

**USBCHA – Director’s Meeting**  
**Date August 1, 2018**

**MINUTES**

Attending: Maria Amodei, Faansie Basson, Wyatt Fleming, Scott Glen, Beverly Lambert (until 6:40 MDT), Lori Perry, David Saunders, Frank Smith, Bob Stephens, Kay Stephens, Linda Tesdahl, Laura Vishoot, Pearse Ward, Terri Warner, Carol Clawson (President).

Absent: Dianne Deal, Stephanie Goracke, Joe Haynes, Tracy Hinton, John Holman, Lyle Lad, Amanda Milliken, Mary Minor, Joni Tietjen

The meeting commenced at 6:00 pm MDT

1. **Finance Report** – Carol briefly reported on the status of the Investment Account at RBC. Earnings to date are \$13,653.55, a return of 4.2% per year. The brokerage fees were renegotiated in April from 1.25% to .55% (from approximately \$3000/yr to \$1300 yr.)
2. **Judging Clinic Video Update** – Linda Tesdahl updated the Board on the status of the judging clinic video. All taping is complete and Dave Isom is working on editing and experimenting with different formats for quality. The project is on time and we expect videos (blu-rays) to be available by the Finals.
3. **Point System:** Maria Amodei gave a brief update of the point system conversion.
4. **Nursery pay-out:** The Board reviewed two proposals for a change in the Nursery payout. The nursery payback has been based on a percentage of a 60-dog nursery class. Classes have been larger in the recent past. The percentage distribution was also reviewed. Upon review of the existing payout schedule and two proposals prepared by Marianna, the Board unanimously adopted Proposal 2. (Motion by Bob Stephens and seconded by Linda Tesdahl.) The adopted pay-out schedule is attached to these minutes.
5. **Judge List proposal:** Carol informed the Board of a suggestion made by Angie-Coker Sells to reach out to members and create a list of handlers who are judging or interested in judging and post it on the website. The Board agreed to the proposal so long as it was clear that the Board or Association was not endorsing any judge on the list but that is simply information about who is interested in judging.
6. **Judging Guidelines:** The Judging Guidelines Subcommittee to the Rules Committee proposed moving some of what are judging guidelines that are in the HA Rules to the Judging Guidelines to make the Guidelines a complete, integrated document. There was discussion on judging guidelines the international shed with respect to whether the handler had to regather the sheep if a collared sheep joined uncollared sheep if all sheep were still in the shedding ring. The Board decided to continue that discussion on the Forum. The Board unanimously adopted the changes attached to these minutes.

7. **World Trial Qualification Criteria:** The Board reviewed the World Trial Committee Report and discussed the options proposed by the Committee. After discussion of the various options, Pearse Ward made a motion to adopt the criteria as follows, seconded by Linda Tesdahl. The motion passed unanimously.

World Team Qualification: Places in the USA team for the World Sheepdog Trials will be offered to the top five (5) American teams from the 2019 USBCHA Sheepdog Finals and the top five (5) American teams from the 2018 USBCHA Sheepdog Finals. If all ten (10) teams selected do not accept, the remaining places will be offered to American teams placing sixth (6th) through seventeenth (17th) at the 2019 USBCHA Sheepdog Finals. If the ten (10) places on Team USA are still not filled, places will be offered to those American teams finishing eighteenth (18th) through fortieth (40th) (i.e. semi-Finalists) from the 2019 USBCHA Sheepdog Finals.

Carol will post a Forum topic for a discussion about funding.

8. **Other Business:** Carol reminded the Board that Officer Nominations are due by Oct. 5, with an election by Nov. 5. She suggested a meeting for elections and other matters shortly after October 5.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. MDT

## Nursery Sheep Finals Payback Proposal

### Nursery

This proposal has been updated from the proposal submitted at the beginning of 2018.

The nursery payback has been based on a percentage of a 60-dog nursery class. It is my understanding there was Director agreement prior to 2012 to pay a fixed amount and reserve any additional entry fees to help support the cost of the National Finals such as increasing the number of dogs, days of competition, sheep costs and transportation.

#### Proposed Changes:

1. Approve percentages for each placing: Proposal 1 or 2
2. Designate the amount of payback
  - Flat rate based on range of entries:
    - Amount of \$10,000 for 90 & over dogs
    - Amount of \$9,500 for 80-89 dogs
    - Amount of \$9,000 for 70-79 dogs
    - Amount of \$7,000 for 60-69 dogs

Proposed percentages compared to previous years				
NURSERY	Proposal 1 (%)	Proposal 2 (%)	2012 & 2013 (%)	2014-2017 (%)
1st	15.000	16.000	14.52	9.800
2nd	11.000	12.000	12.74	9.000
3rd	9.000	8.000	10.36	8.500
4th	7.750	6.000	8.57	7.000
5th	6.500	5.500	7.98	6.000
6th	5.500	5.250	6.19	5.750
7th	4.500	5.000	5.00	5.500
8th	4.000	4.750	4.40	5.250
9th	3.750	4.500	3.81	5.000
10th	4.250	4.250	3.21	4.750
11th	4.000	4.000	2.62	4.500
12th	3.750	3.750	2.62	4.250
13th	3.500	3.500	2.62	4.000
14th	3.250	3.250	2.62	3.750
15th	3.000	3.000	2.62	3.500
16th	2.750	2.750	2.02	3.250
17th	2.500	2.500	2.02	3.000
18th	2.250	2.250	2.02	2.750
19th	2.000	2.000	2.02	2.500
20th	1.750	1.750	2.02	2.250
	100.000	100.000	99.98	100.300

**Sheep Finals - Nursery Payback**

**PROPOSAL 2**

\$ 12,000.00	Entries	<b>90 Dogs (&amp; over)</b>
\$ 10,000.00	Payback	

\$ 12,000.00	Entries	<b>80 - 89 Dogs</b>
\$ 9,500.00	Payback	

<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>Proposal 1</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rounded</b>
1st	1600.00	16.000	<b>1,600.00</b>
2nd	1200.00	12.000	<b>1,200.00</b>
3rd	800.00	8.000	<b>800.00</b>
4th	600.00	6.000	<b>600.00</b>
5th	550.00	5.500	<b>550.00</b>
6th	525.00	5.250	<b>525.00</b>
7th	500.00	5.000	<b>500.00</b>
8th	475.00	4.750	<b>475.00</b>
9th	450.00	4.500	<b>450.00</b>
10th	425.00	4.250	<b>425.00</b>
11th	400.00	4.000	<b>400.00</b>
12th	375.00	3.750	<b>375.00</b>
13th	350.00	3.500	<b>350.00</b>
14th	325.00	3.250	<b>325.00</b>
15th	300.00	3.000	<b>300.00</b>
16th	275.00	2.750	<b>275.00</b>
17th	250.00	2.500	<b>250.00</b>
18th	225.00	2.250	<b>225.00</b>
19th	200.00	2.000	<b>200.00</b>
20th	175.00	1.750	<b>175.00</b>
	10,000.00	100.000	<b>10,000.00</b>

<b>Proposal 1</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rounded</b>
1520.00	16.000	<b>1,520.00</b>
1140.00	12.000	<b>1,140.00</b>
760.00	8.000	<b>760.00</b>
570.00	6.000	<b>570.00</b>
522.50	5.500	<b>523.00</b>
498.75	5.250	<b>499.00</b>
475.00	5.000	<b>475.00</b>
451.25	4.750	<b>451.00</b>
427.50	4.500	<b>428.00</b>
403.75	4.250	<b>404.00</b>
380.00	4.000	<b>380.00</b>
356.25	3.750	<b>356.00</b>
332.50	3.500	<b>333.00</b>
308.75	3.250	<b>309.00</b>
285.00	3.000	<b>285.00</b>
261.25	2.750	<b>261.00</b>
237.50	2.500	<b>238.00</b>
213.75	2.250	<b>214.00</b>
190.00	2.000	<b>190.00</b>
166.25	1.750	<b>164.00</b>
9,500.00	100.000	<b>9,500.00</b>

\$ 10,500.00	Entries	<b>70 - 79 Dogs</b>
\$ 9,000.00	Payback	

\$ 9,000.00	Entries	<b>60 - 69 Dogs</b>
\$ 7,000.00	Payback	

\* decrease 20th by \$4

\* decrease 20th by \$2

<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>Proposal 1</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rounded</b>
1st	1440.00	16.000	<b>1,440.00</b>
2nd	1080.00	12.000	<b>1,080.00</b>
3rd	720.00	8.000	<b>720.00</b>
4th	540.00	6.000	<b>540.00</b>
5th	495.00	5.500	<b>495.00</b>
6th	472.50	5.250	<b>473.00</b>
7th	450.00	5.000	<b>450.00</b>
8th	427.50	4.750	<b>428.00</b>
9th	405.00	4.500	<b>405.00</b>
10th	382.50	4.250	<b>383.00</b>
11th	360.00	4.000	<b>360.00</b>
12th	337.50	3.750	<b>338.00</b>
13th	315.00	3.500	<b>315.00</b>
14th	292.50	3.250	<b>293.00</b>
15th	270.00	3.000	<b>270.00</b>
16th	247.50	2.750	<b>248.00</b>
17th	225.00	2.500	<b>225.00</b>
18th	202.50	2.250	<b>203.00</b>
19th	180.00	2.000	<b>180.00</b>
20th	157.50	1.750	<b>158.00</b>
	9,000.00	100.000	<b>9,004.00</b>

<b>Proposal 1</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rounded</b>
1120.00	16.000	<b>1,120.00</b>
840.00	12.000	<b>840.00</b>
560.00	8.000	<b>560.00</b>
420.00	6.000	<b>420.00</b>
385.00	5.500	<b>385.00</b>
367.50	5.250	<b>368.00</b>
350.00	5.000	<b>350.00</b>
332.50	4.750	<b>333.00</b>
315.00	4.500	<b>315.00</b>
297.50	4.250	<b>298.00</b>
280.00	4.000	<b>280.00</b>
262.50	3.750	<b>263.00</b>
245.00	3.500	<b>245.00</b>
227.50	3.250	<b>228.00</b>
210.00	3.000	<b>210.00</b>
192.50	2.750	<b>193.00</b>
175.00	2.500	<b>175.00</b>
157.50	2.250	<b>158.00</b>
140.00	2.000	<b>140.00</b>
122.50	1.750	<b>121.00</b>
7,000.00	100.000	<b>7,002.00</b>

## Proposed Update to the Judging Guidelines

In February, the Board made some changes to the Judging Guidelines. As part of those changes, the Board moved what were really judging guidelines from the USBCHA Rules to the Guidelines. Upon further review, there remained in the Rules what are really guidelines. On August 1, 2018, the Board of Directors made the following changes to the Judging Guidelines. In general, the changes move judging guidelines that are found in the Association Rules to the Guidelines for an integrated document.

The changes to the Guidelines are noted in BLUE below. All changes were adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors.

### **CHANGES TO GUIDELINES**

## **2 GENERAL**

### ***2.4 Decorum, Sportsmanship & Humane Rules***

Any conduct not in the best interests of the sport either before, during or after a run can result in a DQ, the handler being reported to the HA, or removal of the handler from the trial field, or all three. This includes unsportsmanlike conduct such as foul or abusive language or actions, any loud remarks made about the judging within earshot of the judge, encouraging aggressive behavior toward the stock by the dog, or deliberate abuse of the stock or dog by the handler. Handlers are possible role models for the general public who admire their abilities with their dogs and their performances on the trial field. Handlers should treat their sport, their fellow competitors, the stock, their dogs and the judge with the same respect that they would like to receive. The good conduct and sportsmanship of dog handlers has been admired for centuries and it is the responsibility of every handler to protect that image. Handlers should try to take defeat with the same grace as they enjoy success.

Handlers should identify themselves and their dogs to the judge or his secretary when requested to do so. Under no circumstances, however, should handlers approach the judge while the judge is working, for discussions on any subject. Handlers should not make any comments in earshot of the judge that could possibly be construed as efforts to influence the judges scoring or represent an opinion of the handler about the judge's scores or abilities. Such behavior could result in an immediate DQ and reporting to the HA for disciplinary action where such action appears appropriate.

Water shall always be available on the field for cooling a dog. Handlers should be allowed to direct a dog to the water and the dog use the water with no points penalty. Handlers should not leave the post to go to the water with the dog. However, if the handler is moving to the shedding ring or moving to the pen, he/she may detour to the water but should not continue to work. The clock will not be stopped. Actions of the stock are still being judged and may result in a loss of points, up to disqualification, if the stock leaves the trial area.

At the recommendation of a veterinarian, course director or at the discretion of the judge, a sick or injured dog will not be allowed to compete.

Motion by Bob Stephens, seconded by Pearse Ward to adopt all proposed changes but to include the above language (in blue) in both the Rules and Guidelines. The remaining items highlighted in blue in this document will be moved from the Rules to the Guidelines. All changes as set forth here were adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors on August 1, 2018.

## **2.7 Touching Sheep**

In any USBCHA sanctioned trial, a handler who touches the sheep shall be penalized by loss of points as the judge thinks appropriate in the circumstances.

## **2.8 Command**

In considering "Command," the handler who gives fewer commands and who works the dog quietly shall be preferred to the handler who over-commands and works the dog noisily, to be judged with regard to the circumstances. In the case of a dog, its obedience to commands given shall be the sole consideration. The points for "Command" are included in the points awarded for each phase of work.

## **2.9 Style**

Style maybe otherwise defined as a dog's attitude to his work and his method of doing it. His attention should be on his master's commands. Inattention, turning away from his sheep, unsteadiness or rashness all amount to poor style and should be penalized. As with command, style is included in the points allowed for each phase of the work.

## **3.5 SHEDDING (10 points)**

There should be a clearly designated area for shedding. Although circumstances may dictate a smaller area or an unmarked ring, it is preferable that such an area be clearly marked and should measure 40 yards in diameter. When the shed is after the pen the handler will proceed to the shedding ring leaving the dog to bring the stock from the pen to the ring. The handler is forbidden to assist the dog in moving the stock. When the shed follows the drive the handler will remain at the post until the first of the stock have entered the shedding area.

Having gotten the stock suitably positioned the dog should come in and take off the required stock and, once having taken them off, the dog must have them under control before the shed can be deemed satisfactory. Too much assistance on the part of the

handler should be penalized as not allowing the dog to demonstrate his shedding ability to the judge. Nevertheless, the circumstances at hand should determine the appropriate point deduction. ~~Since shedding the last sheep on the head is not required by the ISDS rules there are no guidelines to describe how this should be pointed. While it is generally recommended that the stock to be shed be clearly marked (i.e. collars or crayon marks)~~ When the judge is requiring the last animals be shed, the judge should clearly explain to competitors how the judge is judging this work.

The dog must take full control of the shed stock ~~and wear them~~ to the judge's satisfaction, otherwise the shed will not be deemed satisfactory and the shed should be penalized or the handler asked to re-shed by the judge. **Shedding must be done within the ring.** Sheds performed outside the shedding area should not be accepted but must be repeated in the shedding area. **Judges will apply suitable penalty in the case of ragged work, sheep moving out of the ring, splitting the stock incorrectly, when the shed is done by the handler, when opportunity to shed is missed etc.** The test here being to ensure that the dog can shed off and control the required sheep.

On completion of the shedding, the dog will reunite all of the sheep, not necessarily within the ring but in a practical and workmanlike manner, and the handler must proceed to the pen, leaving the dog to bring the sheep to the pen.

### **3.6 PENNING (10 points)**

On completion of the shed the handler must proceed to the pen, leaving the dog to bring the stock. The handler is forbidden to assist the dog in driving the stock to the pen. ~~The handler will stand at the gate holding the rope and must not let go of the rope while the dog works the stock into the pen, at which time the handler closes the gate. After releasing the stock, the handler will close and fasten the gate and shall be penalized for failure to do so.~~ **The handler will keep hold of the gate rope (6 ft. long) until the dog works the sheep into the pen and the gate is closed.** The handler may assist the dog but over assistance should be penalized, as should stock circling the pen or making breaks away from the pen, unsteadiness, rashness, slackness, or any other fault shown by the dog. Scoring for the pen begins when the stock is within 10 yards of the pen, or it is obvious that the penning has begun, in cases of the pen following the drive. When the pen follows the shed, the pen begins upon the judge's acceptance of the shed. The pen is completed when the stock has been removed and the pen gate has been closed and fastened.

### **3.7 SINGLE (10 points)**

There should be a clearly designated area for singling. Although circumstances may dictate a smaller area or an unmarked ring, it is preferable that such an area is clearly marked and should measure 40 yards in diameter. When the single is after the pen, the handler will proceed to the shedding ring, leaving the dog to bring the stock from the pen to the ring. Again, the handler is forbidden to assist the dog in moving the stock. When the single

follows the drive, the handler will remain at the post until the first of the stock has entered the shedding area.

One head will be shed off within the shedding area and thereafter worn (inside or outside the ring) to the judge's satisfaction. **The cut off must be done within the ring, but the wearing may be outside or inside the ring, the test being the dog's ability to hold or completely control a single.** While shedding is a partnership between the handler and the dog, too much assistance on the part of the handler should be penalized as not allowing the dog to demonstrate his shedding ability to the judge.

Handlers are forbidden to assist the dog in driving off or attempting to drive off the single any distance or by forcing the stock onto the dog. ~~Since shedding the last animal on the head is not required by the ISDS rules there are no guidelines to describe how this should be pointed. While it is generally recommended that the stock to be singled be clearly marked (i.e. collars or a crayon mark)~~ When the judge is requiring the last one be shed, the judge should clearly explain to competitors how the judge is judging this work.

If the judge feels that the dog has not been fairly tested owing to the disposition and action of the sheep he may order the handler to collect the stock again and shed off and wear any other animal. As with the shed the dog, not the handler, should come in and cut off the single. The greatest help the handler can give the dog is by getting out of the way and allowing the dog room to prove his ability to take off and wear a single. It is essential that the dog should be able to keep the single away from the remainder and the judge should not express satisfaction until the dog has been thoroughly tested. The judge when deciding whether the single has been effectively completed should consider the behavior of the stock.

### **4.3 Fetches & Drive**

**INTERNATIONAL DRIVE (40 Points):** Both lots of sheep will be driven around a triangular course consisting of two sets of drive gates and will be completed when the sheep enter the shedding ring.

### **4.4 Shed**

**INTERNATIONAL SHEDDING (20 points):** The unmarked sheep are to be shed off within the ring. The shedding must be done by the sheep being passed between the dog and handler with the dog being brought in to stop and turn back any marked sheep. If the sheep are passed between man and dog in the approved manner, it is occasionally possible to get rid of a considerable number, and provided the dog and man are properly positioned and the dog stops any marked sheep that tries to join with the unmarked lot, this is acceptable. There is no rule against the handler changing sides, but judges will assess whether a competitor who does so, or is compelled by circumstances to do so, can



be as good as one who does not change over. If a marked sheep escapes to join a group of unmarked sheep, that group must be brought back into the shedding ring and reunited with the remaining sheep before the shedding can proceed.

Handler and dog change sides. Per occurrence.	1-2 points
Shedding off unwanted animals and driving them away, rather than running the animals off between the dog and handler. Per occurrence-per head.	1-2 points
Marked animal leaves the ring and joins the unmarked animals. Group that the marked animal has joined must be regrouped in the ring before shedding can continue.	3-6 points

#### **CHANGES TO THE RULES AS RESULT OF THE GUIDELINE ADDITIONS**

**THE RULES FOUND IN PART III NOTED BELOW WILL ALL BE MOVED TO THE GUIDELINES AND DELETED FROM THE RULES. ALL OTHER RULES WOULD REMAIN.** This would be consistent with the rest of the Rules and Guidelines.

**NOTE: THE RED LETTERING BELOW WOULD BE ADDED TO THE RULES.**

#### **K. SCORING PRELIMINARY AND SEMI-FINAL RUNS**

**ALL JUDGING AND SCORING GUIDELINES PREVIOUSLY IN THIS SECTION OF THE RULES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE JUDGING GUIDELINES.**

**Section L would be modified as noted below**

#### **L. **ADDITIONAL** SCORING RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL FINALS CLASSES**

1. Individuals judging the USBCHA National Finals should read and follow the USBCHA Rules, and be familiar with the *Judging Guidelines* and ISDS Rules posted on the HA website.
2. If at any time during the running of a class at the National Finals, one of the judges becomes disabled in any way, all of his/her scores in that round will be dropped. Scoring

and placements will be determined solely by the other judge(s) to the end of that round. The Trial Committee may appoint a substitute judge for subsequent rounds.

- ~~3. **TOUCHING SHEEP:** In any of the Association's Trials, a handler who touches the sheep shall be penalized by loss of points as the judge thinks appropriate in the circumstances.~~
- ~~4. **COMMAND:** In considering "Command" the handler who gives fewest commands and who works his dog quietly shall be preferred to the handler who over-commands and works his dog noisily, to be judged with regard to the circumstances. In the case of a dog, its obedience to commands given shall be the sole consideration. The points for "Command" are included in the points awarded for each phase of work.~~
- ~~5. **STYLE:** Style may be otherwise defined as a dog's attitude to his work and his method of doing it. His attention should be on his master's commands. Inattention, turning away from his sheep, unsteadiness or rashness all amount to poor style and should be penalized. As with command, style is included in the points allowed for each phase of the work.~~
6. **DISQUALIFICATION:** A dog which grips or bites shall be disqualified if the gripping or biting is of such character and the circumstances are such as to justify disqualification. When gripping or biting occurs, the judge shall decide at once whether to disqualify the competitor. If the judge disqualifies the dog, he shall instruct the Course Director to stop the competitor. In the event a judge has cause to DQ a competitor, he or she must do so by showing a flag to the course director. This is done with no discussion with the other judge[s]. We are looking for independent action from the judges. If the course director sees a flag from each judge he will confirm then ask the competitor to retire from the field. If the course director does not see a flag from each judge he will leave the contestant on the field. The DQ-ing judge will DQ the contestant on his score sheet and the other judge[s] can keep scoring the contestant.
7. A competitor whose dog damages sheep shall be liable to pay the damage. The judge may stop a competitor at any point of the trial or withhold any prizes on the ground of insufficient merit.
8. Any judge that feels that a dog is not capable of continuing with his run because he is showing signs of stress should disqualify that dog and handler. This would include overheating, lameness or demonstrated inability to do the work required.
9. At the National Finals there will always be water available on the field so the dogs can cool themselves. Handlers are allowed to direct their dogs to the water and the dogs may use the water with no point penalty. Handlers may not leave the post to go to the water with their dog. If the handler is on the way to or in the shedding ring or on the way to the pen, they may detour to the water. The clock will not be stopped. Handler and dog are still being judged on the actions of the stock and anything that the stock do

may cause a loss of points or if the stock leave the trial area disqualification. The HA recommends that all HA sanctioned trials adopt this rule.<sup>9</sup>

10. Except in the case of an injury or illness of either the dog or handler or sickness or injury in the handlers' family, if a contestant refuses to compete in the Final round of the Finals, any money/prizes won in the preliminary or semi-final run will be forfeited. In the event money/prizes have been distributed before the finals, it must be refunded/returned within fifteen (15) days after the refund request is made, or the contestant will be suspended until the money/prizes have been refunded/returned.