



International Sheep Dog Society

Registered Charity No. 209009

THE 2023 WORLD SHEEP DOG TRIALS

Gill Hall Estate, Lurgan Road, Dromore, Co. Down, BT25 1JL
Northern Ireland

By kind permission of Bill and James Porter

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INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES FOR COMPETITORS

Version: May 2022

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DEFINITIONS, PROVISION AND GLOSSARY

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 administrative function/CEO will manage liaison with all National Organisations.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The ISDS recognises appropriate National Organisations, be they ISDS Associate Societies, associations, or clubs, whose object is to organise national sheepdog trials in countries other than the UK and Ireland, and who seek to 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

The Trials Committee is usually comprised of the ISDS Chairman, Vice Chairman and the National Presidents of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The Trials Committee has the power to decide on an interpretation of 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.

In addition to the Trials Committee there is an Organising Committee and appointed Trials Officials.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

A team of volunteers headed up by the local Chairman and Local Secretary, who organise and enable the trial to take place. This team will be providing assistance at the trial to competitors and contribute to the smooth running of the event.

TRIALS OFFICIALS

Judges, Course Director, Head Sheep Steward, Timekeepers and ISDS Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Events and Operations Manager (EOM)

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 Committee and will take direction from the Judges and Course Directors as appropriate, during the course of the trials.

ISDS CEO

Formerly known as the Trials Secretary, the ISDS CEO shall manage all communications with competitors off the trial field and be responsible for the collection of results from Judges and their onward communication.

GENDER EQUALITY

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

PROVISION

This document is binding upon the Organisers of the trial and all entrants, it should be read in conjunction with *ISDS Rules for Trials*, which can be obtained from the ISDS Website. However, the Organisers reserve the right for the Trials Committee to make reasonable changes to any text, before

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or during the trial, for reasons of clarity, welfare, safety, official guidance, or emergency response. Such changes will be communicated to all competitors.

This document sets out the instructions and guidance for the Senior Trial *and* Young Handler Trial, where there are variations in the Senior and Young Handler Competition it is defined separately, otherwise all rules apply to both the Senior and Young Handler Competition.

1. COMPETITOR ENTRIES

1.1 ELIGIBILITY

- a. Eligible Countries will be contacted by the ISDS office to register their interest to participate in the World Trials.
- b. When all eligible countries have registered their interest the ISDS Council will provide a competitor allocation to each country. This is the number of dogs a country is permitted to enter. The Nation does not have to fulfil this number i.e., if 4 places are awarded it is ok to accept 2 places.
- c. If any pre-assigned nation cannot fill their allocated places, the ISDS Council may, at their discretion, add a new competing nation and/or award unfilled places to any other nation.
- d. Competitor/Handler, Dog and Owner, must all be a member of/registered with the National Organisation of the Country they will be representing for the year of the competition. [2023]
- e. The Entrant must have their main residence in the represented Nation at the time of submitting the entry form and have resided there for at least 9 months prior to the time of submitting the entry form.
- f. *The Young Handler Trial is open to competitors aged 18 and under on the 1st January in the year of the trial. A competitor is not eligible to compete in the Young Handler Trial if they have represented their Nation at Senior level prior to competing in the World Trial.*

1.2 ENTRIES

- a. Each National Organisation will provide a list of entrants to the ISDS office, stating handler and dog combinations ranked in an order of merit.
- b. The number of entrants on the list cannot be greater than the number of positions allocated to that country by the ISDS Council.
- c. A Country can also nominate a Reserve who can replace a handler in case of emergency. The Reserve will appear in the Programme and an entry fee must be paid at the time of entering.
- d. The National Organisation must submit completed entry forms either online or by paper copy, to the ISDS Office by the **1st April 2023** with a fee of £125.00 for each dog entered.
- e. *There is no entry fee for the Young Handler Trial.*
- f. Once accepted, fees are non-refundable except on presentation to the CEO 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 if they do not compete, minus the four-day gate entry fee which will be retained by the ISDS.
- g. All competitors are entered for the Individual Championship.
- h. Five dogs (and their handlers) from a country entering the Senior Individual Championship may be nominated by that National Organisation to be entered into the Team Competition; results are determined from the qualifying trials on days 1 and 2.
- i. Nations that are geographically related, but with insufficient numbers to make their own separate teams, may apply to the Trials Committee to form a pan-National team.
- j. Nations who are unable to form their own team of five individuals, 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.
- k. Competitors may be entered as substitute handler for dogs that they do not own. As per Rules for Trials the name and nationality of the Owner must be declared and will additionally be shown in

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the programme. The Handler, dog and Owner must be of the same represented Nation (as written in 1.1d above)

- l. A dog may be run only once in qualifying, except in the case of a re-run.
- m. Competitors may enter one or two dogs against their name. Where two dogs are entered, both will appear on 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 entered in the Senior Trial.
- n. 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.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Where two dogs are entered with two alternate dogs – the alternate dogs will be dog 1 or dog 2 specific and cannot be switched.
 - iii. If a competitor wishes to run the Alternate dog, the CEO must be notified in writing before the start of that day's trialling of such change.
 - iv. Late substitution may be granted by the Trials Committee, if there is a supporting veterinary case.
 - v. The Alternate dog, once substituted, must continue the competition.
 - vi. The entry fee of £125 must also be paid for Alternate dogs in the Senior Trial.
- o. Any competitor whose entry is rejected for any reason shall have a right of appeal as per Rules for Trials, to the Trials Committee whose decision shall be final.

2. REGISTRATION OF DOGS

- a. All dogs entered must come into one of the following categories:
 - i. ISDS Registered (all valid certificates).
 - ii. Registered with a National Organisation and with an authorised pedigree
 - iii. All dogs entered must be fit and in good health
- b. Entrants, please check the host nation entry requirements for travelling with dogs before you travel.

3. RULES FOR DOGS

- a. 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.

4. THE JUDGES

4.1 JUDGING PRINCIPLES

- a. The Judging Principles are in-line with the ISDS Rules For Trials

4.2 SENIOR TRIAL

- a. Two judges shall be appointed for each qualifying course and be of different nationality.
- b. Five Judges shall be appointed for the Semi-Finals and Finals and must be of different nationality.
 - a. Each Judges' points for a run shall be arithmetically added producing a total for each element and will be communicated.

4.3 YOUNG HANDLER TRIAL

- a. Two or more Judges shall be appointed for each Qualifying course, Semi-Finals and Finals be of different nationality.
- b. Each Judges' points for a run shall be arithmetically added producing a total for each element and will be communicated.

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5. COURSE DIRECTORS

- a. The Course Directors Principles are in-line with the ISDS Rules For Trials

6. COMPETITOR RULES

- a. 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.
- b. Competitors are required to make themselves available to attend any meeting of the Trials Committee and give evidence at any enquiry relating to conduct at the Trial. A refusal to do so without justification or explanation may result in disqualification.

7. TRIAL ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 SENIOR TRIAL AND TEAM COMPETITION QUALIFYING

- a. The order of running for qualifying shall be decided by ballot to be scheduled such that no competitor shall run two dogs on the same field on same day.
- b. Four of the five team members for each Nation shall not run on the same field on the same day.
- c. The order of running shall be communicated in advance to competitors and in the Programme and that order shall be adhered to unless the Trials Committee allow or instruct a change.
- d. Qualifying runs will commence at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th September 2023. Up to three physical fields will be in use: No.1, No.2 and No.3. There will thus be up to six 'qualifying trials'.
- e. At the end of each day on each field, the Judges from each qualifying trial shall ensure that they have sufficient competitors with higher points than others to proceed to the Semi-Finals.
 - I. There are six qualifying trials, therefore seven competitors per trial will proceed
 - II. If there are not 7 clearly identifiable competitors, the rules for "Equality of Points" as per Rules for Trials will apply.
 - III. The results will be displayed before the end of that day.
- f. On the end of the second day of qualifying, the CEO 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 of Points" will apply.

7.2 YOUNG HANDLER TRIAL QUALIFYING

- a. There is no team competition in the Young Handler Trial
- b. The order of running for qualifying shall be decided by ballots.
- c. 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
- d. Qualifying runs will commence at 12:30 p.m. on Friday 15th September 2023.
- e. At the end of the qualifying runs, the judges will announce the three (3) competitors who progress to the Final.

7.3 SENIOR TRIAL SEMI-FINALS

- a. With six qualifying trials, the top seven dogs from each qualifying trial on each day will be entered into a ballot to select a running order for the Semi-Finals.
- b. Where a competitor qualifies two dogs, they will not have to run them consecutively.
- c. 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.

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- d. Competitor numbers will be retained. The number of dogs running in the Semi-Finals will thus be 42.
- e. Semi-final runs will commence at 7:30 a.m. on Friday 15th September 2023 on a designated field.
- f. 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 of Points” will apply and such results will be displayed before the end of that day.

7.4 SENIOR TRIAL FINALS

- a. The top sixteen dogs from the Semi-Finals will be entered into a ballot to select a running order for the Finals.
- b. Where a competitor qualifies two dogs, they will not have to run them consecutively.
- c. 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.
- d. The Finals will take place on Saturday 16th September 2023, on the Main field. The start time will be 07:30 unless advised otherwise the day before.
- e. Results will not be announced during the competition. The competition will be decided using a Merit Points calculation, as per the Rules for Trials Appendix – “Merit Point Calculations”.

7.5 YOUNG HANDLER TRIAL FINALS

- a. The top three dogs from the qualifying trial will be entered into a ballot to select a running order for the Finals. 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
- b. The Finals will commence on Saturday 16th September 2023 on the Main field, shortly after the Main Finals have completed.
- c. Results will not be announced during the competition.
- d. In the case where two competitors have the same points, the rules for “Equality” will apply.

8. QUALIFYING AND SEMI-FINALS COURSES

8.1 SENIOR TRIAL QUALIFYING AND SEMI-FINALS COURSE

- a. As per the Rules for Trials “National Qualifying Course”

8.2 YOUNG HANDLER TRIAL QUALIFYING COURSE

- a. See Appendix 1 for details of the Qualifying Course for Young Handlers

9. TRIAL FINAL COURSES

9.1 SENIOR TRIAL FINAL COURSE

- a. The Course, Scale of Points, Time Limit and Judging Standards used will be as defined in the ISDS Rules For Trials “International Championships”. Unless otherwise decided by the Trials Committee.

9.2 YOUNG HANDLER TRIAL FINAL COURSE

- a. See Appendix 2 for details of the Finals Course for Young Handlers

10. AWARDS

- a. All competitors shall receive a commemorative medal.

10.1 SENIOR TRIAL AWARDS

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

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| TEAM | PRIZE | MEDALS |
|--------|-------|--------|
| First | £100 | Gold |
| Second | £70 | Silver |
| Third | £50 | Bronze |

- c. 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 | Special Awards |
|------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| First | £3,000 | Engraved Whistle Gold Medal |
| Second | £2,000 | Engraved Whistle Silver Medal |
| Third | £1,000 | Engraved Whistle Bronze Medal |
| Fourth | £500 | World Trial Medal |
| Fifth | £250 | World Trial Medal |
| Sixth | £150 | World Trial Medal |

- d. All other finalists will receive an award of £100 with their commemorative medal.

10.2 YOUNG HANDLER TRIAL AWARDS

- a. Prizes will be awarded to the Winner and Runners Up.
- b. Commemorative medals will be awarded to all competitors

11. PROTESTS

- a. As per the Rules for Trials

12. CONTRAVENTION OF RULES

- a. 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.
- b. The person against whom a complaint has been made shall be entitled to appear before the Trials Committee in person.
- c. Any dispute that cannot be settled is subject to interpretation under the Laws pertaining to the Country where the Trial is held.

13. CANCELLATION OF TRIAL

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

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APPENDICES – YOUNG HANDLER COURSE DETAILS

APPENDIX 1 – YOUNG HANDLER QUALIFYING COURSE

Course

- a. The responsibility for laying out the course in accordance with the rules rests with the Trials Committee.
- b. The Course, Scale of Points and Time Limit now fixed by the Trials Committee are set out below.
- c. The Trials shall be on 5 sheep so selected that each competitor shall receive the same class of sheep if possible.
- d. 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.
 - i. Sheep: 5 sheep (all unmarked).
 - ii. Gather: Should be approximately 275 yards from handler.
 - iii. Fetch: Set of gates = 7 yards apart, 150 yards from handler, in the centre of the course.
 - iv. Drive: 330 yards over triangular course, 2 sets of gates = 7 yards apart. First set of gates approximately 110 yards from handler.
 - v. Shedding ring: 40 yards in diameter
 - vi. 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.

1) 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.

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2) 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.

3) 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. 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 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.

4) Drive

- 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.

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- 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.**

5) Pen

- a. The handler is allowed to get away from the post when the first sheep is in the ring.
- 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.
- 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.

6) Time Limit

- a. The Trials Committee will decide the time limit once the Course is set.

Scale Of Points

- a. No points will be awarded for any phases of the work that have not been completed within the prescribed time limit.
- b. Outrun (20); Lifting (10); Fetching (20); Driving (30); Penning (10); Total = 90 points.

APPENDIX 2 – YOUNG HANDLER FINALS COURSE

Course

- a) The responsibility for laying out the course in accordance with the rules, rests with the Trials Committee.
- b) The Trials Committee shall decide on and announce the Final Course in advance of the Finals.

Time Limit

- a. The Trials Committee will decide the time limit once the Course is set.

Scale Of Points

- a. No points will be awarded for any phases of the work that have not been completed within the prescribed time limit.
- b. Outrun (20); Lifting (10); Fetching (20); Driving (30); Shedding (10); Penning (10); Total = 100 points.