

USBCHA BOD MEETING

March 11, 2025

8 PM EST

Attending:

Officers: Lori Cunningham, Russell McCord, Linda DeJong

Directors: Fred Temple, Haley Hunewill, Jamie Spring, Jan Stebbins, Bob Allen, Rachel Ritland, Russell McCord, Lori Perry, Shane Scallan, Paul Batz, Sue Schoen, Marianna Schreeder, Viki Kidd, Peter Gonnett, Scott Glen, Bob Washer, Cy Peterson, Lori Chamberlain

Guest: Geri Byrne, Heather Nadelman

Adoption of Minutes from January 28, 2025

Motion: Cy Peterson

Second: Jan Stebbins

No objections

Update on 2025 Sheepdog Finals:

USBCHA committee: Haley Hunewill, Lori Chamberlain, Patrick Shannahan

Update from Geri Byrne

Location will be 12 miles west of Alturas with 8000 acres available. They are looking at different field options. Committee members will likely be present at some of Geri's upcoming trials which are near the site to evaluate field choices.

Committees have been assigned for handling all aspects of finals.

Ray Crabtree accepted announcer duties

Sheep- lined up and are from same flock as used previously and at other trials in area.

Setout Crews- Nursery crew has been settled, still looking for open setout

Update on Website Redesign Project: Presented by Heather Nadelman

New website nearly completed. Will continue to build in more educational information about USBCHA and its mission. More content will be added to judging information. A goal is to have consistency in Finals websites both in design and domain names. Suggestions for website improvements are always welcome.

BOD thanked Heather for all her hard work.

Financial Committee Report: Presented by Marianna Schreeder

A draft of the financial report was submitted to BOD. Final report will be submitted after taxes are complete.

Rules Committee recommendations regarding ties at sanctioned trials and ranking RTs/DQs at finals: Presented by Russell McCord as chairman of Rule Committee

Proposal for changes was submitted to BOD

Tie breaks: there has been confusion over the years as to how break ties at both the finals and all other USBCHA sanctioned trials. The aim of the committee was to have in writing a consistent system for breaking ties.

Recommendation:

USBCHA rule, Part II: RULES APPLYING TO ALL USBCHA TRIALS, shall read:

D. TIES AND RE-RUNS

1. If two or more competitors stand equal in total points, the judge(s) shall settle their priority by 1) totaling their points for the outrun, lift, and fetch (outrun + lift + fetch = total gather points) and then proceed to the next phase of work = drive, shed, pen (or pen, shed). If this does not resolve the tie, go back to consider the outrun, then lift then fetch, or 2) by ordering a re-run tie breaker of any kind, or 3) divide the prize money involved. In cases of equality where a trophy is at stake and the judge orders re-runs, the re-run will decide not only the trophy but also all case prizes involved.

Motion: Scott Glen- to accept recommendation with wording revised as indicated.

Second: Marianna Schreeder

Passed without objection.

Ranking RTs and DQs for National Finals double lift finals.

Ranking RTs and DQs at the double lift finals is important since there is a payout and potentially U.S.Team World Trial invitations based on placing of all participants including RTs and DQs.

Recommendation:

USBCHA Rules Sheepdog & Cattle

Part III. Additional Rules Applying to the Sheepdog National Finals, shall read:

D. Qualifying for the National Open and General Scoring Rules

4. The official score for dogs that retire or a disqualified in the finals round (double lift) will be 0. Placements for these dogs will be determined immediately upon the conclusion of the trial and will be based on scores earned up to the phase of work that was not completed.

Motion: Scot Glen to accept RT/DQ recommendation as written

Second: Jaimie Spring

Passed without objection

BOD thanked Russell and his committee for the hard work on these rule reviews.

2025 Cattledog Finals Bid:

Oct 16-19 at Shannon City, Iowa

This is same venue as last year. Bob Allen, who attended it last year, highly recommended the venue and will be the liaison with the hosts.

Motion: Bob Allen to accept bid

Second: Fred Temple

Passed without objection

Finals Judges voting:

Linda DeJong reported that the majority of ballots had been returned and encouraged remaining directors to submit ballots as top judge choices were close enough that every ballot counted.

2026 Sheepdog Finals:

Bidding has been extended through March 31, 2025. More bids are expected. Lori Cunningham proposed there be a short BOD meeting after the March 31 deadline to determine which bid will be accepted.

World Trial Young Handlers:

There has been more than one young handler proposed. Each district may nominate a young handler. Deadline for nominations is December 31, 2025. Linda is working with ISDS on invitation paperwork.

Live streaming cattle and sheep finals:

The video company **321** which did the livestream at the last 2 finals submitted their proposal to livestream both finals, which is similar to past years

Motion: Cy Peterson to accept the proposal for livestreaming

Second: Marianna Schreeder

Passed without objection

New Business:

A proposal was made to study the merit system used by the ISDS for ordering the final placing at some ISDS trials. A Rules committee chaired by Russell McCord will investigate and provide the Board with information.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 EST