCA Office tracking number" and will permit use of the letters "TD" after the name of each dog that has been certified by two Judges to have passed Affiliate's Tracking (TD) Test.

As soon as a dog has been certified by the Judges to have passed an Affiliate's Tracking (TD) Test, it may be entered in any Affiliate's Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test or Affiliate Club's Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test for which the Entries have not closed.

The owner of a dog holding both the UD and TD titles may use the letters "UDT" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Tracker." The owner of a dog holding both the UDX and TD titles may use the letters "UDXT" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Excellent Tracker."

Section 4.3. The TDU Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Title to registered dogs, dogs with LEP, ILP numbers, and to dogs with an "ASCA Office tracking number" and will permit use of the letters "TDU" after the name of each dog that has been certified by two Judges to have passed an Affiliate's Sanctioned Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test. As soon as a dog has been certified by the Judges to have passed an Affiliate's Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, it may be entered in any Affiliate's Tracking Dog (TD) Test or Tracking Dog Excellent Test (TDX) for which the entries have not been closed.

The owner of a dog holding both the UD and TDU title may use the letters “UDTU” after the name of the dog, signifying “Utility Dog Tracker-Urban.” The owner of a dog holding both the UDX and TDU titles may use the letters, “UDXTU” after the name of the dog, signifying “Utility Dog Excellent Tracker-Urban.”

Section 5.2. The TDX Title

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Excellent Title Certificate to registered dogs, dogs with LEP or ILPs, and to dogs with an “ASCA Office tracking number”; and will permit use of the letter "TDX" after the name of each dog that has been certified by two Judges to have passed an Affiliate Club Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.

The owner of a dog holding both the “UD” and “TDX” Titles may use the letters "UDTX" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Tracker Excellent." The owner of a dog holding both the “UDX” and “TDX” Titles may use the letters "UDXTX" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Excellent Tracker Excellent."

Comments during the official discussion:

I support this motion. Recognizing a handler’s willingness to support an unfilled test by exhibiting her titled dog to an additional pass is a good idea.

But I find the phrase: “...may re-enter the same test without limit,...” to be confusing. I would prefer this: “... may enter additional tests at the same level, however...”

Thanks,

Anne Hershey

Approve: Berryessa, Vest, Westerman; Disapprove: Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister; Abstain: Gann; Non-voting: Aufox, Davenport.

The motion is not approved.

99:10 Tracking Committee: Motion 5-10

Motion by Berryessa

Motion by Berryessa to approve the following:

This is Tracking committee Motion 5-10. It has passed the committee. Here is the tally.

Voting in favor of this motion are: Maria Teelgelbeckers, Betty Mueller, Susan Schroeder, Becky Parker, Carol McQuade, Margaret Abrahamson, Linda Gray, Jan Wesen, Celeste Kelly and Renea Dahms.

Not voting: Anne Hershey and Maria Kremers.

Motion 5-10.

I, Maria Kremers move, seconded by Jan Wesen, to add to the Tracking Regulations a new chapter entitled: Chapter 6, The Master Tracker Title.

Comments:

The reason for this proposed Regulation change is to involve more people in the Tracking Program and award them with a special title recognizing their dogs' proficiency in Tracking with the designation of the title Master Tracker (MT).

Tracking is a sport indispensable to mankind. The proposed title of Master Tracker (MT) will give our tracking Australian Shepherds a chance to showcase their versatile talents so they can be equal in recognition to dogs in other ASCA performance events.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Kremers

The new addition to the Regulations would read:

Chapter 6. The Master Tracker Title

ASCA will issue the title of Master Tracker (MT) to ASCA registered Australian Shepherds, dogs with LEP numbers, and to other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number and will permit use of the letters "MT" after the name of each dog eligible for the title.

The title of Master Tracker (MT) will be awarded to dogs who have earned a higher level of achievement in tracking by passing a variety of Tracking Tests a number of times at ASCA sanctioned Tracking Tests.

The required number of passes will be taken from the total number of passes in TD, TDU and TDX by the ASCA Office.

Section 6.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for the title Master Tracker (MT) a dog must successfully pass a minimum of:
3 Tracking Dog Tests (TD Section 3.3) or 3 Tracking Dog Urban Tests (TDU Section 4.3) or any combination of TDs and/or TDUs to total 3; plus a minimum pass of 2 Tracking Dog Excellent Tests (TDX Section 5.2)

Example: A dog may pass 2 TDUs and 1 TD and 2 TDXs or a dog may pass 3 TDs and 2 TDXs etc to earn the title of Master Tracker (MT).

A dog may earn the title of Master Tracker (MT) only once regardless of the number of passes beyond the minimum requirements.

Dogs who already hold the ASCA Tracking titles of TD, TDU and TDX will have those titles applied towards the Master Tracker (MT) title; however each dog must earn the required number of passes at each test level before the title of Master Tracker (MT) will be awarded.

The draw for entry applies. (See Section 1.20 The Draw for Test Entry(s) and Alternates List).
Effective date to be June 1, 2010

Comments during the Official discussion:

I am opposed to Motion #5-10, "The Master Tracker title" as written, because I believe it is a huge and unnecessary mistake to include multiples of TD/TDU titles in the REQUIREMENTS for the proposed Master Tracker title would be extremely frustrating to exhibitors who aspire to the title. This is the problem: very few titling opportunities are offered in a single tracking test. Separate test tracks are plotted and run for each dog entered, and plotting and running each track requires a lot of space, work and expense. The maximum allowable entry for a TD Test is 12 dogs, the maximum for TDX is 6 dogs. For this reason our titling system is set up so that a tracking dog earns his TD title by passing just one test. Then, if the TD titled dog's handler aspires to advanced level tracking, she trains the dog toward his TDX title. Conscientious exhibitors then give back to the sport by working for a few tests and helping to provide other teams an opportunity to title. Tracking is a cooperative sport in this way, as presently structured.

But if we adopt requirements for multiple titles at the basic skill level--- TD/TDU— handlers who already have titled their dogs will keep trying to enter their dogs in TD/TDU tests. They will be frustrated in these efforts because tracking test entry is determined by lottery, and untitled dogs are given preference in lotteries for test entry.

I do support awarding a Master Tracker title to dogs who pass multiple TDX tests. TDX is the advanced level, problem solving challenge in the sport. A dog who passes more than one TDX test clearly demonstrates unusual ability. Two tests would be enough, in my opinion. And still, it will be difficult for titled TDX dogs to enter a second test. I was able to title my red Aussie girl "Blaze" twice in TDX in the late ninety's when our National Specialty Tracking Tests were not filling. But those days are long gone. Our 2009 National Specialty Tracking Test had TDX alternates waiting in the wings, and my local club's February, 2010 TDX test also had several disappointed alternates. These exhibitors now are training for another year and hoping to get into PASA's TDX test planned for February 2011.

Why are we even proposing requiring multiple TD/TDU's for the Master Tracker title? For two reasons, if I understand the committee's conversation correctly:

1. Host clubs want to fill their tests and the committee wants to encourage more people to get involved with the sport. I agree that requiring multiple TD/TDU's is a possible short term fix for the problem of unfilled tests at the moment. But it won't get more people involved--- quite the opposite: the same people will be wanting to title the same dog over and over again at the basic skill level. And if the ASCA program grows and TD/TDU tests start filling, this requirement will cause extreme frustration for trainers who aspire to a Master Tracking Dog Title because the entries for their previously titled dogs always will be placed at the end of the cue for test entry--- behind untitled dogs, and even behind uncertified dogs, since we now are allowing uncertified dogs to enter tests at the end of the cue (a big mistake IMO.) These trainers will have to maintain their dogs at test readiness for years without finding a test they can enter--- at the basic skill level, even after their dogs have fulfilled the multiple TDX requirement. Meanwhile these same trainers will not want to work for tests, because they will be trying to get into them. This requirement will create a losing situation for trainers and a losing situation for test workers--- a LOSE, LOSE situation for ASCA Tracking.

2. Some committee members believe that requiring multiple TD/TDU titles for the Master Tracker titles will serve to make the titling structure of ASCA Tracking comparable to the titling structures of other ASCA performance sports. They see that Agility, for instance, requires two or three legs to title at each class level, so they think Tracking should require two or three legs at each class level also. Tracking is structured differently, though in some respects it already requires two passing performances, and passing performances under a total of three judges. The dog achieves his title for basic skills in a two stage process: stage one is passing a judge's certification for test entry, and stage two is passing a TD/TDU test judged by two judges. The decision of both judges is required to pass the dog. The decision of one judge can fail the dog.

In actual fact, in order to be comparable to the ATCH in Agility, the Master Tracker title should require multiple titles at the advanced level, not at the basic skill level. TDX is the only advanced title available in ASCA Tracking at the moment, so a Master Tracker should achieve at least two TDX's. Please note that the ATCH in Agility does not require multiple titles at the Novice and Open levels--- only at the advanced Elite level. Obedience Trials Championships require multiple titling at both the Open and Utility levels because the Open and Utility exercises are different--- but multiple titles at the Novice level are not required in Obedience.

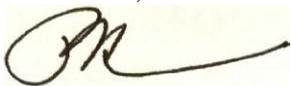
It will be difficult enough for a trainer to title her dog multiple times in TDX, because untitled dogs get preference in the draw for TDX test entry, just as they do for TD/TDU entry. But host clubs can respond to expanded needs in two ways: by offering more TDX tests or by offering combined TD/TDU and TDX tests and then substituting tracks from one level to another if one of the classes does not fill and another class is over-subscribed.

Thanks,
Anne Hershey

Approve: Berryessa, Vest, Westerman; Disapprove: Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister; Abstain: Gann; Non-voting: Aufox, Davenport.

The motion is not approved.

Submitted,



Pete Dolan
ASCA Secretary