



PO Box 1394, Meeker, CO 81641 ~ 970-878-0111 www.meekersheepdog.com trials@meekersheepdog.com

2026 Entry Information and Rules

www.DogTrialEntry.com

YOU CAN REGISTER on www.DogTrialEntry.com before the opening date and take the Handler Tour. HELP is available on the site or by contacting us! Contact Maym with questions or for help.

Trial Dates: **September 9-13, 2026** Judge: **Angie Coker-Sells, Tecumseh, OK**

Entry Fee: **\$240.00** per dog (2 dog limit)

Total Purse: Minimum **\$23,000.00** pay to **20 places** - plus added day money

LIMIT - 135 DOGS TO RUN

Course & Rules: USBCHA Rules

Entries Open: March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

***** IMPORTANT – DESIGNATE A HOUSEHOLD ENTRY OR SINGLE ENTRY** -Please see explanation of household or Individual entries on #2 under guideline information

Handlers entered in the 2026 Meeker Classic will be held accountable for knowledge of "2026 Entry Guidelines and Trial Information in Addition to USBCHA Guidelines". Failure to read such is not defensible for failure to comply.

2026 MEEKER CLASSIC ENTRY GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION:

1. **ENTRIES DUE** - Entries will open **March 1, 2026** and will close **March 31, 2026**
****we encourage you to visit www.DogTrialEntry.com ahead of time, register and take the handler tour**
 - Entries must be done online at www.dogtrialentry.com Call or text Maym with questions 970-462-6495 or go through the help process at the site – this will give you an **ELECTRONIC POSTMARK**
 - Entries may not be electronically postmarked prior to March 1, 2026, or after March 31, 2026
 - Entries with electronic postmarks before entries open and after entries close will be returned and not accepted.
 - **Entries with electronic postmarks of March 1 – March 3, 2026 will be prioritized FIRST**, and subsequent priority (standby list) will be decided by a random drawing for each electronic postmark day/lot. The drawing will be done by **either a HOUSEHOLD of 2 dogs or an INDIVIDUAL entry** (of 1 or 2 dogs) ****handlers must specify on the entry form. Otherwise, all entries will be considered individual entries**
 - Accepted Entries and Standby List will be drawn by the committee. Handlers will be notified of their accepted entry (**first 135 dogs**) or their spot on the standby list by April 30, 2025. This information will be published on the website at www.dogtrialentry.com and www.meekersheepdog.com and will be routinely updated.

2. **DESIGNATION OF HOUSEHOLD OR INDIVIDUAL ENTRY** - Each entry must be marked **HOUSEHOLD** or **INDIVIDUAL** entry
- **INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES** – These entries will go as one draw tag for the handler (limit of 2 dogs)
 - **HOUSEHOLD ENTRIES** – This allows couples or two individuals (“couple”) to each enter one dog together to comprise a single entry. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ONCE ENTERED AS A HOUSEHOLD, THAT DOG CANNOT BE PULLED FROM ONE HOUSEHOLD ENTRY AND SUBSTITUTED INTO ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD ENTRY.** A household entry can only consist of **2 dogs** – 1 dog belonging to each member of the household. If a couple has 2 dogs each, they can enter 2 Households of 2 dogs (one dog from each for each household) or as two separate entries of 2 dogs each person. A single entry of 3 - 4 dogs for a household is **NOT ALLOWED**. A Household entry goes into the draw as one draw tag just as the individual entries do.
3. **PAYMENT** - Receipt of Payment is required within 14 days of electronic entry or by Trial/Event Close Date, whichever is sooner (if you choose to pay by check – we will use the postmark on the envelope as proof of date sent)
- Check Payments** Pay to Name: **Meeker Classic**
- Pay to Address: **PO Box 1394**
Meeker, CO 81641, USA
 - Please send your (1) printed web page receipt, (2) the printed email receipt or (3) the printed **‘WHAT HAVE I ENTERED’** page (blue menu bar on DTE) with your check.
- Electronic Payment will be through PayPal**
MEEKER CLASSIC – trials@meekersheepdog.com – 970-878-0111 or 970-462-6495 (cell/text)
- All entry checks received with valid entries will be cashed upon receipt. At any time **before July 31st** handlers may request full refund of their entry fees, effectively scratching their dog or removing themselves from the standby list.
4. **LIMIT 135 DOGS** - Each handler may enter as many as two (2) dogs
5. **WITHDRAWAL FROM WAIT LIST** – The Meeker Classic will issue a full refund of entry fees to any handler on the WAIT LIST at any time. **WAIT LIST entries not placed in the running order by 6:30 p.m. Tuesday September 8, 2026, will receive full entry refund, after the trial.**
6. **WITHDRAWAL FROM ACCEPTED ENTRY LIST** - Refunds are issued for withdrawals from the ACCEPTED ENTRY LIST ONLY if director is notified **by July 31, 2026**.
7. **SUBSTITUTIONS** -
- a. Handlers may make substitutions by notifying the Meeker Classic Trial Director on or before 8/31/2026
 - b. Only in the case of death or veterinary emergency will Emergency **Substitution Requests** be entertained from September 1, 2026, to Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:30 pm
 - c. **Emergency Substitution requests** must be accompanied by a veterinarian affidavit, clearly stating the reason the entered dog is unable to run
 - d. **A dog may only be scratched and substituted once due to a change in ownership.**
8. **DRAW** – A legal draw will be done according to USBCHA guidelines on August 1, 2026 and posted on the websites (www.dogtrialentry.com and www.meekersheepdog.com) shortly thereafter. Running Order disputes will be resolved at the discretion of the Judge. Preliminary runs are as follows:
- **Dogs 1 – 45 Wednesday 9/09/2026 (45 Dogs)**
 - **Dogs 46 – 90 Thursday 9/10/2026 (45 Dogs)**
 - **Dogs 91 - 135 Friday 9/11/2026 (45 Dogs)**

9. **WAIT LIST** – Handlers meeting the entry deadline, but not making the draw (first 135) will remain on a WAIT LIST until 6:30 pm, Tuesday 9/08/2026. WAIT LISTED handlers will be prioritized FIRST by postmark date. Subsequent priority will be decided by a random draw for each postmark day/lot. The drawing will be done by household of 2 dogs or an individual entry (of 1 or 2 dogs). The Meeker Classic will notify WAIT LISTED handlers of their eligibility for the running order until 8/31/2026, after such time it is the responsibility of the standby handler to notify the Meeker Classic if they are still available to run. **WAIT LIST entries not placed in the running order by 6:30 p.m. Tuesday September 8, 2026 , will receive full entry refund, after the trial.**
10. **LAST MINUTE ENTRY PROVISION** - In the event that there are open slots in the run order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 09/08/2026 and AFTER the WAIT LIST has been exhausted, the Meeker Classic will accept last minute cash entries. Eligible handlers/dogs for Last Minute Entries are:
- a. Handlers with one (or fewer) entered dogs.
 - b. Handlers must be present, in person or by proxy, to enter (at trial site, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday 09/08/2026).
 - c. Handler must complete entry form and submit fees.
 - d. Handlers are limited to two (2) entered dogs, including Last Minute Entries. (Unless the situation describe in f. applies)
 - e. At 7:00 p.m. on 09/08/2026 a random draw will be done for Last Minute Entries. Entry Fees will be returned on site for those handlers not making the draw in the Last-Minute Entry Provision. No changes in run order will be made and Last-Minute Entry dogs will have to run in the open slot for which they are drawn.
 - f. In the event that there are open slots at **6:30 pm and no dogs are entered with above said rules**, handlers currently entered will be allowed to enter a **Third dog** into the draw for the last-minute entry. No changes in run order will be made and these Last-Minute Entry dogs will have to run in the open slot for which they are drawn regardless. **It shall be noted that handlers with one (or fewer) entered dogs will always have priority in the last-minute draw.**
 - g. In the event that a handler running three (3) dogs in the preliminaries under the last-minute entry stipulation (stated in f. above) qualifies with all three dogs for the semi-finals, only two(2) of those dogs can advance to the Semi-Finals. It will be the handler's choice as to which two (2) dogs will run in the Semi-Finals. That decision will be made before the draw for the Semi-Final running order on Friday evening, September 11, 2026. Once that decision is made the dog placing thirty-first in the preliminaries will move up to run in the Semi-Finals
11. **SEMI FINAL ROUND TO INCLUDE 30 DOGS** – ** RULE FOR QUALIFYING ENTRIES TO THE SEMI-FINALS . The top 8 scoring runs from each qualifying day will advance to the Semi-Final Round (8 dogs/day for September 9, 10, and 11, 2026). Upon completion of all qualifying runs, the top 6 scoring dogs that have not already qualified (regardless of the day ran) will also advance to the Semi-Finals.
12. **FINALS TO INCLUDE 12 DOGS** – The top 12 semi-final runs advance to the double lift finals on Sunday running 6 dogs before lunch and 6 afterwards. Rules and scoring for International Gather will be followed for Final Rounds.
13. **\$23,000 MINIMUM PURSE** – to pay to 20 places, plus added day money (prelims) for first 4 places and multiple other cash awards.
14. **ENTRY FEE INCLUDES** (2) tickets for entry into all events including daily preliminary trials, semi-finals and finals, handler's dinner (Friday night), exhibitions, Trial Program and a Rec Center Pass. Fee does not include barbeques.

15. **TIE BREAKS** - If two or more competitors stand equal in points, the judge will settle their priority by (First) their combined points for the outrun, lift and fetch, (Second) by each subsequent phase of the trial i.e., the drive, shed, & pen, and (Third) by going back to the individual points of the outrun, then the lift, then the fetch.
16. **OFFICIAL SCORES** – The Score Sheets signed by the judge are the official record of scores. All efforts will be taken to enter and recheck scores posted at the Trial and on the internet through DogTrialEntry.com.
17. **TIME LIMIT FOR PRELIMINARY RUNS** – The preliminary runs on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be **13 minutes**
18. **HANDLER’S MEETINGS – ARE NOT MANDATORY, BUT** Will be at 6:45 each morning of Preliminaries and the Semi-Finals, 7:30 on Finals Sunday – this is your opportunity to hear the judge’s expectations and ask any questions you have of the judge
19. **CHECK IN** – Handlers must all PERSONALLY check in – this is MANDATORY. Handlers can check in on Tuesday evening, September 8, 2026, before the trials during the Handler Welcome Dinner– OR you can pick up your packet at the Clerk Shed. Releases MUST have a hand-written signature before Handlers can run their dogs. NO EXCUSE IS ACCEPTABLE FOR NOT SIGNING A WAIVER. HANDLERS NOT SIGNING A WAIVER PRIOR TO RUNNING WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMPETITION.
20. **WE WILL ABIDE BY USBCHA RULE THAT STATES: Each contestant must be ready when called by the Course Director or an assistant. Anyone failing to answer the call may be disqualified. Contestants should note that the order of the runs will be strictly followed unless the trial committee or Course Director authorizes changes. The Course Director or trial committee, however, cannot guarantee the exact time a competitor will run.**
21. **Dog Sponsor Photos:** As part of your entry you agree to present yourself at the sheep wagon immediately after your preliminary for your Dog Sponsor photo. If you fail to do so, resulting in no photograph for your Dog Sponsor, you will be fined \$100 by the Meeker Classic. If the fine is not paid, the Handler will waive the opportunity to enter the Meeker Classic the following year.
22. The Meeker Classic Rules Committee reserves the right to review special circumstances as they arise.

These 2026 RULES AND GUIDELINES were established by the Meeker Classic Rules Committee, November 11, 2025, ratified on November 11, 2025 by the Meeker Classic Board of Directors.