



International
Sheep Dog
Society

Registered Charity No. 209009

**THE 2017
WORLD SHEEP DOG TRIALS
13 – 16 July 2017
Hoogwoud, Opmeer,
The Netherlands**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPETITORS
AND RULES**

February 2017

The International Sheep Dog Society

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1. DEFINITIONS AND PROVISION

INTERNATIONAL SHEEP DOG SOCIETY

The International Sheep Dog Society (referred to as the Society or ISDS) has been delegated responsibility for the structure and rules of the competition. Its officials will manage liaison with all national organisations.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The ISDS recognises appropriate National Organisations, be they ISDS Associate societies, associations, societies or clubs, whose object is to organise national sheepdog trials in countries other than the UK and Ireland, and who seek further the working sheepdog in the form recognised as the working Border Collie. Dogs may be registered with a physically distinct organisation, in the form of a national registry or National Kennel Club, but may be referred to here as registered to a National Organisation.

TRIALS COMMITTEE

A Trials Committee has been appointed by the ISDS with powers to make decisions regarding the interpretation and administration of any rule in question, to lay out the course, and generally supervise the running of the Trial. A majority of the Committee will be a valid quorum for any decision.

OFFICIALS

The Judges and Course Directors shall be members of the ISDS or National Organisations and selected by the Trials Committee. No such official may be a competitor at the Trial.

Timekeepers and others assisting with the conduct of the trials will be appointed by the Trials Committee. They will be instructed in their duties by a member of the Trials Committee and will take direction from the Judges and Course Directors as appropriate during the conduct of the trials.

TRIALS SECRETARY

The Trials Secretary shall manage all communications with competitors off the trial field and be responsible for the collection of results from Judges and their display. All formal communications from competitors must be through the Secretary.

GENDER EQUALITY

The male gender is used throughout for ease of reading but all text applies equally to females and the terms he/she or his/her are equivalent

PROVISION

This document is binding upon the organisers of the trial and all entrants. However, the organisers reserve the right for the Trials Committee to make reasonable changes to any text, before or during the trial, for reasons of clarity, welfare, safety, official guidance or emergency response. Such changes will be communicated to all competitors.

2. COMPETITOR ENTRIES

1. Competitors must be a member of the ISDS or a National Organisation for 2017. Entry is by individuals through their National Organisation or other agreed means, but acceptance is based upon competition ranking as stated by their National Organisation for 2016, or by other agreed qualification.
2. Each National Organisation will provide a list of successful entrants, giving handler and dog in the order achieved in competition as specified by that National Organisation for 2016. Such List will comprise a number of Qualifying Dogs totalling no more than the number specified by nation as follows:

Argentina	2
Austria	4
Belgium	8
Brazil	5
Canada	5
Chile	1
Czech Republic	4
Denmark	9
Faroese	4
Finland	8
France	9
Germany	15
Hungary	2
Iceland	2
Israel	2
Italy	5
Japan	3
New Zealand	3
Norway	15
Poland	2
Portugal	4
South Africa	5
Spain	2
Sweden	15
Switzerland	9
Uruguay	1
USA	10
Netherlands	19
England	19
Ireland	19
Scotland	19
Wales	19
TOTAL =	249

If any pre-assigned nation cannot fill their places, the organisers may, at their discretion, add a new competing nation and/or award unfilled places to reserve handlers from any other nation.

3. Entry forms must be completed either online or by paper copy, which must be sent to the ISDS Office by the National Organisation and by **31 March 2017** with a fee of £110.00 for each dog entered. Once accepted, fees are non-returnable except on presentation to the Secretary an original veterinary certificate stating that the dog is unfit to compete, before the end of the competition. Note Travelling Reserves will have their entry fee refunded minus the four-day entry fee.

4. All competitors are entered for the individual championship.
5. Five competitors from a country may be nominated by that National Organisation to select one dog each, to form a team and be entered in the team competition that occurs while qualifying trials take place. Nations that are geographically related, but with insufficient numbers to make separate teams, may apply to the Trials Committee to form a pan-National team. Note smaller nations may also form a team with handlers who run two dogs i.e. 3 Handlers entered with 5 dogs are eligible for the Team Competition.
6. Competitors may enter dogs that they do not own, in such case the name and nationality of the owner must be declared and will additionally be shown in the programme. A dog may be run only once in qualifying.
7. Competitors may enter one or two dogs against their name. Where two dogs are entered, both will appear their national Ranking List. The competitor may not elect which dog he or she wishes to run first; this will be subject to random draw. The entry fee must be paid for each dog.
8. Additionally, a competitor may enter an Alternate dog for each dog he enters; this dog does not have to appear on any National Qualifying list. It can be run as a substitute for a single dog, or either of the first or second dogs entered; on the programme they will be listed separately. Where two dogs are entered with two alternate dogs – the alternate dogs will be dog 1 or dog 2 specific and cannot be switched. If a competitor wishes to run the Alternate dog the Secretary must be notified in writing 12 hours before the start of that day's trialling of such change. Late substitution may be granted by the Trials Committee if there is a supporting veterinary case. The Alternate dog, once so substituted, must continue the competition. The entry fee must be paid for an Alternate dog.
9. Any competitor whose entry is rejected for any reason shall have a right of appeal to the Trials Committee whose decision shall be final.

3. REGISTRATION OF DOGS

1. All dogs entered must come into one of the following categories:
 - a). ISDS Registered (all valid certificates).
 - b). Registered with a National Organisation and with an authorised pedigree
2. All dogs entered must be fit and in good health and have passed necessary national health requirements, for example for eye disease, as required for competition.

4. RULES FOR DOGS

1. No dog which is unfit, blind or lame or is suffering from an infectious disease shall be brought on the ground.
2. No dog in competition shall wear or carry anything that might in any way assist or modify his performance. Colouring, dyeing or decorating a dog is prohibited.
3. Any competitor whose bitch is in season must notify the Secretary before starting time on the day the bitch is to run, and must not bring her on to the Trial ground on any day prior to the day on which she is running, or on the Trial day before receiving the Trials Committee's permission.

5. THE JUDGES

1. Two or more judges shall be appointed for each qualifying course and be of different nationality. Between two or more Judges shall be appointed for the Semi-finals and Finals and must be of different nationality.
2. Each Judges' points for a run shall be arithmetically added producing a total for each element and will be posted on the results board. Individual Judges' points will be made available to each competitor after the end of the competition.
3. The Judges shall give instruction to the Course Director and have the duty to call off a competitor if he shows insufficient merit, or makes such slow progress that the course cannot be completed in reasonable time, or if the welfare of the sheep or dog are in question. In such instance the Judges decision is final.

4. The judges may instruct the Course Director to stop a dog at any point of his trial and order a re-run if they consider the circumstances warrant such action. The re-run will commence where the original run was stopped and the points scored before stopping take place will stand.
5. In the case of a re-run being ordered because of a wrong number of sheep having been let out, or sheep wrongly marked or one or more sheep being unsound for working, the judges shall decide whether the run should be from the beginning or from which point it is to re-start. If decided that the re-run start at any point other than the beginning the points scored up to the point of the re-start shall stand.
6. In the case of a dog gripping, the judges shall give instructions to stop the run if two or more agree. If the run is not stopped the Judges may agree to deduct points, but not exceeding the number of points allowed for the phase of work in which the gripping occurs. The decision must be communicated to the competitor.
7. A competitor who is disqualified shall lose all his points for that run.

5.1 JUDGING PRINCIPLES

The following Judging Principles are copied from the ISDS Rules For Trials (2016) be used in conjunction with the information on courses.

1. The ISDS stands firmly for a common standard and this should and must be the constant aim of every Judge and Handler.
2. It is intended that these rules will guide Judges at National, International and local trials to adopt that common standard.
3. It is the Judges' responsibility to ensure that they judge in accordance with these rules.
4. Every Judge accepting an invitation to act at any of the Society's Trials will be held, by his/her acceptance, to have given an undertaking that he/she will judge strictly according to the Rules laid down by the Society and that he/she will not favour any dog, man/woman or country.
5. The Judge who openly or secretly judges according to his/her own ideas of what a good trial run should be does no service either to the Society or the competitors.
6. Judges must at all times point runs, up to the point of completion, retirement or disqualification, directly on to the official Society Judging Sheets.
7. It must be acknowledged that it is not always an easy task to decide the merits of a run AS A WHOLE and Judges should always have a good look at the score sheet after the run has been completed and should then decide whether or not they have been too severe or too lax in any one aspect after marking.
8. Judges are cautioned not to discuss the merits or otherwise of a run with any other person outside the Judges' Box while the Trial is in progress. Should such an approach be made the Judge will refer them to this rule.
9. The Judges are empowered to direct any Competitor showing insufficient merit to retire, bearing in mind the necessity to safeguard the welfare of the dogs and sheep.
10. The run commences when the dog is directed /leaves the handler on its outrun.
11. The run finishes and the Judge completes his/her marking when either the pen gate is closed on the sheep or the Judge accepts the single, or which ever is the final phase or immediately there has been a disqualification, retirement or time is called.
12. The command by whistle is to be regarded as the same as a spoken command.
13. Good handling in difficult situations will be taken into consideration by the Judge.
14. No points will be awarded for any phase of work that has not been completed within the prescribed time limit.
15. The Judges decision is final providing their conduct is in accordance with the Rules for Trials.

6. COURSE DIRECTORS

1. The Assistant Course Directors shall take on the duties described here whenever he/she is so charged by the Course Director or the Trials Committee.
2. The Course Director shall call competitors in their turn according to the programme, unless directed otherwise by the Trials Committee.
3. The Course Director shall ensure that sheep are correctly presented at the top of the field in good time and give instruction for their removal at the end of a run.
4. If requested by the competitor before the run starts to explain the course, the Course Director shall do so.
5. After commencement of the run the Course Director shall not communicate with the competitor unless instructed to do so by the Judges or if so requested by a competitor to request the Judges to deliberate on an unsound sheep.
6. If the Course Director considers that a competitor has been disadvantaged by the letting out of the sheep for some reason, or if he/she considers the situation ripe for retirement, he/she is empowered to approach the Judges for their deliberation on the issue.
7. The Course Director shall be available at all times during the trial to convey to the competitor any instructions from the Judges.
8. The Course Director is responsible at all times for keeping the course clear and ensuring that the competitors or their dogs are not interfered with in any way while competing.

7. COMPETITOR RULES

1. Competitors must wear competition numbers and any sponsor logos in the form issued by the Trials Committee (a tie-on cover or tabard) at all times when on the trial field and waiting to be called. Tabards are to be worn for parading, trialling and during presentations and whenever required. Failure to wear the tabard, or to obscure it, will result in disqualification. There is no restriction on competitor-selected sponsor-related clothing.
2. Competitors who are waiting shall keep their dogs under proper control at all times and any dog or owner interfering or causing a distraction while another dog or competitor are working may be subject to disqualification.
3. Competitors and/or others shall not take their dogs on to the course before the competition starts, nor shall any of them run their dogs on the trial sheep before the trials. Competitors without their dogs may inspect the course before the trial commences.
4. Each competitor must be ready when called by the Course Director and anyone failing to answer the call shall be disqualified and forfeit his run. Competitors are required to note that while the order of the programme will be followed strictly the timing cannot be guaranteed.
5. Any competitor wishing to have the course explained or have any point clarified must question the Course Director before he starts his run; he cannot have questions answered once his run commences. The Course Director will tell the competitor when he is able to start. By commencing his run he is presumed to know the course and follow it in all its details; from then on he is entirely in the hands of the Judges.
6. If not previously stopped on the instructions of the Judges, a competitor will be called off at the expiry of the time limit, but in such case his points to the stage at which he is called off will count. On the bell sounding, a competitor will cease working his dog and may be asked to collect his sheep and remove them from the course immediately.
7. Any competitor in the Qualifying Trial may retire, but only by turning to the Judges in appeal and with the Judges' permission, in which case points up to the time of retiring shall still count.
8. Any competitor who receives assistance during the run in any form will be disqualified.
9. Competitors are required to make themselves available to attend any meeting of the Trials Committee and give evidence at any enquiry relating to the conduct of the Trial. A refusal to do so may result in disqualification.

8. TRIAL ARRANGEMENTS

8.1. QUALIFYING and TEAM COMPETITION

1. The order of running for qualifying shall be decided by ballots to be drawn such that no competitor shall run two dogs on the same field on same day.

Four of the five team members for each Nation shall not run on the same field on the same day.

The order of running shall be communicated to competitors in the Programme and that order shall be adhered to unless the Trials Committee allow or instruct a change

2. Qualifying runs will commence at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday 13 July and Friday 14 July. Up to three physical fields will be in use: No.1, No.2 and No.3. There will thus be up to six 'qualifying fields'.
3. At the end of each day on each field the Judges from each qualifying field shall ensure that they have sufficient competitors with higher points than others to proceed to the Semi-finals. If there are six qualifying fields then seven competitors will proceed; if five qualifying fields then eight will proceed; if four qualifying fields then ten will proceed. If not the rules for Equality will apply and such results will be displayed before the end of that day.

On the end of the second day of qualifying the Secretary shall ensure that when the team members' points are added there is a clear ranking of the three highest placed teams. If not the rules for Equality will apply.

8.2. SEMI-FINALS

1. Depending upon the number of qualifying fields, the top seven, eight or ten dogs from each qualifying field on each day will be entered to a ballot to select a running order for the semi-finals. No competitor shall have to run a second dog immediately following the first. The order of running shall be displayed the evening before the semi-finals and that order shall be adhered to unless the Trials Committee allow or instruct a change. Competitor numbers will be retained. The number of dogs running in the Semi-finals will thus be 42 or 40.
2. Semi-final runs will commence at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday 15 July in the Main field.
3. At the end of the semi-finals the Judges shall ensure that they have sixteen competitors with higher points than the seventeenth ranked. If not the rules for Equality will apply and such results will be displayed before the end of that day.

8.3. FINALS

1. The top sixteen dogs from the semi-finals will be entered to a ballot to select a running order for the finals. No competitor shall have to run a second dog immediately following the first. The order of running shall be displayed the evening before the finals and that order shall be adhered to unless the Trials Committee allow or instruct a change
2. The Finals will commence at a time to be announced on Saturday 15 July in the Main field.
3. Results will not be announced during the competition. The competition will be decided using a Merit Points calculation.

Take the ranking of competitors by points for each Judge in turn and award 16 points for first, 15 for second, etc.

If two have the same Judges' points, the Merit Points are a share of the next two positions and where three have the same the Merit Points are a share of the next three, etc. For example, if two dogs are on the same Judge's points and the next level is 12 Merit Points, they will be awarded $(12+11, \text{divided by } 2) = 11.5$ Merit Points each. Three dogs at 10 points will receive $(10+9+8, \text{divided by } 3) = 9$ Merit Points each.

The sum of the Merit Points, calculated by Judge for each dog, decides the final ranking with the highest number coming first. For example, with five Judges, if each Judge placed the same dog in top place it would receive $(16+16+16+16+16) = 80$ Merit Points.

In the event of Merit Points being equal for any dog the final order will be decided by the total number of Judges' Points awarded. If these are equal then points on Outrun, Lift and Fetch added together will decide.

9. QUALIFYING AND SEMI-FINALS COURSE

The Course, Scale of Points, Time Limit and Judging Standards used will be as defined in the ISDS Rules For Trials (2016) section 5.2 for the National and International Qualifier Championships. It is reproduced here.

9.1 Course

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAYING OUT THE COURSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES RESTS WITH THE TRIALS COMMITTEE.

The Course, Scale of Points and Time Limit now fixed by the Directors are set out below.

The Trials shall be on 5 sheep so selected that each competitor shall receive the same class of sheep if possible.

Subject to the reservation that the Course may be altered by the Trials Committee, the Trial shall, if possible, be decided on the following Course, Scale of Points and Time Limit, viz:

Sheep	5 sheep (3 unmarked and 2 marked with red collars).
Gather	400 yards from handler.
Fetch.	Set of gates = 7 yards apart, 150 yards from handler, in the centre of the course.
Drive	450 yards over triangular course, 2 sets of gates = 7 yards apart. First set of gates approximately 150 yards from handler. In the case of a short course, when fetch is less than 400 yards, the drive will be lengthened when possible so that the total length of the fetch and the drive is 850 yards, or as near to this length as is reasonably practical.
Shedding ring	40 yards in diameter
Pen	9 feet x 8 feet wide with a gate 8 feet wide, secured by a rope 6 feet long. The gate must open to not less than 170 degrees.

9.2 Outrun

- a. The handler will remain at the post from the commencement of the run.
- b. The dog must be positioned close to the handler/post.
- c. The dog may be sent out on either side.
- d. The dog should not be too straight nor too wide.
- e. The dog should not require any commands beyond the initial set off command.
- f. Commands given should be penalised.
- g. Re-directional commands on the run are less serious than a stop and a command.
- h. A dog not taking the re-directional commands must be penalised more severely than one that does.
- i. The dog should not stop until it has reached the point of balance. The point of balance being where it will lift the sheep in the direction of the first obstacle.
- j. It is obviously more serious if a dog stops on its outrun than if it goes on after being re-directed, and Judges should mark accordingly.
- k. The dog should not cut in.
- l. A good outrun should be in the shape of one side of a pear with the blunt end of the pear at the far end of the field near the sheep.
- m. The dog should finish far enough away from the sheep so as not to disturb them.
- n. For a crossed outrun a minimum of 80% of the total points for the Outrun is to be deducted and, in addition, points must be deducted for commands.
- o. The perfect outrun should be completed without any commands and Judges should deduct points for every command given and the loss of points will depend upon the Judges' views of the seriousness of the mistake.

- p. Where the Outrun ends will vary with the actual position of the sheep. If the sheep have left their appointed place at the post, the outrun should end at the point where the dog is facing them in order to bring the sheep in a direct line to the first obstacle. This might necessitate the dog stopping on the side of its outrun if the sheep happened to be coming to meet it, and conversely could mean it going a long way past the post if the sheep were going away from the post in the same direction as it is running.

9.3 Lift

- a. At the end of the Outrun, the dog will either come to a full stop or merely slow down.
- b. The dogs approach should be smooth, cautious and steady.
- c. The dog will take control in a firm and quiet manner.
- d. The dog should not rush in and startle the sheep nor should it lie back and require numerous commands before getting its sheep on the move.
- e. The lift should be smooth and balanced where the sheep move away in a direct line to the first obstacle.
- f. Judges should use their personal knowledge of sheep and sheep dogs to determine whether a lift has disturbed the sheep unduly and mark accordingly.
- g. Judges will deduct points for excessive commands, slowness, etc. at this point of the trial.

9.4 Fetch

- a. The sheep must be brought at a steady pace and in a straight line from the place of lifting to the first obstacle and thereafter in a straight line to the handler/post. If the sheep deviate from the line they should be brought back to that line as soon as practicable.
- b. The dog should not hurry or over-flank the sheep (i.e. that it should not go too far either side of the sheep, thereby turning them across the course and giving a zig-zag movement).
- c. The dog should require few commands and where the sheep stray from the true line the dog's ability is judged by its control of them and its immediate answer to all commands.
- d. No retry at the gate is allowed.
- e. If the gates are missed or if the sheep are off-line, the penalty must reflect all of the circumstances, and in particular the amount of fault attributable to the dog and/or the handler. Both can be the subject of penalties. If the sheep are docile and mistakes are made, then the penalty should be more severe than where the sheep are awkward and thereby contribute to diversions which the dog is unable to avoid.
- f. If a gate is missed there should be a minimum deduction of one point per sheep but Judges must take into consideration all the relevant circumstances contributing to the missing of the gate and adjust deductions accordingly.
- g. Unless instructed otherwise by the Trials Committee, at the end of the Fetch the handler shall pass the sheep around the post /behind the handler as close as is practical and the whole work should be done in a steady and smooth manner.

9.5 Driving

- a. The drive can run from left to right or right to left according to the course and the decision of the trials committee.
- b. The first leg of the drive starts immediately the sheep have passed behind the handler/post.
- c. Having driven the sheep through the first set of gates they should be turned immediately on to a direct line across the course to the second set of gates. When through these gates they should then be turned as neatly as possible on to a straight line to the shedding ring.
- d. It is important that the last leg of the drive should be in a straight line to the shedding ring which is usually situated to make this also the most direct line.
- e. The dog should show obvious ability to drive steadily without excessive commands.

- f. The sheep are required to go in straight lines between the obstacles and reasonable turns at the post and at both gates are expected. If the sheep deviate from the line they should be brought back to that line as soon as practicable.
- g. As in the Fetch, the gates are an obstacle to be negotiated also a guide to the alignment of the sheep.
- h. Throughout the Drive the sheep should be kept moving gently - excessive bursts of speed and subsequent stopping are not desirable and should be penalised.
- i. If a gate is missed there should be a minimum deduction of one point per sheep but Judges must take into consideration all the relevant circumstances to the missing of a gate and adjust deductions accordingly.
- j. A retry at any gate is NOT allowed.
- k. The handler will remain at the post until the first of the sheep is in the shedding ring.
- l. The Drive ends when ALL of the sheep enter the shedding ring.

9.6 Shedding

- a. Two unmarked sheep to be shed within the ring.
- b. Shedding necessitates negotiation of the sheep within the ring by the handler and dog to the best position for effecting the deliberate shed by the dog of two specified sheep.
- c. For the Shed to be complete and deemed satisfactory by the judges, the dog is required to shed two of the un-marked sheep within the ring and show control of them, either in or outside the ring.
- d. The important aspect here is to test the dog's ability to shed or separate the two unmarked sheep from the rest of the flock.
- e. It is not necessary for the dog to come right through to the handler.
- f. The dog is required to show its ability to separate and hold the shed sheep away from the rest of the flock. It is not a requirement for the sheep to be driven away.

9.7 Penning

- a. On completion of the shedding the dog will reunite all of the sheep, not necessarily within the ring but in a practical and workman like manner, and the handler must proceed to the pen, leaving the dog to bring the sheep to the pen.
- b. The handler is forbidden to assist the dog to drive the sheep from the shedding ring to the pen.
- c. The handler will stand at the gate holding the rope and must not let go of the rope unless it is necessary to re-shed.
- d. It is for the dog to manoeuvre the sheep into the desired position to conclude a successful pen.
- e. The handler must not use the gate to lever the sheep into the pen nor should he/she touch the sheep with the pen gate which will result in points being deducted.
- f. The handler must completely close the gate within the time limit/before releasing the sheep again.
- g. After releasing the sheep, the handler will close and fasten the gate and shall be penalised for failure to fasten the gate.

9.8 Single

- a. Pointing of the Single will commence immediately the sheep leave the pen.
- b. The handler will proceed to the shedding ring, leaving the dog to bring the sheep from the pen to the ring.
- c. One of two marked sheep will be shed off within the ring and thereafter worn in or outside the ring to the Judges' satisfaction.
- d. Handlers are forbidden to assist the dog in driving off, or attempting to drive off the single any distance or by forcing it on the dog.
- e. The Single is complete when the dog has worn the sheep to the Judges' satisfaction. The judges will indicate.

- f. As with the Shed the dog and not the handler should come in and cut off the single sheep.
- g. Far too many handlers are seen cutting off the sheep whilst the dog lies back acting as an almost disinterested spectator and should be penalised accordingly.
- h. The greatest help the handler can give his/her dog is by getting out of the way and allowing the dog room to prove its ability to take off and wear a single sheep.
- i. It is essential that the dog should be able to keep the single sheep away from the remainder and the Judges should not express their satisfaction until the dog has been thoroughly tested and they are satisfied that it has proved its ability to do this.
- j. The behaviour of the sheep should be considered by the Judges when deciding whether the Single has been effectively completed or not.

9.9 Scale Of Points

No points will be awarded for any phases of the work that have not been completed within the prescribed time limit.

Outrun (20); Lifting (10); Fetching (20); Driving (30); Shedding (10); Penning (10); Single (10);
Total = 110 points.

9.10 Time Limit

15 minutes. No extension.

10. FINALS COURSE

The Course, Scale of Points, Time Limit and Judging Standards used will be as defined in the ISDS Rules For Trials (2016) section 5.4 for the International Supreme Championship. It is reproduced here:

10.1 Course

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAYING OUT THE COURSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES RESTS WITH THE TRIALS COMMITTEE

The Course, Scale of Points and Time Limit now fixed by the Directors are set out below.

The running will commence at 7:00am or such time as agreed by Trials Committee and dogs will run in the order as shown in the programme for the Qualifying Trial.

The Trials shall be on 20 sheep, 5 marked by red collar, so selected that each competitor shall receive the same class of sheep if possible.

Subject to the reservation that the Course may be altered by the Trials Committee, the Championship shall, if possible, be decided on the following Course, Scale of Points and Time Limit, viz.:

Sheep, 1st packet	10 sheep preferably unseen by dog.
Gathering	Approximately 800 yards from handler
Fetch	Set of gates = 9 yards wide to a post fixed 20 yards through the gate in the centre of the field.
Sheep, 2nd packet	10 sheep preferably unseen by dog.
Gathering	Approximately 800 yards from the handler.
Drive	Total of 600 yards on a triangular course with 2 sets of gates = 9 yards apart. First set of gates to be approximately 200 yards from the handler.
Shedding Ring	40 yards in diameter.
Pen	9 feet x 8 feet with a gate 8 feet wide to which is secured a rope 6 feet long. The Gate must open to not less than 170 degrees.

10.2 Outrun

- a. The first run to be right or left as decided by the Trials Committee before the Trial and all competitors will run on that side, the second run to be on the other side.
- b. The dog must be positioned close to the handler/post.
- c. The dog should not be too straight nor too wide.
- d. The dog should not require any commands beyond the initial set off command.
- e. Commands given should be penalised.
- f. Re-directional commands on the run are less serious than a stop and a command.
- g. A dog not taking the re-directional commands must be penalised more severely than one that does.
- h. The dog should not stop until it has reached the point of balance. The point of balance being where it will lift the sheep in the direction of the first obstacle.
- i. It is obviously more serious if a dog stops on its outrun than if it goes on after being re-directed, and Judges should mark accordingly.
- j. The dog should not cut in on its outrun.
- k. A good outrun should be in the shape of one side of a pear with the blunt end of the pear at the far end of the field near the sheep.
- l. The dog should finish far enough away from the sheep so as not to disturb them.
- m. For a crossed outrun a minimum of 80% of the total points for the Outrun is to be deducted, and in addition, points must be deducted for commands.

- n. The perfect outrun should be completed without any commands and Judges should deduct points for every command given and the loss of points will depend upon the Judges' views of the seriousness of the mistake.
- o. If the sheep have left their appointed place at the post, the outrun should end at the point where the dog is facing them in order to bring the sheep in a direct line to the first obstacle. This might necessitate the dog stopping on the side if its outrun if the sheep happened to be coming to meet it, and conversely could mean it going a long way past the post of the sheep were going away from the post in the same direction as it is running.

10.3 Lift

- a. The dogs approach should be smooth, cautious and steady.
- b. At the end of the Outrun, the dog will come to a full stop or merely slow down.
- c. The dog will take control in a firm and quiet manner.
- d. The dog should not rush in and startle the sheep nor should it lie back and require numerous commands before getting its sheep on the move.
- e. The lift should be smooth and balanced where the sheep move away in a direct line to the first obstacle.
- f. Judges should use their personal knowledge of sheep and sheep dogs to determine whether a lift has disturbed the sheep unduly and mark accordingly.
- g. Judges will deduct points for excessive commands, slowness etc. at this phase of the trial.

10.4 Fetch

- a. The sheep must be brought at a steady pace and in a straight line from the place of lifting to the first obstacle and thereafter to the turn back post. If the sheep deviate from the line they should be brought back to that line as soon as practicable.
- b. The dog should not hurry or over-flank the sheep (i.e. that he should not go too far either side of the sheep, thereby turning them across the course and giving a zig-zag movement).
- c. The dog should require few commands and where the sheep stray from the true line the dog's ability is judged by its control of them and its immediate answer to all commands.
- d. No retry at the gate is allowed.
- e. If the gates are missed or if the sheep are off-line, the penalty must reflect all the circumstances, and in particular the amount of fault attributable to the dog and/or the handler. Both can be the subject of penalties. If the sheep are docile and mistakes are made, then the penalty should be more severe than where the sheep are awkward and thereby contribute to diversions which the dog is unable to avoid.
- f. If a gate is missed there should be a minimum deduction of half a point per sheep but Judges must take into consideration all the relevant circumstances contributing to the missing of the gate and adjust deductions accordingly.
- g. The first fetch is complete when the sheep have reached the turn back post.
- h. The dog having reached the post will then be suitably positioned to be redirected for the second lot of sheep (if possible unseen by the dog).
- i. The second lot of sheep should also be brought through the gate in a straight line towards a point parallel to the first lot of sheep (where possible).
- j. In the eventuality of the first lot of sheep drifting back to the far side of the Fetch, in the line of the second gather, the handler may, in a workmanlike manner, unite the two lots of sheep before negotiating the fetch gates.
- k. The dog will unite the two lots of sheep by gathering the first lot and bringing them to the second lot. This to be executed in such a manner that all the sheep will be united before the completion of the Fetch.
- l. At the end of the fetch the handler will pass the sheep around the post/behind the handler as close as is practical and the whole work should be done in a steady and smooth manner.

10.5 Driving

- a. The drive can run from left to right or right to left according to the course and the decision of the trials committee.
- b. The line of the drive starts immediately the sheep have passed behind the handler/post.
- c. Having driven the sheep through the first set of gates they should be turned immediately on to a direct line across the course to the second set of gates. When through these gates they should then be turned as neatly as possible on to a straight line to the shedding ring.
- d. It is important that the last leg of the drive should be in a straight line to the shedding ring which is usually situated to make this also the most direct line.
- e. The dog should show obvious ability to drive steadily without excessive commands.
- f. The sheep are required to go in straight lines between the obstacles and reasonable turns at the post and at both gates are expected. If the sheep deviate from the line they should be brought back to that line as soon as practicable.
- g. As in the Fetch, the gates are an obstacle to be negotiated also a guide to the alignment of the sheep.
- h. Throughout the drive the sheep should be kept moving gently - excessive bursts of speed and subsequent stopping is not desirable and should be penalised.
- i. If a gate is missed there should be a minimum deduction of half a point per sheep but Judges must take into consideration all the relevant circumstances to the missing of a gate and adjust deductions accordingly.
- j. No retry at either gate is permitted.
- k. The Drive ends when ALL of the sheep enter the shedding ring.
- l. The handler will remain at the post until the first of the sheep is in the shedding ring.

10.6 Shedding

- a. Fifteen unmarked sheep to be shed off within the ring.
- b. The sheep will be passed between the handler and his/her dog and the dog brought in to stop and hold the marked sheep.
- c. Manoeuvring to take the 5 red collared sheep off in one cut from the 15 is not permitted.
- d. Should any marked sheep leave the shedding ring and join any unmarked sheep already shed off, the unmarked sheep with which the marked sheep have joined will be brought into the ring and shedding resumed.
- e. Until the 15 unmarked sheep have been shed off penning will not be permitted.
- f. The important aspect here is to test the dog's ability to shed or separate the 15 unmarked sheep from the rest of the flock.
- g. Shedding having been completed the handler, in order to operate in a workman like manner, may use the dog to remove the unmarked sheep to a safe distance so as not to interfere with the penning.

10.7 Penning

- a. On completion of the shedding the handler must proceed to the pen, leaving the dog to bring the 5 marked sheep to the pen.
- b. The handler is forbidden to assist the dog to drive the sheep from the shedding ring to the pen.
- c. The handler will stand at the gate holding the rope and must not let go of the rope unless it is necessary to re-shed.
- d. It is for the dog to manoeuvre the sheep into the desired position to conclude a successful pen.
- e. The handler must not use the gate to lever the sheep into the pen nor should he/she touch the sheep with the pen gate which will result in penalties being deducted.
- f. The handler must completely close the gate within the time limit/before releasing the sheep again.
- g. After releasing the sheep, the handler will close and fasten the gate.

10.8 Scale Of Points

No points will be awarded when any phases of the work have not been completed within the prescribed time limit.

Gathering 100 (each Outrun 20; each Lift 10; each Fetch 20); Driving 40; Shedding 20; Penning 10;
Total = 170points.

10.9 Time Limit

30 Minutes. No extension.

11. AWARDS

All competitors shall receive a commemorative medal.

Team results will be announced at the close of qualifying with awards presented that evening or the following morning. Medals and prize money will be awarded to each of the five team members as follows:

TEAM MEMBER	PRIZE	MEDAL
First	£100	Gold
Second	£70	Silver
Third	£50	Bronze

Individual championship results will be declared immediately following the Finals with trophies for the first three places and prize money awarded as follows:

INDIVIDUAL	PRIZE
First	<i>£3,000</i>
Second	<i>£2,000</i>
Third	<i>£1,000</i>
Fourth	<i>£500</i>
Fifth	<i>£250</i>
Sixth	<i>£150</i>

All other finalists will receive an award of £100.

12. EQUALITY

If the Judges are required to separate two or more competitors, or teams, with an equal number of points they shall, at their absolute discretion, settle the order either: a) by comparing for the lowest number of points lost on the outrun, lift and fetch, b) comparing points for the drive, or c) ordering a re- run of any kind.

13. PROTESTS

Any competitor may lodge a written protest, against any contravention of the rules.

Protests must be lodged with the Secretary before or at the close of that day's trialling and shall be considered by the Trials Committee who will take any evidence they deem relevant. Protests will not be accepted following the close of the Finals.

The decision of the Trials Committee is final and the findings shall be communicated by the Secretary.

14. CONTRAVENTION OF RULES

Any competitor or official who contravenes any of the Rules, or who is guilty of conduct on or off the field which, in the opinion of the Trials Committee is prejudicial to the best interests of the ISDS and represented National Organisations, is liable to:

- i. Be disqualified from the Trial.
- ii. Forfeit any prize awarded.
- iii. Be reported to their respective National Organisation with a request for disciplinary action.

The person against whom a complaint has been made shall be entitled to appear before the Trials Committee in person, with or without a supporter, when he will be required to answer any questions put to him.

Any dispute that cannot be settled is subject to interpretation under the Laws pertaining to the Country where the Trial is held.

15. CANCELLATION OF TRIAL

The Trials Committee may cancel or suspend the Trial for any reason beyond their control such as emergency or decree of any Dutch or UK authority; under such cancellation there will be no refund of fees. Any other reason must have the approval of the Council of the ISDS.