

# Changes to 2019 Program Rules

(Last updated 11/8/2018)

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## Agility Rules

### **AG.18.02 Add to Agility Rules 7.2.1 - Handler Faults in Gamblers**

Approved by BOD: June 27, 2018

Effective Date: June 1, 2019

#### Current Wording:

No current wording.

#### New Wording:

**HANDLER FAULTS:** Handlers may not pass through, under or over any obstacles at any time during the Gamblers class. Any incidents of handlers passing through, over or under any obstacles will result in the run being scored as 'elimination'. See also Section 9.2.2 Handler Faults.

## Rally Rules

### **RA.18.03 Change to Rally Rules 15.7.2 ASCA Rally Judges Seminar**

Approved by BOD: July 27, 2018

Effective Date: June 1, 2019

#### Current Wording:

#### **15.7.2 ASCA Rally Judges Seminar**

All ASCA Rally Judges will be required to participate in the ASCA Rally Judges Education Seminar online or in person at least every two years. A notice will be sent by the Business Office to all ASCA Rally Judges during the first week of January in odd-numbered years (i.e. 2017, 2019, etc.). All sections in the Supplemental Packet must be answered correctly to receive credit for participating in the seminar. The completed Supplemental Packet must be returned to the Business Office within 60 days of the distribution date of the notice from the Business Office. The seminar may be watched repeatedly, and Supplemental Packet

resubmitted repeatedly until all questions are answered correctly. In mid-February of odd numbered years, the Business Office will contact any judge who has not returned his/her Supplemental Packet to assure that the exam was received. Judges not returning the completed Supplemental Packet by the deadline will be removed from the approved ASCA Judges Directory and will need to reapply if they choose to judge ASCA Rally again in the future. Judges who participate in the Judges Seminar at ASCA Nationals in the fall of an even-numbered year (i.e. 2016, 2018, etc.), will receive credit for completing their 2-year continuing education provided they submit a completed Supplemental Packet with all questions answered correctly to the Business Office within 60 days of the live seminar. New ASCA Rally judges who completed their application process in the last quarter of an even-numbered year (i.e. 2016, 2018, etc.) will receive credit for completing their 2-year continuing education during their application process.

New Wording:

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# Tracking Rules

## TR.18.03 Beginning Tracking Dog Test

Approved by BOD: August 27, 2018

Effective Date: June 2019

### Current Wording:

No current wording.

### New Wording:

#### **7 The Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD)**

The Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD) is an optional title and not a pre-requisite for a TD or TDU. The fundamental features of a Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD) are the dog's ability to follow a short track laid by a person and find an article dropped by that person. The purpose of this test is to make ASCA tracking more accessible in all parts of the country (world). This test may be held as a tracking test with up to 10 dogs judged in a day and not to exceed 8 total hours judging time by an examiner. However, it was also designed to be flexible enough that it could be held similar to a certification test with a judge/examiner and one or two participants. It may be held in conjunction with other ASCA events (e.g. conformation show on a local fairgrounds) or as a standalone event.

#### **7.1 Eligibility for the BTD Test**

The Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Test shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age that are eligible for entry and have not earned an ASCA TD or TDU.

A dog may continue to participate in the Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Test after it has earned the title of BTD but not after it has earned a TD or TDU.

The Tracking Test Secretary shall give dogs not holding a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Title priority for entry in the Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Test. A statement to this effect shall appear in the Premium.

#### **7.2 The BTD Title**

ASCA will issue a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) title to:

- a. ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs,
- b. Australian Shepherds with an ASCA LEP number,
- c. And any other dogs with an ASCA Office Tracking Number,

and will permit use of the letters "BTD" after the name of each dog that has been certified by a qualified judge/examiner to have passed a Beginning Tracking Dog Test (BTD).

Any dog that is already holding an ASCA BTM title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply.

### **7.3 Requirements for the BTM Track**

The following are the restrictions and minimum requirements for a TD track:

- a. The track shall be at least 175 yards and not more than 250 yards in length.
- b. The length of each of the legs shall be at least 50 yards.
- c. The scent on the track shall be not less than 15 minutes or more than one (1) hours old.
- d. The track layer is to be chosen by the participant and may be known to the dog. There is no restriction on the track layer and it may be a member of the family, a member of the examiner's family, a training partner, or a stranger. The tracklayer may not talk with the participant between laying the track and the track being run.
- e. The track does not have to be plotted the day before (but may be). The track may be plotted and then walked by the track layer 2 or more hours later.
- f. A total of two (2) turn shall be used. Both left and right turns must be used. No acute angle turns are to be used. The turn must be more than 30 yards from the second flag.
- g. The turn should be greater than 90 degrees whenever possible.
- h. No part of the track shall follow any fence or boundary within 15 yards of such fence or boundary.
- i. No part of the track may be within 50 yards of any other part of the same track.
- j. Consecutive parallel tracks shall not be used.
- k. No part of any track shall be laid within 50 yards of another track. However, with two (2) tracks going in opposite directions from the same area, the starting flags may be as close as 50 yards from each other.
- l. A track shall not cross a body of water or a paved road.
- m. No BTM track should have changes of cover that would be suitable for a TDX obstacle.
- n. No conflicting (cross) tracks shall be used.
- o. A track shall have a start article at the first flag, and a 2nd article at the end of the track.

If, because of the terrain, the judge/examiner is unable to plot a track that meets all requirements for a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTM) Test, an explanation of the circumstances must be reported in the Judge's Books.

### **7.4 Articles for the BTM Track**

Articles shall meet the same criteria as articles for the TD set out in Chapter 2, Section 6.

There will be no penalty for the handler and dog team playing with the end article when they find it. The handler may carry a toy or food and reward the dog upon finding the article. In a Beginning Tracking Dog (BTM) Test there shall be a cloth start article, and the end article shall be a cloth or leather glove or wallet.

## **7.5 Start of the BTM Track**

The start shall have a flag at the beginning, and a second flag, indicating the direction of the first leg, 30 yards from the first flag. The Tracklayer shall start at the first flag and walk the track in the manner specified in Chapter 2, Section 10 with the exception that the track does not have to be plotted the day before. See section 6.3.e for plotting requirements

An article shall be dropped at the start (first) flag. This article shall be Cloth, (such as but not limited to, a Bandana, or a Sock) and close to the same size as the end article, a cloth or leather glove or wallet.

At the direction of the examiner, the handler and dog will approach the first flag.

The handler may use any method, including restraining the dog by the leash as long as no force, directional guidance, or roughness, is used to start the dog at the first flag on the track.

The handler may pick up the article at the start flag and use it to give scent to the dog while on the track.

If the article is not at the start, the handler, while controlling the dog at the start flag, may request from the judge/examiner another article belonging to the Tracklayer.

The Beginning Tracking Dog (BTD) Test begins when the dog leaves/passes the first flag.

The initial 30 yards between the flags is part of the track and all requirements for the track apply except that during this time the examiner, at their discretion, may give advice to the handler, including letting them know they may restart. The handler does not need to follow the advice and any advice given should be only for the purpose of helping a new handler be comfortable on the track and giving them the best chance possible of passing.

In this portion of the track, the dog may be restrained by the handler. The examiner, during this part of the track, should ask the handler to stop any leading or guiding of the dog but it does not constitute grounds for deeming the handler "off the track" and failing the dog.

Provided the dog has not passed the second flag, the handler may request permission from the judge/examiner for a restart. If approved by the examiner, the handler may restart the dog, either from their present location or after returning to the starting flag.

Only one restart is permitted. If a restart is requested, an auxiliary article can no longer be requested.

## **7.6 Judge/examiner for BTM Track**

A person who has put at least one (1) TDX or VST or equivalent title on a dog may be a judge/examiner for the BTM. The title may be a title from ASCA, AKC, or CKC. Other organizations may be approved by the ASCA tracking committee when requested (for example titling organizations in other countries or IPO). When submitting sanctioning paperwork, a photocopy or digital copy of the title(s) the judge/examiner earned shall be included.

## 8.6 Beginning Tracking Judge/Examiner

Anyone who has handled a dog to one (1) TDX or VST or equivalent title from ASCA, AKC, CKC may Judge a Beginning Tracking Dog test.

Applicants who wish to apply to judge a Beginning Tracking Dog test who are not an ASCA approved tracking judge, should fill out the Beginning Tracking Dog Judge/Examiner Form and send it to the ASCA Office with the sanctioning paperwork.

The Form will be forwarded to the Tracking Committee for review if the Judge/Examiner is using a tracking title from an organization other than ASCA/AKC/CKC for review. If the form is completed and a copy of a TDX/VST tracking certificate is included, the business office can approve the examiner without sending it to the Tracking Committee.

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

### Beginning Tracking Judge/Examiner Qualification Form

Please mail a copy of this application with any required attachments to the Business Office.

#### Part One

Applicant Information (\*All Applicants must fill out this section.)

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone Number:

ASCA Membership # (If applicable):

Email address:

Do you wish your email to be listed on the ASCA Tracking Judge's list?  Yes  No

Please list all tracking titles you have earned by breed registered name of dog, organization, type of title, and date. (minimum is 1 TDX OR 1 VST or equivalent title) Attach additional paper if necessary.

#### Part Two

All applicants: Please read the following carefully, then sign and date below.

1. Judges affiliated with approved outside tracking titling organizations will have their applications processed at the office. The office will send the Committee the names of these applicants.
2. New, unaffiliated, Tracking Judge applications will be reviewed by the Tracking Committee, and the Committee will send recommendations to the ASCA Board for approval. (Note: The Regular co-judge at each assignment will be required to submit a

written review to the ASCA Tracking Committee regarding a Provisional Judge's performance. The Committee reserves the right to send a representative of the Committee to review a Provisional Judge at any test.)

3. Applicants who meet with Board approval will be on Provisional status for TD and/or TDX until they have completed the minimum two (2) tracking judging assignments at each level. Once a Provisional Judge has met the assignments requirement, he/she may petition the ASCA Board, in writing, to change from Provisional to Regular status for TD and/or TDX. When the Board is petitioned to move a judge to regular status, the name will be published in the Aussie Times for each level. The Board will move to approve or decline an applicant thirty days after publication.
4. Judging an ASCA Sanctioned Event is an honor and a privilege, not a right. While applicants must satisfy ASCA's stated minimal eligibility requirement to become an approved Tracking Judge, merely satisfying the requirements does not entitle an applicant to become or remain an ASCA Judge once approved. It is expected all ASCA Judges must consistently display the highest level of ethical and professional conduct, impartial demeanor and dedication to upholding ASCA's codes, rules, decisions, and the Statement of Purpose in ASCA's Bylaws. Any documented failure to perform may result in a denial of Application or revocation of judging privileges by ASCA's Board of Directors without regard to any other qualification or prior service.
5. I have read and understand the current ASCA Tracking Rules and Regulations and accept all Judges' responsibilities described in the above documents.
6. I hereby hold harmless ASCA's Directors, officers, employees and the ASCA Tracking Committee members from any liability, causes of actions, and damages I may incur as a result of the processing and investigating related to this application. I further certify by affixing my name to this application all of the information I have supplied in or attached to this document is true and correct in all aspects.

Signature:

Date: