

**Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America, Inc.**

**SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS revised February 2020**

**These amended Rules and Regulations are effective February 2020**

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## **ARTICLE 1. GENERAL EXPLANATIONS**

**SECTION 1** The word "dog" wherever used in these Rules and Regulations includes both sexes.

**SECTION 2** The words "United States of America" wherever used in these Rules and Regulations shall be constructed to include all territories and possessions of the United States of America and all vessels sailing under the American Flag.

**SECTION 3** The words Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America, Inc. may appear in these rules in an abbreviated form as MASCA.

**SECTION 4** THE MEMBERS OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY ARE: Husband, Wife, Father, Mother, Son, Daughter, Brother, or Sister, Father In-law, Mother in-law, Son in-law, Daughter in-law, Brother in-law, or Sister In-law.

**SECTION 5** Immediate household to mean those residing within the residence.

**SECTION 6** The word Club is defined as MASCA or a MASCA Affiliate in good standing.

**SECTION 7** All entries must be made on the official MASCA entry form. All dogs must be registered with MASCA prior to entering.

**SECTION 8** Collars; Special training collars (prong collars, shock collars) shall not be used on the grounds or premises. These requirements shall not be interpreted as preventing a handler from moving normally about on the grounds or premises with a dog on leash.

**SECTION 9** Training on the grounds or premises: There shall be NO abusive training of dogs on the grounds or premises.

**SECTION 10** Abuse of Dogs: The show committee shall investigate any reports of abuse of dogs or severe disciplining of dogs on the grounds or premises of a show. Any person who conducts himself in such manner or in any other manner prejudicial to the best interest of the sport shall be dealt with promptly in accordance with CHAPTER 21

**SECTION 11** Boundaries of Show Grounds. The limits are the boundaries of the grounds. Premises constitute a larger area, its boundaries not well defined. It consists of the land building(s) and all parking areas adjacent to and a continuation of the show grounds where any MASCA event is held whether held separately or in conjunction with each other. Any area inside the limits is on the premises, but an area does not have to be within the limits to be considered within the premises.

## **ARTICLE 2. MASCA Sanctioned events**

**SECTION 1** A Specialty Show is a show sanctioned (held) by MASCA or a MASCA Affiliate Club at which Championship points will be given.

**SECTION 2** The National Specialty is governed by the MASCA business office. It will be hosted by MASCA and organized by a board of directors appointed committee of no less than 3 people and will consist of 1 board member. This committee shall report to the MASCA board of directors.

**SECTION 3** The MASCA National Specialty may be held annually but must be held at a minimum of biannually.

### **ARTICLE 3. MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD A SHOW, SANCTIONING RULES, APPROVAL OF JUDGES LIST**

**SECTION 1** All shows giving championship points must be sanctioned or held by MASCA.

**SECTION 2** Affiliates shall not seek membership nor seek license or sanction for any event with another registry other than a registry with which MASCA has an agreement.

**SECTION 3** The Host Affiliate of a MASCA National Specialty shall not invite nor contract with another registry or any of its affiliates other than a registry with which the MASCA business office has an agreement to hold an event at any time during the Nationals or as a pre-show or trial.

**SECTION 4** MASCA Affiliate Clubs that meet the requirements of MASCA and wish to hold a Conformation Dog Show at which Championship points may be awarded must make application to MASCA for permission to hold such show. The application and approval must occur prior to 90 days of the requested date. The Sanctioning form shall list date, location, Show Secretary/Chairman's name, address and phone number, all classes offered, judges names, addresses and assignments, unless otherwise approved by MASCA business office.

Any MASCA Affiliated Club requesting MASCA sanctioning for any event(s) shall, when making application for said event(s), include any applicable county, state, country or any other bylaws, rules of conduct or associated restrictions regarding dogs, their exhibition and the holding of said event(s) and shall include a list of such rules, bylaws or restrictions in the premium list. Such rules, restrictions, bylaws etc. shall be printed in English and the language of the country where said event(s) will be held, listing all pertinent information. All entries shall close prior to the judging of the first class. All Affiliate clubs must send a Premium (show flyer) to the MASCA Business Office before the date of the scheduled event. This application must be submitted and postmarked no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the event.

**SECTION 5** A sanctioning fee will be submitted to the MASCA Business Office with the official request for sanctioning form, which will be supplied on request from the MASCA Business Office. The club shall pay a fee, the amount to be fixed and determined by the MASCA business office, for the privilege of holding such show under MASCA Rules and coverage under club insurance, if so needed. The MASCA Business Office will consider the same and notify the club(s) of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected. If the MASCA Business Office disapproves the application the fee will be returned to said club(s).

**SECTION 6** The show secretary and chairman must be a MASCA members in good standing.

**SECTION 7** MASCA Judge's Books will include a complete report stating total number of regular class dogs and bitches, Registration numbers and armband numbers of Winners, Reserve Winners, Best of Winners, Best Opposite Sex and Best of Breed. This report must be signed by the Judge. This report will be submitted with in 10 business days from the event.

**SECTION 8** In the event it becomes necessary to change the physical location where a show is to be held, after the Sanctioning form has been received by the MASCA Business Office, the show committee or the show coordinator shall obtain approval of the new show location from the MASCA Business Office.

If the location change is made prior to twenty (20) days before the date(s) of the show, notice of the change must be sent to all entered exhibitors as well as public notice made.

**SECTION 9** Only MASCA Affiliate Clubs, in good standing, may hold MASCA sanctioned conformation events.

**SECTION 10** Official MASCA events that require sanctioning and award points that lead to a MASCA conformation title shall not be conducted by any individual(s), non MASCA Affiliated corporation(s) or business(es).

Affiliate Club(s) in good standing with MASCA will have the exclusive right to schedule, sanction and conduct Official MASCA programs. No individual(s), non MASCA Affiliated corporation(s) or business(es) shall realize any monetary profit, or any other benefit as a result of any connection with a MASCA sanctioned event. Normal event sponsorship or advertisement by any individual(s), corporation(s) or business(es) shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule. Individuals, corporations or businesses that enter into agreements with Affiliate Clubs to supply materials, services, facility rentals, any other need required for the conduct of sanctioned events shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule. The use of a Club's name for event purposes cannot be transferred.

**SECTION 11** All clubs holding shows under MASCA rules must have available at each show, a copy of the MASCA Breed Standard and the MASCA Show Rules.

**SECTION 12** Any club giving a dog show must provide armbands and shall see that every person exhibiting a dog wears, when in the ring, an armband with the entry number of the dog being exhibited.

**SECTION 13** No badges, coats with kennel names, dog's names or any advertisements, shall be worn or displayed, nor any other visible means of identification used, by an individual when exhibiting a dog in the ring.

**SECTION 14** Each Host Club, which holds a sanctioned event at least once in every 2 consecutive years, shall have first right to claim the corresponding dates or holiday weekend for their event to be held in the next succeeding two years. If the Club having first right to the dates, does not host a sanctioned event on that date in the following year, another Club may use the pre-existing date for an event. The original Club shall still have first right to the date on the second year following their original event. If they do not host a sanctioned event on that date in the second year, they lose the first right to the date. The MASCA Business Office will hold paperwork from any other Club wishing to use a pre-existing date until the MASCA Business Office has been notified that the Host Club with the pre-existing date will not use the event date that year. If paperwork has to be held pending receipt of the notification from the Host Club with the pre-existing date, the MASCA Business Office will notify the second Club within 14 days upon receipt of the Sanctioning Request Form. To facilitate timely receipt of materials, Clubs wishing to use a pre-existing date should contact the Host Club and request notification be sent in writing to the MASCA Business Office stating the pre-existing date will not be used that year. If the Host Club with the pre-existing date does not use that date on the second year following their original event, first claim to that date will pass to a second Host Club, if there is one. If a date has not been previously claimed, the Host Club whose sanctioning is postmarked first shall be awarded the date. When determining when a club that has a grandfathered weekend, the Business Office will make the determination based on the date that the Saturday of the weekend falls on to determine which month that show weekend falls on.

**SECTION 15** MASCA Affiliate Clubs shall not request sanctioning for any event to be held outside of their state/area that is already served by at least one Affiliate club. If a state/area is not served by an Affiliate club then an Affiliate club from another state/area may sanction events there on a first come basis.

If an Affiliate Club wishes to sanction an event at a site that is outside of their state/area, they must first secure written permission from all of the Affiliates in that state/area. This written permission shall be submitted to the Business Office with the Sanction request before sanctioning can be granted. If an Affiliate Club organizes in a state/area that formerly did not have an Affiliate Club, then the new Club shall have primary sanctioning authority. Out of state/area Affiliate Clubs must then follow the procedure as outlined in the previous two paragraphs.

Affiliate Clubs who sanction pre-national events to be held in the state/area of the National Specialty event are exempt from the provisions of this section.

#### **ARTICLE 4. DOG SHOW CLASSIFICATION**

**SECTION 1** The Mandatory regular classes of MASCA are as follows:

6 mos. to 9 mos.

9 mos. to 12 mos.

Open

Bred by Exhibitor

American Bred (country of event)

Winners

Best of Breed

Altered

These classes shall be divided by sex (except Best of Breed).

Altered-CH OPTIONAL

**CLASS DIVISION REDUCTION:**

Hosting clubs have the option of selecting the reduced class divisions for the Altered Program only:

6-12 mos.

Open

These classes shall be divided by sex. (may be divided by color)

**SECTION 2** The 6 mos. to 9 mos. Class shall be for dogs that are six months of age or over, but less than nine months, and that are not champions. The age of the dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show.

**SECTION 3** The 9 mos. to 12 mos. Class shall be for dogs that are nine (9) months or over, but less than twelve (12) months, and that are not champions. The age of the dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show.

**SECTION 4** The Bred by Exhibitor Class shall be for dogs that are:

A. Six (6) months of age and over

B. That are not MASCA Champions

C. That are owned or co-owned by a breeder of record or a member of the breeder's immediate family

To handle a dog in the Bred By Exhibitor Class, either of the following conditions must be met:

A. Handler must be an owner or co-owner of record and be a breeder of record or

B. Handler must be an immediate family member of the breeder who maintains ownership of the dog.

The winner of the Bred By Class may be handled by other than the above named individuals in any subsequent class for which it becomes eligible.

**SECTION 5** The American bred class shall be for all dogs, except MASCA champions, six (6) months of age or over, whelped in the United States of America, by reason of mating which took place in the USA. For shows held outside of the USA the class name may be changed to recognize the country in which the show is held (ie; Canadian bred, German Bred, Italian Bred etc.) All other conditions remain the same.

**SECTION 6** The Open Class shall be for any dog, (except MASCA Champions), six (6) months of age or over. During National specialties, the Open Class may be divided into the four accepted colors as described in the MASCA Breed Standard; Open Blue Merle, Open Red Merle, Open Black and Open Red.

**SECTION 7** The Winners Class shall be divided by sex and each division shall be open only to undefeated dogs of the same sex which have won first prizes in either the six (6) month to nine (9) months, nine (9) months to twelve (12) months, Bred by Exhibitor, American Bred or Open Classes. There shall be no entry fee for competition in the Winners Class. After the Winners prize has been awarded in one of the sex divisions, the dog placing second to the winning dog, if undefeated except by the dog awarded Winners, shall compete with the other eligible dogs for Reserve Winners. No eligible dog may be withheld from competition.

**SECTION 8** The awards in Best of Breed competition shall be Best of Breed, Best Opposite Sex and Best of Winners. The following categories of dogs may be entered and shown in this competition:

A. Dogs that are MASCA Champions of Record;

B. Dogs, which according to their owner's records have completed the requirements for a championship, but whose championships are unconfirmed.

C. The showing of dogs whose championships are unconfirmed (either in classes or in Best of Breed competition) is limited to a period of thirty (30) days from the date of the show where a dog completed the requirements for a championship or until certification of championship is issued. Providing that the proper paperwork was sent in prior to the shows.

**SECTION 9** Dogs Competing in Winners and/or Best of Breed class must not have been defeated in any Regular class.

**SECTION 10** The Altered class is open to any dog ages six months or older who has been spayed or neutered.

**SECTION 11** A club holding a show must offer Junior Showmanship competition. The classes and procedures shall conform to MASCA regulations governing Junior Showmanship as adopted by the MASCA Board of Directors.

**SECTION 12** The optional non-regular classes of MASCA are: Two to Four Month Puppy, Four to Six Month Puppy, puppy sweeps, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Breeders showcase, Brace, Veterans, Altered, Head Type, and Movement. Puppy classes must be divided by sex.

**SECTION 13** The following rules will apply if these non-regular classes are included:

NON-REGULAR CLASSES WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE SAME JUDGE WHO IS JUDGING THE REGULAR CLASSES.

- A. Three to Four Month Puppy class shall be for dogs that are three months of age and over, but under four months of age. Four to Six Month Puppy class shall be for dogs that are four months of age and over, but under six months of age. The age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of the show. These classes may be divided by color. The winners of these classes shall compete for Best of Breed Puppy and Best of Opposite Sex Puppy and compete no further.
- B. Puppy Sweeps will take place before/after judging of the Nationals Show (Regular and Non-Regular Classes). MASCA Registered Puppies Age 3-12 months are eligible. Puppies under 6 months can use litter registration number, instead of individual registration number.

Prizes

- 1. Best of Breed Puppy (60% of puppy sweeps entry fees)
- 2. Best Opposite Sex Puppy (40% of puppy sweeps entry fees)

- C. Stud Dog class shall consist of the sire and two (2) to four (4) of his progeny, two (2) of which must be at least six months of age or over and entered in a regular class. Entry for this class shall be in the name of the sire and none of his progeny shall be entered as a sire in this class. The Stud Dog may be neutered.
- D. Brood Bitch class shall consist of the dam and two (2) to four (4) of her progeny, two (2) of which must be at least six months of age and over and must be entered in a regular class. Entry shall be in the name of the dam and none of her progeny shall be entered as a dam in this class. The Brood Bitch may be spayed.
- E. In the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch classes, the merits of the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch are not considered in the placement of the entry. It is the quality of the get that forms the basis for the judge's decision. All get must be examined and gaited. The Stud Dog and Brood Bitch must also be examined to determine if there is a condition that would require disqualification or excusal under MASCA Rules or the MASCA breed standard. In addition to the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch, all handlers must wear an armband designating the get being exhibited. This class may be held prior to or after Best of Breed Judging.
- F. Breeders showcase class. Each entry shall consist of two (2) to Five (5) dogs. They may be male or female or a combination of both, altered or intact. Each entry must have one (1) breeder in common. The name of this breeder must be exactly the same but may fall in any order on the registration. Any entry in the ring may be handled by anyone, i.e. breeder, owner or handler. Dogs entered in breeders' showcase need not be entered in regular classes. This will allow for

retired champions to be entered in this competition. All entrants must be registered in accordance with MASCA rules for entering a sanctioned show. A separate entry form must be filled out listing all dogs entered with MASCA registration numbers, registered names, and the common breeder between all dogs.

- G. Brace class shall consist of entries of two dogs each of similar coloring, markings, size, and type that work as a team. A team may be composed of two dogs of any combination of male, female, intact or altered.
- H. The Veteran's Class or classes is open only to dogs which have reached their seventh (7) birthday. This class is open to spayed and neutered dogs and must be divided by sex.
- I. The head type class is open to any dog ages six months or older. This class may be split by male and female.
- J. The movement class is open to any dog ages six months or older.
- K. Non-regular class winners shall not become eligible to move on to any regular conformation class by virtue of their non-regular class award.

## **ARTICLE 5. CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**SECTION 1** MASCA grants championships to dogs that meet all requirements as set forth in this "Show Rules and Regulations".

**SECTION 2** A MASCA championship certificate will then be issued to the owner of the dog, and the owner will have the right to use the title on all registration and pedigree certificates.

**SECTION 3** In order to become a champion, a dog must earn 15 points and be at least six (6) months of age on the day of the show.

**SECTION 4** At least two of these wins must be "major" wins – shows which are at least three point shows, with at least one of the majors occurring at breed level.

**SECTION 5** Majors must be under different judges.

**SECTION 6** Dogs must have at least one more win under a third judge.

**SECTION 7** Points from other registries are not transferable. Only points on MASCA approved win sheets and MASCA approved registries are acceptable.

**SECTION 8** Dogs must be registered with MASCA prior to the show.

**SECTION 9** If some of the wins are win sheet wins, the exhibitor must hold all win sheets until enough points have been earned for the championships. Copies should be made and kept before mailing win sheets to MASCA. See section on Win sheet program.

## **ARTICLE 6. GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP**

**SECTION 1** Before a dog may earn points towards its Grand Championship, it must be a CONFIRMED MASCA champion.



**SECTION 2** In order to become a Grand Champion, a dog must earn 50 points, and obtain five (5) major wins at breed level, under five (5) different judges. Three (3) of the five (5) majors must be 5-point majors.

**SECTION 3** Points earned toward the dog's championship shall not count.

**SECTION 4** Grand points are only earned at breed level.

**SECTION 5** Points are awarded as follows:

- A. Best of Breed receives (1) point for each dog defeated at regular class and Best of Breed level.
- B. Best of Opposite Sex receives (1) point for each dog of its sex defeated.
- C. If Best of Winners is the same sex as Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Opposite Sex will also receive points for each regular class dog of its sex defeated.

**SECTION 6** Once points are completed and confirmed, MASCA will issue a Grand Champion certificate. Grand Champion achievement will also be recognized at the following year's Nationals specialty. Dog must have completed the certificate at least two months prior to the Nationals specialty, or it will be recognized at the subsequent year's National specialty.

#### **ARTICLE 7. MERIT PROGRAM (TOP 10)**

**SECTION 1** MASCA merit program recognizes the top ten conformation dogs of each recording year – January 1 through December 31.

**SECTION 2** Win sheets must be submitted by January 15 of the following year. See win sheet program for win sheet rules.

**SECTION 3** Merit points are only earned at breed level.

**SECTION 4** Champions, Grand Champions, Class Dogs and Class Bitches are eligible for merit points.

**SECTION 5** Points are awarded as follows:

- A. Best of Breed receives (1) point for each dog defeated at regular class and Best of Breed level.
- B. Best of Opposite Sex receives (1) point for each dog of its sex defeated.
- C. If Best of Winners is the same sex as Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Opposite Sex will also receive points for each regular class dog of its sex defeated.

**SECTION 6** Top Ten merit dogs will be recognized each year with a certificate at the National specialty.

#### **ARTICLE 8. CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SCHEDULE**

**SECTION 1** Only dogs taking Winners Dog or Winners Bitch placements are eligible for conformation champion points. One point is earned for each class dog of the same sex defeated for a maximum of five points. The Best of Winners can earn extra points (up to maximum of five) for dogs of the opposite sex defeated. The Best of Breed winner will then compete in Herding group competition where additional points may be earned. In Group competition, the dog earns one point for each dog it defeats. The "First

in Group” will compete in Best in Show where additional points may be earned. In Best in Show competition, the dog earns one point for each dog it defeats

Champion Point Schedule (schedule indicates number of dogs defeated not including your dog)

1 Dog 1 Point

2 Dogs 2 Points

3 Dogs 3 Points

4 Dogs 4 Points

5 Dogs 5 Points

**SECTION 2** If only one dog of each sex is present, Best of Breed and only Best of Breed will be awarded one point at breed level.

**SECTION 3** The most points any dog can earn toward its championship in one show is five points even in the case of Best is Show, etc. wins.

A. Championship points will be recorded according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each and according to the MASCA Schedule of Points.

B. Championship points will be recorded for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch at member dog shows approved by the Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America. The exhibition of altered dogs for championship points shall be limited to the Altered Program.

C. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Breed, the dogs of both sexes that have been entered for Best of Breed competition and that have been defeated in such competition, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.

D. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, the dogs of its own sex that have been entered for Best of Breed and that have been defeated in competition for Best of Opposite Sex shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.

E. The dog awarded the Best of Winners shall be credited with the number of points calculated for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch, which ever is greater to a maximum of 5 points.

F. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.

**Section 4** MASCA Altered Conformation Program (A-CH)

The Altered Conformation Program shall be a regular, mandatory program held in conjunction with all MASCA Conformation events. All MASCA Conformation Rules and Regulations shall apply to the Altered Program.

#### ALTERED CLASSES

Regular Classes shall be:

6 months-12 months

Open

Winners

Best of Breed

These classes shall be divided by sex except for Best of Breed. (See SECTION 4.1 for Optional class reduction for Altered Program)

#### ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligibility is restricted to regular MASCA registered dogs that have been spayed or neutered. The MASCA Breed Standard shall be used as a measurement of comparison in all other areas regarding Altered Championship competition. Points earned in Non-Altered conformation classes can be carried over into the Altered Conformation. MASCA Champions of record will be eligible to compete in Best of Breed in the Altered Program if they have been neutered.

B. Any dog which shall have won fifteen (15) points shall become an Altered Champion of Record.

C. A dog becomes an Altered Champion of Record when it is so officially recorded by the MASCA and shall be entitled to an Altered Championship Certificate, A-CH.

### **ARTICLE 9. SANCTIONING EVENTS**

#### **SECTION 1 SANCTIONING APPLICATION**

A. Prior request for sanctioning must be sent to the MASCA Business Office and must be dated/postmarked (hand canceled/legible) at least ninety (90) days prior to the date or dates of the show. The MASCA Business Office will confirm or deny the requested date within fifteen (15) days of receipt of paperwork. The club is responsible to see that all official show forms are submitted.

#### **SECTION 2 PREMIUM LIST**

A. Each club which has been granted permission by MASCA to hold a Specialty must submit in time to reach the MASCA Business Office at least sixty (60) days before its closing date for entries, a sample of its premium list.

The MASCA Business Office will return, not later than forty-five (45) days before the closing date for entries of the show or trial, one copy of the premium list indicating thereon, all necessary corrections, deletions and revisions.

B. The MASCA Business Office will confirm or deny sanctioning with the return of the sample premium list.

C. Every premium list shall specify the date at which entries for a show shall close. The premium list shall also specify the name, address and phone number of the Show Secretary and the person who is to receive the entries.

D. Premium lists and entry forms must be posted publicly at least thirty-five (35) days prior to the closing date for entries of the show.

E. The awards at a dog show or the scores made at any herding trial or sanctioned performance event, will be officially recorded by MASCA only if the certification of the MASCA Business Office is published on the first page of the premium list stating that permission has been granted by MASCA for the dog show to be held under MASCA rules and regulations, i.e.: "MASCA Sanctioned" and "MASCA Show Rules Apply."

F. The premium list shall contain the following: a list of the officers of the show-giving club, a list of the members of the Show Committee, together with the designations of "Chairperson" and the Chairperson's address (and "Obedience Trial Chairperson" and/or Course Director), the names of the veterinarians (or name of local Veterinary Association), whether the veterinarian will be in attendance throughout the show hours or "on call", names, city and state of the judges, together with their assignments, and the name, address and phone number of the show secretary. The premium list shall also specify the exact location of the show, the date or dates on which it is to be held, and the times of opening and closing of the show.

G. If more than one judge has been approved to judge a specialty show, the premium list must designate the particular assignments of each judge as approved by the MASCA Business Office, except when the member club has requested and received approval for the drawing of assignments at the show, in which case a statement to this effect shall appear in the premium list in place of designated assignments.

H. Show committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the government of their show as shall be considered necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule of MASCA and are approved by the MASCA business office prior to the event. Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the rules and regulations of MASCA.

I. No prizes may be accepted or offered by a show giving club unless they are published in the premium list of the show or in the separate list of prizes if the condensed form of premium list is used; nor may any be withdrawn or the conditions thereof changed after they have been published in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes. If the donor of a prize that has been published in the premium list of a show or in the separate list of prizes shall fail to furnish the prize, the show giving club shall supply a prize of the same description and of no less value in a reasonable period of time. The show-giving club shall be responsible for all errors made in publishing offers of prizes and shall, in the event of error, award prizes of equal value; except that if an error has been made in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes in publishing the conditions of the club's special awards (as described in SECTION 11.8), prizes shall be awarded according to the current terms of the club's Special Awards.

### **SECTION 3 RIBBONS - See ARTICLE 10.**

### **SECTION 4 CATALOGUES**

- A. Show Committee must provide a printed/ electronic catalogue for Nationals.
- B. Every catalogue must bear on its cover or title page: "This show is held under MASCA rules".
- C. The catalogue shall be in book form, no smaller than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches. It shall contain the names and particulars of all dogs entered in the show, arranged as follows: Catalogue number; name of dog; name of owner. The catalogue may either give the state of the owner immediately after the owner's name under the identifying information for each dog entered or may include a separate alphabetical list of exhibitors' names and state. The entries shall be catalogued by non-regular puppy classes, regular classes and non-regular classes, in the order given in Chapter 4. The information on dogs entered in any additional classes shall appear following the space provided for recording Winners Bitch and Reserve Winners Bitch followed by the particulars of those dogs entered for Best of Breed except that the entries in Brace, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, or any other classes in which the judge's decision is based on the merits of more than one dog shall appear following the list of dogs entered for Best of Breed, and the space provided for Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite Sex awards. The particulars of those dogs entered For Exhibition Only shall appear following all other entries in the breed. The Board of Directors may prescribe additional requirements for format and contents of the catalogue.
- D. The schedule of points toward Championships in the show shall be published in the catalogue.
- E. All prizes offered in the premium list of a show shall be printed in the catalogue, and no change shall be printed in the catalogue, and no change shall be made in the descriptions or conditions of these prizes, nor shall any prize or trophy be added that was not offered in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes.
- F. If a disqualified dog or handler has been determined after the show judging has been completed regarding a Regular or Non regular class then all dogs who have placed below that DQ dog or handler will be moved up in placements if possible, and points will be corrected as if the DQ dog never placed. The Corrections will published in all MASCA publications.

#### **ARTICLE 10. RIBBONS, PRIZES, TROPHIES and SPECIAL AWARDS**

**SECTION 1** All clubs holding a show under the rules of MASCA may use the following colors for their prize ribbons or rosettes, in the regular classes.

- A. First Prize - Blue
- B. Second Prize - Red
- C. Third Prize - Yellow
- D. Fourth Prize - White
- E. Winners - Purple
- F. Reserve Winners - Purple and White
- G. Best of Winners - Blue and White
- H. Special Prize - Optional
- I. Best of Breed - Purple and Gold

J. Best of Opposite Sex - Red & White

For the non-regular classes the following colors may be used as a guideline.

Non-regular colors must be used when holding a Specialty show.

A. First Prize - Rose

B. Second Prize - Brown

C. Third Prize - Light Green

D. Fourth Prize - Gray

E. Best of Breed Puppy –Pink

F. Best of Opposite Sex Puppy –Green

The MASCA logo may be used in awards offered by a MASCA affiliate hosting a sanctioned event once approved by the MASCA business office.

**SECTION 2** If money prizes are offered in a premium list of a show, a fixed amount or percent of entry money for each prize must be stated. All other prizes offered in a premium list of a show must be described.

**SECTION 3** A show-giving club shall not accept the donation of a prize for a competition not provided for at its show.

**SECTION 4** All prizes offered in a premium list of a show must be offered to be awarded in the regular procedure of judging, with the exception of those prizes provided for in Section 6 of this Chapter.

**SECTION 5** Prizes, ribbons or certificates may be offered for awards at a show for the following placings: First, Second, Third, Fourth in the Six to Nine Months, Nine to Twelve Months. Bred by Exhibitor or Open Classes, or in any division of these designated in the classification. First, Second, Third, Fourth, in any non-regular class, which the show giving club, may offer. Winners, Reserve Winners, Best of Winners, Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex. Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex Puppy, Junior Showmanship.

**SECTION 6** Prizes for award may also be offered for: Best in Bred by Exhibitor Classes, Best in Open Classes and Best in any additional classes, which the show giving club may offer, in which the sexes are divided.

**SECTION 7** Special revolving or traveling prizes may be awarded at the donor's specifications.

**SECTION 8** Special Awards are prizes offered by Specialty giving member clubs for outright and automatic award at any show where the terms have been published in full in the premium list of the show. It shall be the obligation of clubs offering such special awards to notify show secretaries and show-giving clubs that said prizes may be offered provided the terms are set forth in full in the premium list of the show. The club will be solely responsible for the distribution of such prizes within sixty (60) days after the completion of a show when it has been determined that all the terms of the awards have been met. No club is obligated to accept an offering of special awards.

**ARTICLE 11. PREMIER AWARD**

**SECTION 1** Premier Awards will be chosen from Specials only. There will be a Premier for Dogs and a Premier for Bitches. Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite Sex are not eligible to receive a "Premier Award".

**SECTION 2** Number of Premier Awards –There will be 1 Premier Dog award and 1 Premier Bitch award.

- A. After the class is awarded the Ring steward will then call back into the ring the specials except those who won BOB BOW or BOS
- B. The judge will then awards the premier awards

#### **ARTICLE 12. MVA – MOST VERSATILE AUSSIE AWARD**

**SECTION 1** The Most Versatile Aussie Award is offered to recognize the dog that best combines the attributes of trainability, desire and ability to work, and faithfully represents the breed standard. The dog demonstrates trainability and willingness to please by the combination of skill and expertise required to qualify in at least one performance event. The dog is a true and honest representative of the breed when evaluated against the breed standard. Working ability, performance measurement, and breed evaluation are based on the rules established by MASCA for the individual events, and the combined event "Most Versatile Aussie."

**SECTION 2** The person(s) who will be responsible for versatility record keeping for the entire competition will be identified to the MASCA Board prior to the start of the Nationals. They will be responsible posting all results on a leader board approximately 24x24 inches or larger.

**SECTION 3** The MVA Committee and/or the MASCA Board of directors will be responsible for determining the yearly MVA Rules and Requirement. See yearly posting of MVA requirements.

#### **ARTICLE 13. JUDGES**

**SECTION 1** MASCA Breeder Judges and other persons whose qualifications meet the approval of MASCA may be selected for judging. In no case will a judge be approved if suspended from the privileges of MASCA, the ASCA/AKC/CKC/UKC or the sponsoring member club.

##### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Outside Registry Judges - Judge applicants must satisfy MASCA's stated minimum eligibility requirements for judges but satisfying the minimum requirements does not entitle an applicant to become or remain a MASCA judge. In addition to satisfying other stated qualifications to serve, an applicant must consistently display the highest level of ethical conduct, impartial demeanor, professional comportment and dedication to upholding MASCA's codes, rules, decisions and the Statement of Purpose in MASCA's Bylaws. Any documented failure to perform on this level may result in denial or revocation of judging privileges by the MASCA Board of Directors without regard to any other qualification or prior service.

MASCA recognizes judges' license from the following organizations:

Australian Shepherd Club of American (ASCA)

American Kennel Club – Must be herding group Judge (AKC)

Canadian Kennel Club – Must be herding group Judge (CKC)

United Kennel Club - (UKC)

**SECTION 2** MASCA will not approve as judge for any given show the following:

A. Show Secretary

B. Show Chairperson

C. Show Veterinarians

**SECTION 3** A Conformation Judge may not compete with any dog at the same sanctioned Conformation Event he or she is officiating. If multiple Conformation events are held in a single day, the judge may not compete at any of the Conformation events on the same day he or she is officiating.

**SECTION 4** No dog owned or co-owned by an officiating Conformation judge can compete in the same Conformation event that he or she is judging.

**SECTION 5** A Conformation judge shall not personally exhibit any dogs at a MASCA sanctioned Conformation event, in the same state in which he is to judge, four (4) days prior to the judging assignment.

**SECTION 6** A Conformation judge shall not pass judgment on any dog, a member of the immediate family or household owns, co-owns, or has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, regularly trained, instructed or handled in the Conformation ring in the preceding twelve months. "Trained" or "Instructed" applies equally to judges who train professionally or as amateurs. The judge's immediate family or household includes: spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law or any person residing with the judge.

**SECTION 7** Immediate family or household members may compete under another officiating Conformation Judge at the same Conformation Show as long as any wins under the other Conformation Judge will not make the dog ineligible to compete further.

**SECTION 8** If it becomes necessary to replace an advertised judge after the opening of the show and no person on the MASCA eligible judge's list is available to take his place, the Show Committee may select as a substitute for the advertised judge, a person who is qualified under SECTION 13.1, SECTION 13.2.

**SECTION 9** The Show Committee shall, in every instance, notify appointed judges of their assignments, and such notifications shall be given before the publication of the premium list.

**SECTION 10** A Show Committee which shall be informed at any time prior to twenty (20) days before the opening day of its show that an advertised judge will not fulfill his or her engagement to judge shall substitute a judge in his or her place. Substitute judges must be approved by the MASCA Business Office, and the club shall give public notice of the name of the substitute judge to all those who entered dogs in the classes to be judged by the advertised judge. All those who have entered dogs to be shown under



the advertised judge shall be permitted to withdraw their entries at any time prior to the close of entries and the entry fees paid for entering such dogs shall be refunded.

**SECTION 11** Should a Show Committee be informed at any time less than twenty (20) days before the opening of it's show, or after it's show has opened, that an advertised judge will not fulfill his or her engagement to judge; it shall substitute a qualified judge in his or her place, and must attempt to obtain approval of the change from the MASCA Business Office. No notice need be sent to those exhibitors who have entered dogs under the advertised judge. The Show Committee will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place within the show grounds as soon after the show opens as is practical, informing exhibitors of the change in judges. An exhibitor who has entered a dog under an advertised judge who is being replaced may withdraw such entry and shall have the entry fee refunded, provided notice of such withdrawal is given to the Show Secretary prior to the start of the judging.

**SECTION 12** In case an advertised judge shall have judged part of the classes and then finds it impossible to finish, a substitute judge shall be selected by the Show Committee, and in that event the awards made by the regular judge shall stand, and his or her substitute shall judge only the remaining entries. No dogs entered under the regularly selected judge shall be withheld from competition.

**SECTION 13** A substitute judge shall finish the judging of the class he or she is judging if he or she has begun to judge before the advertised judge arrives at the show.

**SECTION 14** No judging shall occur at any show prior to the time specified in the judging schedule.

**SECTION 15** The maximum number of dogs assigned to any judge, in one day, shall never exceed 175. When the entries have closed, if the entry under any judge exceeds the above limits, the Show Committee must select some other judge or judges to whom sufficient classes can be assigned to bring the total assignment of judge within the limits. In the case of a Specialty show, if the limits are exceeded, at least one additional judge shall be assigned to bring each judge's assignment within the limits. Approval must be obtained from the MASCA Business Office for each reassignment. Notice must be sent to the owner of each dog affected by such a change in judges at least five (5) days before the opening of the show, and the owner has the right to withdraw his entry and have his entry fee refunded provided notification of his withdrawal is received before the opening of the show by the person named in the premium list to receive entries.

**SECTION 16** A Judge's decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given for want of merit. After a class has been judged in accordance with these rules and regulations, it shall not be rejudged. A class is considered judged when the Judge has marked his book, which must be done before the following class is examined. If any errors have been made by the Judge in marking the awards as made, he may correct the same but must initial any such corrections. NO OTHER PERSON SHALL MARK THE JUDGES BOOK.

**SECTION 17** A Judge may order any person or dog from the ring. For the purpose of facilitating the judging, Judges are required to exclude from the rings in which they are judging all persons except the steward or stewards, show attendants assigned to the ring, and those actually engaged in exhibiting.

**SECTION 18** A Judge must be supplied with the Judge's Book in which he shall mark all awards and all absent dogs. The original Judge's Books shall be in the custody of the Judge, Steward, Show Secretary or Show Chairperson. None other shall be allowed access to it. At the conclusion of the judging, the book

must be signed by the Judge and any changes which may have been made therein initialed by him. NO OTHER PERSON SHALL MARK THE JUDGES BOOK.

**SECTION 19** A Judge's decision, as marked in the judge's book, cannot be changed by him after filing with the MASCA Business Office but an error appearing in the Judge's book may be corrected by the MASCA Business Office after consultation with the Judge and Show Secretary.

**SECTION 20** If a Judge disqualifies a dog at any show, he shall make a note in the Judge's book giving his reasons for such disqualification. In computing the championship points for the breed, said dog shall be considered as having been present at the show. The show secretary will acknowledge to the MASCA Business Office the name of the disqualified dog, the MASCA registration number and owners name and address.

**SECTION 21** A Judge shall not judge the same assignment more than once in any three (3) month period for the same affiliate. Exceptions may be made in emergency situations.

#### **ARTICLE 14 Judges Procedures**

**Section 1** The judge may use whatever reasonable procedures they deem necessary to evaluate the dogs in an effective and efficient manner. MASCA judges are encouraged to discuss placements with exhibitors. Judges may not ask any exhibitor questions regarding the dog being evaluated other than age.

**Section 2** Each judge must sign the Judge's Book upon the completion of a judging assignment and return it to the Event Secretary. Judges are responsible for the accuracy of the information in their Judge's Books. Judges are required to keep their Judges' Books for a period of one (1) year after the event.

**Section 3** Judges must excuse any dog being exhibited with sutures, bandages, adhesive or any other material that is indicative of or related to any injury, surgical, or medical procedure. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE DECIDED UPON BY THE SHOWS MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE BEFORE THE START OF JUDGING.

**Section 4** Judges must excuse any dog that is lame, appears to be ill, or is unfit for competition. The Judge's Book must be marked accordingly and include the reason the dog was excused. The Judge's decision on these matters is final.

**Section 5** Dogs determined to be "unfit" are dogs whose physical condition affects its ability to safely compete, or whose physical condition is so compromised that it is not fit for exhibition. This includes but is not limited to any dog that has visible, unhealed injuries, is emaciated or is obese. Injuries indicative of a dog's natural work should be well healed. Scars and blemishes due to working injuries as per a breed's standard are not grounds for excusal. The Judge's decision is final.

**Section 6** A Judge must excuse any dog that is blind and mark the Judge's Book accordingly. The Judge's decision is final.

**Section 7** Judging Junior handlers -please see junior handler rule book

#### **ARTICLE 15. SHOW COMMITTEES**

##### **SECTION 1**

- A. Show Committees consist of the Show Secretary and club officers present at the show unless otherwise stated in the flyer or premium list.
- B. A misconduct disciplinary committee shall be appointed before the event and present during the entire event.

**SECTION 2** Show Committees shall be held responsible for the enforcement of all rules and regulations relating to shows and the exhibiting of dogs, and must provide themselves with a copy of the MASCA Show Rules and Regulations.

**SECTION 3** Conformation ring-size and conditions:

- A. Indoors - rings should be 40 feet by 50 feet and must be a minimum of 35 feet by 40 feet. The floor shall have surface or covering that provides firm footing.
- B. Outdoors - must be a minimum of 40 feet by 50 feet. The ground shall be clean and level and the grass if any, shall be cut short.

**SECTION 4** The Show Committees will be held responsible for the maintenance of clean and orderly conditions throughout the precincts of the judging area during all hours when dogs are permitted to be present.

**SECTION 5** Any person acting in the capacity of Show Secretary, Ring Steward or persons responsible for contacting and/or hiring a judge, or judges, shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show. Dogs owned wholly or in part by the above may be exhibited at the show. Any person acting in the capacity of judge at a show shall not exhibit; act as agent or handler at the show.

**SECTION 6** The Show Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog(s) or person(s) from its show for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for so doing with MASCA Business Office within seven (7) days of the close of the show.

**SECTION 7** The Show Secretary must be on the show grounds for the entire show.

## **ARTICLE 16. CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY**

**SECTION 1** Every dog must be entered on an Official MASCA Entry Form in the name of the person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed. The right to exhibit a dog cannot be transferred. A registered dog which has been acquired by some person other than the owner as recorded with MASCA must be entered in the name of its new owner at any show for which entries close after the date upon which the dog was acquired, and application for transfer of ownership must be sent to MASCA by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the show. The new owner must state on the entry form that the transfer application has been mailed to MASCA or will be mailed within the specified time. If there is any unavoidable delay in obtaining the completed application required to record the transfer, MASCA may grant a reasonable extension of time, provided the new owner notifies MASCA Business Office by mail within seven days after the show, of the reason for the delay. If an entry is made by a duly authorized agent of the owner, the name of the actual owner must be shown on the entry form. Dogs must be entered under their MASCA registered names and registered with MASCA prior to showing. No dog shall be registered with any other club or registry as anything other than an Australian Shepherd or variety of.

**SECTION 2** No entry shall be made and no entry shall be accepted with any condition attached.

**SECTION 3** No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing ( mail or email) by the Show Secretary prior to the closing date for entries, except that a dog may be transferred from his regular class to Best of Breed if he has completed his Championship. No dog wrongly entered in a class may otherwise be transferred to another class once judging has started. Owners are responsible for errors in entry forms, regardless of who may make such errors. Allowances for refunds on cancellations will be left to the discretion of the Host Club.

**SECTION 4** No entry shall be accepted for any disqualified dog or from any person who is not in good standing with MASCA or the sponsoring club, on the day of the closing of the entries. Before accepting entries, a list of disqualified dogs and persons not in good standing will be provided by the MASCA Business Office as part of the show packet/books. Any dog that has been registered with any other club or registry as anything other than an Australian Shepherd or variety of, is considered disqualified.

**SECTION 5** A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the breed standard, or a male over 6 months of age which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete in any regular class and will be disqualified. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws and/or docking of tail. A castrated male or a spayed bitch may be entered in non regular classes as per non regular class rules. When a judge finds any of these conditions in any dog he is judging in a regular class, he shall disqualify the dog marking his book "Disqualified" and stating the reason. He shall not obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian. When a dog has been disqualified under this rule or under the Breed Standard, awards earned by that dog at that show shall be canceled by MASCA and the dog may not again be shown unless and until, following application by the owner to MASCA, the owner has received official notification from MASCA that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated.

**SECTION 6** A dog that is lame at any show may not compete and shall not receive any award at that show. It shall be the judge's responsibility to determine whether a dog is lame. He shall withhold all awards from such dog and shall excuse it from the ring. A dog so excused shall not be counted as having competed. When a judge excuses a dog from the ring for lameness, he shall mark his book "Excused - Lameness".

**SECTION 7** No dog shall be eligible to compete at any show and no dog shall receive an award at any show in the event the natural color of the natural markings of the dog have been altered by use of permanent or temporary dye. If in the judge's opinion a dye has been used to alter or change the natural color or shade of natural color or natural markings of a dog, then in such event the judge shall withhold any and all awards from such dog, and the judge shall make a note in the judge's book giving his reason for withholding such award.

**SECTION 8** No dog shall be eligible to compete at any show, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any dog show, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a dog show shall immediately be removed, if it:

A. shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease, or

B. is known to have been in contact with distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the show, or

C. has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the show on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis, kennel cough or other communicable disease.

**SECTION 9** No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his immediate household or immediate family (as defined in Chapter 1, Section 4 & 5) has owned, handled in the ring, sold, held under lease or kept for a period of more than 30 days within one year prior to the date of the show.

**SECTION 10** A club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or flyer, or in any way discriminate between exhibitors of entrants. No club shall offer to any one owner or handler any special inducement, such as trophies, reduced entry fees, rebates, additional prize money or any other concession, for entering more than one dog in the show.

**SECTION 11** Every dog entered and present at a show must compete in all competition for which it is entered or becomes eligible, unless it has been excused, dismissed, disqualified or found to be ineligible, under the rules. (Or if the owner has scratched that dog's participation expecting no refund)

**SECTION 12** A dog that in the opinion of the judge menaces or threatens or exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached by the judge or examined by the judge in the normal manner shall be disqualified from the ring. When the judge disqualifies the dog, he shall mark the dog "disqualified" stating the reason in the judge's book. A dog so Disqualified shall counted as having competed.

**ARTICLE 17. COLOR DETERMINATIONS WHEN FACTORS OF DISQUALIFICATION IN BREED STANDARD OR ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF A CLASS OR DIVISION OF A CLASS – CANCELLATION OF AWARDS**

**SECTION 1** Where certain colors or markings are specified in the Breed Standard as disqualifications, or in any class or division of a class where a certain color is required by the conditions of the class or division thereof, it shall be the judge's responsibility to determine whether a dog is to be disqualified or declared to be ineligible for the class.

A. If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color or markings are such as to require disqualification, the judge shall disqualify the dog, making note of the fact in the judge's book.

B. If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color or markings do not meet the requirement of the class or division of a class in which the dog is competing, the judge shall declare the dog ineligible to compete in that class or division of class, making note of the fact in the judge's book.

C. Any dog disqualified under the Breed Standard may not again be shown until, following application by the owner to MASCA, the owner has received official notification from the MASCA Board of Directors that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

D. Any dog thus declared by the judge to be ineligible for a class or division thereof shall be considered to have been wrongly entered in the class and cannot be transferred to any other class or division at that show.

**SECTION 2** If an ineligible dog has been entered in any show, or if the name of the owner given on the entry form is not that of the person or person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, or if shown in a class for which it has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid or unacceptable by MASCA under these rules, all resulting awards shall be canceled by MASCA.

**SECTION 3** If the catalogue and/or the judge's book of any show shall, by error or mistake, set forth any information contrary to the information which appears on the entry form of the dog for that show, the Show Committees and/or the Show Secretary of the show, upon request of the owner or handler of said dog prior to the judging, shall correct the entry in the Judge's book and in the marked catalogue to be sent to the MASCA Business Office and said dog may compete in all classes and for all prizes for which its entry form discloses it was entered.

**SECTION 4** If a placement of a dog in any of the regular classes is canceled, the dog judged next in order of merit shall be moved up and the award shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award. If there is no dog of record to move up, the award shall be void.

**SECTION 5** If the win of a dog shall be canceled by MASCA, the owner of the dog shall return all ribbons and prizes to the show giving club within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of the cancellation from MASCA. The show giving club shall in each instance of failure to comply with this rule notify forthwith MASCA of such failure and MASCA upon receipt of such notice shall suspend the exhibitor so in default from all privileges of MASCA and notify the exhibitor so in default that it has done so. Said suspension shall continue until MASCA is notified that restitution has been made.

#### **ARTICLE 18. PROTESTS AGAINST DOGS**

**SECTION 1** Every exhibitor shall have the right to request through the Show Committee, the examination of any dog within a show's premises, which is considered to endanger the health of other dogs in a show.

**SECTION 2** A protest against a dog, for reasons other than health, may be made by any exhibitor, or any member of MASCA. It shall be in writing and be lodged with the show secretary within seven (7) days of the last date of the show unless the protest is made by MASCA. A protest calling for a decision as to the physical condition of a dog which can be determined only with the advice of a veterinarian or at the time of showing shall be made before the closing of the show. No protest will be entertained unless accompanied by a deposit of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), which will be refunded if the protest is sustained. This does not apply to protests by MASCA, or to a protest made in the ring previous to the rendering of a decision by the judge.

**SECTION 3** If a protest shall be made during the holding of a show, the Show Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible and give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard and shall at once render its decision. If a protest shall be made subsequent to the show it shall be decided by the show giving club within thirty (30) days of receipt. Ten (10) days notice of the date and place of hearing shall be sent to all parties concerned by certified mail. Written copies of all decisions on protests shall be forwarded immediately to the MASCA Business Office.

**SECTION 4** An appeal to the MASCA Executive Secretary from a decision of a Show Committee where a dog has been protested may be taken and shall be forwarded to MASCA within seven (7) days of the date on which the decision was rendered together with a deposit of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). If the decision is sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited, but if reversed, the deposit shall be returned.

## **ARTICLE 19. SUBMISSION OF A SHOW'S RECORDS TO MASCA**

**SECTION 1** After each MASCA sanctioned event, the Judges' Books and MASCA Official Entry Forms are to be copied and originals mailed to the MASCA Business Office with in 10 business days after the event. A fine of \$50.00 per week will be imposed for late paperwork after 10 business days.

## **ARTICLE 20. RING STEWARDS**

**SECTION 1** Clubs must appoint stewards in advance of the date of their show. No person shall be asked to serve as a steward whose judging privileges have been revoked. The club will, confirm to each person who accepts an invitation to steward, the date and location of the show, the time at which they are to report for duty, and their particular ring assignment. Persons should be selected who are familiar with ring procedure, and the MASCA Show Rules and Regulations. It should be borne in mind that a good steward makes the work of judging easier by relieving the judge of necessary detail; by assembling classes promptly, he will be able to keep the judging program on schedule and eliminate to a large extent delays between classes. The Club should use its discretion in the assigning of more than one steward to a ring, but it is advisable that two stewards be asked to serve in those rings where judges have heavy assignments. Stewards will notify the judge when all the dogs are in the ring for each class and call his attention to known absentees. Under no circumstances will a steward make any notation in the judge's book or erase or strike out any notation made by the judge. Stewards will be responsible for returning to the Show Secretary upon the completion of the judging all prize money, trophies and ribbons not awarded.

STEWARDS SHOULD HAVE IN MIND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO HELP THE JUDGE AND NOT TO ADVISE THEM.

**SECTION 2** RING STEWARDS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING OR SEEMING TO DISCUSS THE DOGS OR THE EXHIBITORS WITH THE JUDGE AND SHOULD NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SHOW OR GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF SHOWING THE CATALOGUE TO A JUDGE. RING STEWARDS MUST NOT TAKE OR SEEM TO TAKE ANY PART IN JUDGING. When they are not actively engaged in their duties, and should not permit persons to crowd about the ring entrance and interfere with access to the ring. RING STEWARDS MAY NOT HOLD ANY OTHER POSITION AT THE EVENT.

## **ARTICLE 21 MISCONDUCT & DISCIPLINE FOR EVENTS**

MASCA Standard Of Conduct

MASCA events are intended to be family-oriented recreation for dog enthusiasts and their MASCA registered dogs. Accordingly, MASCA expects the highest standard of conduct at these events.

The use of alcohol and illegal drugs by exhibitors and judges while participating in MASCA licensed events is prohibited. Exhibitors in violation of the alcohol or illegal drug rule may be excused from the ring by the judge and from the show or event grounds by the Event Committee or any officer of the host club and the decisions of these officials are final. The host club must notify MASCA in writing of any judge who is in violation of this rule.

Misconduct is defined as behavior or actions that are not in the best interest of the sport of purebred dogs. Conduct considered prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs is any action or behavior that could cause an average, reasonable person or family to be offended or potentially repelled from the sport of purebred dogs; i.e., conduct incompatible with a family friendly environment; abusing or neglecting a

dog in conjunction with an event; abuse of hotel rooms by dogs or persons attending the events; and any other MASCA event rule infraction.

### **MISCONDUCT CATEGORY 1**

Wrongdoing during or associated with a MASCA event. This may include, but is not limited to, threatening, assaulting or battering another individual; falsifying any event-related document; Intentionally distracting or interfering with another exhibitor/dog; cheating or conspiring to cheat to improve or hinder the standing of any dog competing at an event

### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING MISCONDUCT DURING OR ASSOCIATED WITH A MASCA EVENT**

Jurisdiction.

All persons present on the grounds of a MASCA event during the event hours are subject to the jurisdiction of MASCA and are therefore subject to these MASCA standards of conduct and disciplinary procedures.

In addition, MASCA has jurisdiction over misconduct associated with the event that may occur off the grounds of the event or outside event hours. This paragraph shall be interpreted as broadly as is necessary to regulate any off-grounds misconduct reasonably related to the event that is prejudicial to the interests of the sport of purebred dogs. One example of such off-grounds event-related misconduct is abuse of motel rooms by dogs or persons attending the events.

The Complaint.

Any person who becomes aware of an act of event-related misconduct during the hours of a MASCA event, must notify either the Event Chairperson or the Event Secretary [Club Official].

Upon receipt of a complaint, the host club official shall provide the complainant with a MASCA Misconduct Complaint Form. The complainant must complete all of Section 1, including the complaint description, which must contain a complete, factual, and detailed description of the conduct alleged to have occurred, and the identity of all persons, potential witnesses, and dogs involved in the alleged misconduct. No formal category 1 misconduct complaint form will be entertained unless accompanied by a deposit of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Fee will be refunded if the complaint is found to be valid. Once the complainant has returned the complaint form, the club officials shall investigate the complaint to determine whether a hearing is warranted. If there is sufficient evidence to believe that an individual is threatening, intimidating, has assaulted, or battered any person or abused or neglected a dog at any time or during their investigation, the club may elect not to notify the individual on the day of the event that an official complaint has been lodged, or may immediately expel that individual from the event without a hearing.

Completing the Misconduct Complaint Form.

If the officials determine that a hearing is necessary the club official shall enter the names, and where known, the addresses, daytime and evening phone numbers of the accused and all witnesses for the complainant in Section 2 and Section 3 of the Misconduct Complaint Form. The officials shall then proceed with holding a hearing using the Hearing Procedure Form. If officials determine that a hearing is



not warranted, the completed MASCA Misconduct Complaint Form must still be forwarded to MASCA Business office and must include a written explanation of the findings of the event committee and why a hearing was not held. This must be signed by the Chairperson and the two-additional members assigned to the misconduct committee. The Misconduct Complaint Form must be submitted along with the Event Report. MASCA reserves the right to implement disciplinary action on any individual(s) involved from the official complaint.

Any person who becomes aware of an act or event related misconduct AFTER the event, or if the misconduct was committed by a member of the Event Committee or the host club, must notify MASCA BUSINESS OFFICE with a written, signed complaint within 7 days of the event. MASCA staff shall forward to the complainant a Misconduct Complaint Form. Complainant shall complete Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Misconduct Complaint Form. Section 1 must be filled out completely. Complainant must fill out as much of Sections 2 and 3 as he/she is able and return the form to MASCA Business Office with the fee.

#### The Event Hearing Committee and Notice

1. Event Hearing Committee: The Event Chairperson shall appoint from the officers and directors of the host club, two persons who shall serve, with the Event Chairperson, as the Event Hearing Committee, except that no officer or director who witnessed the alleged misconduct shall serve on the Event Hearing Committee. Additionally, no person who is related to, living in the same household as, or co-owns any dogs with either the complainant or any accused person shall serve on the Event hearing committee. If no officer or director is eligible to serve, then other club members may be appointed. The Event Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson of the Event Hearing Committee and shall set a time and place for the hearing. If the Event Chairperson witnessed the alleged misconduct, the task of appointing the Event hearing committee shall fall on the Event Secretary/Manager and he/she shall appoint, from the officers and directors of the host club, three persons who shall serve as the Event Hearing Committee and shall also designate one to serve as Chairperson of the Event Hearing Committee. The Chairperson of the Event Hearing Committee shall appoint a member to record the notes of the Event hearing. The place for the hearing shall be on the event grounds and the hearing time shall be set so as to give the accused adequate time to prepare for the hearing but should take place the same day as the event.

2. Notice: As soon as possible after receiving the complaint, the Event Hearing Chairperson shall advise the accused of:

- a. The specific conduct that is the subject of the complaint and the time and place at which the alleged misconduct occurred;
- b. The name of the complainant;
- c. The names of witnesses against him/her; and,
- d. The time and place of the hearing.

The Hearing Chairperson shall also advise the accused of their right to have witnesses to the alleged misconduct speak on their behalf during the hearing. The witnesses name and contact information must be provided to the Hearing Chairperson prior to the time of the scheduled hearing.

3. The Hearing Chairperson must enter the address and daytime and evening phone numbers of the accused in Section 3 of the complaint. He/she may obtain this information directly from the accused or from the MASCA official entry form for the accused, if the accused is an exhibitor. If the accused cannot

be located on the grounds, the Hearing Chairperson shall select a date, time and place for the hearing and notify the accused in writing by certified mail (return receipt requested) at the mailing address on the MASCA official entry form or the last known address for the accused, whichever is applicable. Every reasonable effort shall be made to locate and notify the accused of the complaint and hearing. Hearings not held on the day of the event must be held no more than 28 calendar days from the date of the event.

4. If, after having been advised of the complaint and the date, time and place of the hearing, the accused fails to appear, the hearing shall proceed without the accused.

#### The Event Hearing Procedure

The Event Hearing Committee must follow and complete the MASCA Hearing Procedure Form when conducting the hearing.

1. The Event Hearing Committee Chairperson (hereinafter referred to as Chairperson) shall introduce himself/herself and the other members of the Event Hearing Committee.
2. The Chairperson shall designate a member of the Event Hearing Committee to keep a recording or written record of the proceedings and who will also be responsible for completing the MASCA Hearing Procedure Form. The record keeper shall try to provide as detailed summaries as possible in the spaces provided.
3. Chairperson will advise the accused of the specifics of the complaint, and of the following:
  - a. The accused may be present during the testimony of all witnesses;
  - b. The accused may question all witnesses;
  - c. The accused may present witnesses on his/her behalf;
  - d. The accused may testify in his/her behalf. No party in attendance is entitled to nor permitted to have an attorney present at the hearing.
4. After all testimony, the accused may present a final statement in response to the complaint. If the accused cannot attend the hearing due to distance or other compelling reason that satisfies the Event Hearing Committee, he/she may submit a signed, written response to the complaint to be used at this stage of the hearing.
5. The Chairperson will introduce and swear in the complainant (if present) and witnesses in support of the complaint. Each will, in turn, present their testimony, followed by questions by the accused, and then any questions from the Event Hearing Committee.
6. The Chairperson will introduce and swear in the accused (if present) and witnesses in support of the accused. Each will, in turn, present their testimony, followed by questions by the accused, and then any questions from the Event Hearing Committee.
7. The Chairperson will then excuse the complainant, witnesses, and the accused to deliberate and make findings.
8. The evidentiary standard for findings is that of a preponderance of the evidence. A simple majority is sufficient to make findings and a decision. In coming to a decision, the Committee may not consider the

respondent's general reputation or status in the sport of purebred dogs, prior acts of misconduct for which no disciplinary action was taken, nor the extent of the respondent's investment in dogs. The sole consideration must be the specific instance of misconduct with which the respondent is charged.

9. To come to a decision, the Committee must decide:

- a. Whether the alleged misconduct was proven to have occurred;
- b. Whether the alleged misconduct was prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs;
- c. Whether the alleged misconduct occurred in conjunction with a MASCA event. All three of these elements must be met to find against the accused.

10. Once the Committee reaches a decision, the Chairperson will call the accused back to notify him/her of the findings of the Committee.

11. Within ten (10) days of the hearing, the Chairperson must forward the Hearing Form and Complaint Form and any attachments, such as written statements, to the MASCA business office.

If a witness is unwilling because of religious or other beliefs to take the traditional oath (Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?), then the following affirmation shall be offered: "Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?"

If the complainant or a witness is unable to attend in person, they may testify via telephone if a speakerphone is available. Clubs shall make a reasonable effort to provide a speakerphone where a witness is willing to testify but cannot because of distance or other compelling reason. In the alternative, the complainant or witness may make a signed, written statement to be read aloud at the hearing. The accused may not testify via telephone.

If the amount of evidence you need to be absolutely certain of a fact is equal to 100%, then a preponderance is equal to 51%. In other words, the evidence must be sufficient to convince the members of the Hearing Committee that the fact asserted is more probably true than not true.

Prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs is that which could cause an average, reasonable person or family to be offended or potentially repelled from the sport of purebred dogs; i.e., conduct incompatible with a family friendly environment.

## **MISCONDUCT CATEGORY 2**

Uttering a payment with non-sufficient funds. This category refers to paying entry fees via a check with non-sufficient funds in the account, the use of a debit or credit card that is declined, forged or invalid money orders, or other forms of payment where an exhibitor's entry fees remain unpaid after competing.

### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING UTTERING A PAYMENT WITH NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS**

1. When the Event Manager becomes aware of an act of uttering in the amount of \$100 or more, the Treasurer must;
  - a. Notify MASCA Business office of the uttering misconduct,

- b. Provide along with the written notification, proof the violation and,
- c. Submit a copy of the dog's entry form(s) to MASCA within 30 days of the event.
- d. The club must make every reasonable attempt to collect sufficient funds,
- e. The club may collect a reasonable amount of fees in addition to the entry amount from the exhibitor.

2. The MASCA Disciplinary Action Committee will review the complaint and if a violation is found, the following steps may be taken:

- a. Invalid Entry. MASCA will notify the exhibitor that the dog's record for the event will be treated as an invalid entry when recording the Event Results.
- b. The exhibitor must contact the club immediately upon notification from their financial institution or from MASCA (whichever is first), that the payment was insufficient and resolve the insufficient funds entry payment to the club.
- c. When the outstanding debt has been successfully paid by the exhibitor, which may include additional charges assessed to the club by their financial institution, the club must notify MASCA business office within 7 days.

3. After MASCA has been notified by the club or Event Manager that the uttering has been successfully paid, the exhibitor may make an appeal to re-instate the dog's points to the MASCA BUSINESS OFFICE. An appeal must be filed not later than 30 days from the date the uttering has been successfully paid to the club. The decision of The MASCA business office shall be final.

4. Habitual Uttering. The MASCA Business office may place on Probation or Suspension any exhibitor or owner for repeated instances of uttering as described in the Penalties section in the General rules.

Misconduct by Host Club.

When any person or persons become aware of an act of misconduct by a club, its event officials, any person acting in an official capacity or acting event manager during the hours of a MASCA event must make written notification of the violation by the club to MASCA business office within 7 days of the event.

***SEE BYLAWS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS OF MISCONDUCTS***