

Oklahoma Stock Dog Association
Rules
Updated June 5, 2012

Table of Contents

I. Statement of Purpose:2

II. Overview:2

III. Class Definitions3

A. Open Class:3

B. Open Ranch Class:3

C. Ranch Class:.....4

D. Novice Class:5

E. Nursery Class.....6

IV. General Rules & Guidelines.....7

A. Judges7

B. Course Director:8

C. Handlers:8

D. Dogs:.....9

E. Trials:9

F. Membership:10

V. DOG OF THE YEAR CHAMPION POINT SCHEDULE.....11

VI. PREMIUM MONEY SCHEDULE.....11

VII. PERCENTAGE OF MONEY PAID SCHEDULE12

I. Statement of Purpose:

The Oklahoma Stock Dog Association (OSDA) is established to create interest in the working, training, and breeding of stock dogs. It is further established to promote and conduct sheep dog & cattle dog trials, with consideration for the safety and humane treatment of the animals involved, throughout the state of Oklahoma.

II. Overview:

A. Classes: The OSDA recognizes the following classes: Open, Open Ranch, Ranch, Novice, Nursery, and a non-competitive Youth class. To compete in a class both handler and dog must meet the requirements as stated in their respective definitions, i.e. Open Class: Open Handler, Open Dog.

B. Courses: The typical National Style trial course is run in an open field. However, trials can also be run in indoor and outdoor arenas, baseball diamonds, city parks, etc. The phases of work in a full course most often include, but are not limited to, the outrun, lift, fetch, drive, pen, and shed or single. Obstacles (such as panels) are usually set up and the dog is required to maneuver the livestock in, around and through them in a workmanlike manner using as straight a line as possible from one to another. The trial host and trial committee most often set up the course and may incorporate, as part of the course, obstacles already part of the trial field, e.g. a bridge, creek, etc. A complete description of the National Style course can be found in the ISDS rules. Courses differ in difficulty from class to class. The courses, in order of difficulty, starting with the most difficult are: Open, Nursery, Open Ranch, Ranch, Novice, Youth.

C. Schedules: The Premium Money and Percentage of Premium Money schedules are a guideline for trial hosts. Trials not following the published schedules must advertise that other schedules will be used. Advertising can be done in the OSDA newsletter, website, and Yahoo Group. Unless otherwise stated, a maximum of two (2) premiums per class per handler are paid.

D. Dog of the Year Champion:

- All OSDA sanctioned trials are eligible to receive points toward the Dog of the Year Championship.
- The Dog of the Year Champion points will begin with zero (0) points starting with the first trial at the beginning of the year.
- A dog that moves to a higher class during the trial year retains any Dog of the Year Champion points earned in the lower class.
- A dog must compete in a class (Novice, Ranch, Open Ranch or Open) in at least three OSDA sanctioned trials during the trial year to be eligible for Dog of the Year in that class.
- Upon the completion of all trials for the year, the points will be tallied and the top 3 scores will determine the winner in each class: Novice, Ranch, Open Ranch or Open.
- Dogs are eligible to win Novice, Ranch & Open Ranch only one time in lifetime even though they compete in the class in multiple years.
- Open dogs can win the Open Dog of the Year Championship unlimited times.

- Although Open Handlers are allowed to compete in the Ranch Class they are not eligible for the Ranch Dog of the Year Championship.

E. Exhibition: Trial hosts have the option of allowing exhibition runs during the course of the trial. These runs are non-competitive and place no restriction on a dog or handler. The handler must pay the OSDA fee plus any fee required by the trial committee, e.g. stock charge. The handler does not receive prizes or money, nor does the dog receive Dog of the Year Champion points. A dog may not run exhibition and then compete in a lower class during the same trial, e.g. run exhibition in the Open Ranch then compete in the Ranch.

III. Class Definitions

A. Open Class:

1. Handler:

- An Open Handler is a National style competitor who has competed in an Open Class worldwide.
- This handler is eligible to compete in the Open, Open Ranch, Ranch and Nursery Classes, but not Novice.
- This handler cannot run any Open dog in the Open Ranch Class or Ranch Class.
- It is the responsibility of buyers and sellers to properly represent class status of any dog. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against either or both parties.

2. Dog:

- An Open dog is any dog that has competed in the Open Class worldwide, regardless of winnings.
- This dog may not compete in any other Class with an Open handler except for the Nursery Class.

3. Course:

- In a field trial, the dog will run a full course with a shed or single. These trials are judged with a time limit for completing the course. The course may be modified to include, for example, a chute or Maltese cross. These obstacles may be in addition to the full course or may replace a phase of work such as the shed or pen.
- In an arena trial, the dog may run a full course or may run a pattern as determined by the trial committee. The trial may be judged, timed, or a combination of judged and timed.

B. Open Ranch Class: The Open Ranch class is designed to prepare dogs and handlers for Open competition.

1. Handler:

- An Open Ranch Handler is any handler who has competed in the Open Ranch Class, but has not competed in the Open Class worldwide.

- b. This handler is eligible to compete in the Open Ranch, Ranch, and Nursery Classes.
- c. This handler may compete in the Open Ranch Class with a dog that may have been advanced from the Ranch or Novice Classes.
- d. This handler may compete in the Open Ranch Class with a dog that has a history of Open Class competition, so long as the ownership has changed.
- e. This handler cannot move an Open Ranch dog down to the Ranch Class.
- f. This handler may exhibition an Open dog.
- g. It is the responsibility of buyers and sellers to properly represent class status of any dog. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against either or both parties.

2. Dog:

- a. An Open Ranch dog is any dog that has competed in Open Ranch Class competition.
- b. This dog may be a dog in training, handled in competition by an Open Ranch or Open handler.
- c. This dog may have been started in the Open Ranch Class or advanced from the Ranch Class by point system requirement or by choice of the handler.
- d. A Novice Class dog may advance to the Open Ranch Class by choice of the handler.
- e. Upon purchasing an Open Class dog, an Open Ranch handler may move a dog down from the Open Class to the Open Ranch.

3. Course:

- a. In a field trial, the dog may be required to run a full course, excluding the shed or single. The dog is never required to shed or single. The outrun and drive are usually shorter than an Open course. These trials are judged with a time limit for completing the course. The course may be modified to include, for example, a chute or Maltese cross. These obstacles may be in addition to the full course or may replace a phase of work such as the pen.
- b. In an arena trial, the dog may run a full course or may run a pattern as determined by the trial committee. The trial may be judged, timed, or a combination of judged and timed.

C. Ranch Class: The Ranch class is an intermediate level of competition for the inexperienced handler between the Novice and Open Ranch classes. It is also a class to give Open Handlers a level at which to start competing with an inexperienced dog. *(Open Handlers are not eligible to receive points for the Ranch Class Dog of the Year Championship in this Class.)*

1. Handler:

- a. A Ranch Handler is any handler who has competed in the Ranch Class, but has not competed in the Open Ranch or Open Classes worldwide.
- b. This handler is eligible to compete in the Ranch , Novice & Nursery classes.
- c. Upon purchasing an Open Ranch dog, a Ranch handler may move an Open Ranch dog down to the Ranch Class.
- d. This handler cannot move down nor run any Open dog in the Ranch Class.
- e. Any handler may exhibition a dog.
- f. It is the responsibility of buyers and sellers to properly represent class status of any dog. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against either or both parties.

2. Dog:

- a. A Ranch Dog is any dog that has competed in the Ranch Class that has not competed in an Open Ranch or Open Class worldwide.
- b. Upon purchasing an Open Ranch Class dog, a Ranch handler may move a dog down from the Open Ranch Class to the Ranch.

3. Course:

- a. In a field trial, the dog is not required to run a full course. The dog is never required to shed or single. Typically the dog is required to do an outrun, lift, fetch, partial drive, and pen. The handler may not walk with the dog during any phase of work except to pen. The outrun and drive are usually shorter than an Open Ranch course. The outrun is approximately 150 yards or less. The fetch may or may not have fetch panels. The drive may have three (3) legs of approximately 35 to 50 yard each; or may be through or around an obstacle then to the pen. Drive points may be earned by completing the entire drive or to each leg of the drive.
These trials are judged with a time limit for completing the course. The course may be modified to include, for example, a chute or Maltese cross. These obstacles may be in addition to the prescribed course or may replace a phase of work such as the pen.
- b. In an arena trial, the dog may run a modified course or may run a pattern as determined by the trial committee. The trial may be judged, timed, or a combination of judged and timed.

D. Novice Class: The Novice class is designed to give inexperienced handlers a level at which to start competing.

1. Handler:

- a. A Novice handler is any beginning level handler who has not previously competed in the Ranch, Open Ranch, or Open classes worldwide.

- b. The class is open to novice handlers with any dog other than an Open dog.
- c. It is the responsibility of buyers and sellers to properly represent class status of any dog. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against either or both parties.

2. Dog:

- a. A Novice dog is any dog that has not competed in a Ranch, Open Ranch, or Open class worldwide.
- b. Upon purchasing a Ranch Class dog, a Novice handler may move the dog down from the Ranch class to the Novice.

3. Course:

- a. In a field trial, the dog is not required to run a full course. The dog is never required to shed or single. Typically the dog is required to do an outrun, lift, fetch and pen. The handler may not walk with the dog during any phase of work except to pen. The outrun is approximately 75 to 125 yards. The fetch may or may not have fetch panels. The fetch may be straight to the pen, to the handler, or to a designated spot on the field.
- b. In an arena trial, the dog may run a modified course or may run a pattern as determined by the trial committee. The trial may be judged, timed, or a combination of judged and timed.

E. Nursery Class

1. Handler:

- a. Any Open, Open Ranch, Ranch or Novice handler may compete in the Nursery Class.
- b. The handler must submit a copy of the dog's registration certificate prior to going to the post.
 - 1. Certificates not available at that time have a thirty (30) day grace period.
 - 2. Imported eligibility documents should be included with certificates.
 - 3. It is the responsibility of buyers and sellers to properly represent class status of any dog. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against either or both parties.

2. Dog:

- a. Any dog that meets the age requirement is eligible to compete in the Nursery Class.
- b. Age Requirement:
 - 1. A dog must be 30 months or younger on or before December 31 of the year previous to the OSDA Finals.

2. Dogs imported younger than one (1) year of age may compete in the Nursery Class.

3. Course:

- a. In a field trial, the dog may be required to run a full course, excluding the shed, or as directed by the presiding judge. The dog is never required to shed or single. The outrun and drive can be the same as an Open course, or may be shortened. These trials are judged with a time limit for completing the course. The course may be modified to include, for example, a chute or Maltese cross. These obstacles may be in addition to the full course or may replace a phase of work such as the pen.
- b. In an arena trial, the dog must run an international style course and must be judged.

IV. General Rules & Guidelines

A. Judges

1. All OSDA sanctioned trials are judged according to the following sections found in the ISDS Rules and Guidelines.
 - a. Section 5 'i' through 'vi'
 - b. Section 19
 - c. Notes for the Guidance of Judges
2. Judges should be familiar with these rules and these rules should be available for review while judging.
3. Only a secretary, clerk, and/or timekeeper may sit with the judge.
4. The judge should describe the trial field boundaries.
5. Distractions to the judge should be limited.
6. The judge has the authority to retire any entry that may be abusing the livestock and/or dog.
7. All decisions of the judge are final.
8. Judges determine reruns.
9. Judges determine the manner in which ties are broken and have the following options available to him/her.
 - a. Split the premiums.
 - b. Use the highest scoring gather (*total outrun, lift and fetch points*)
 - i. If the gather is tied, each single phase of work is compared until a higher score is found, thus breaking the tie.
 1. Phases or work are compared in the following order: outrun, lift, fetch, drive, pen, shed/single
 2. If a course has been modified so it does not include one or more phases listed above, the "other" phases will be compared in the order they occurred during the run.
 - c. Have a run-off.

10. A judge may call for a personal break at any time during the trial.
11. If a judge is unable to perform his/her duties, it is his/her responsibility to find a replacement. S/he may call the OSDA secretary for suggestions.
12. It is the trial committee's responsibility to provide a clerk and a secretary.
13. A judge may run a dog in a class s/he is not judging.

B. Course Director:

1. The trial committee, OSDA secretary, or trial sponsor may appoint a course director.
 - a. If more than one person is designated course director, they should:
 - i. Carry out all duties at different times during the trial.
 - ii. Carry out the specific duties that have been divided among or between those designated.
 - iii. Carry out duties as directed by the trial committee.
2. The course director's duties include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Handling complaints.
 - b. Maintaining the run order.
 - c. Determining the method of exhausting stock. The course director may:
 - i. Appoint someone to exhaust.
 - ii. Require competitors to exhaust the run that follows them.
3. The course director should be available at all times during trial hours.
4. All complaints must be filed with the course director. If s/he is unwilling or unable to handle the complaint, it may be filed with the Board in writing.

C. Handlers:

1. A handler is limited to the use of a crook or stock stick while competing.
2. A contestant shall not enter the trial field at any time with any kind of training device.
 - a. The trial committee, representative, or judge may disqualify a contestant if s/he enters the trial field with any such equipment.
3. A handler is responsible for injury to livestock and property, both on and off the trial field, that results from a dog being loose and/or out of control.
4. Handlers should always demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct.
5. Assistance from sidelines may subject a handler to disqualification.
6. Handlers may walk the trial field prior to the trial.
7. Upon leaving the post area during a phase of work that does not include the pen, shed, chute, or other similar work, it is assumed the contestant is retiring and, therefore, no points are awarded.
8. When the allotted time for a run has expired, points are awarded through the last completed phase of work.
9. If the judge signals "off course", the handler will quickly retire from the post. No points are awarded.
10. If the judge signals "thank you", the run has been disqualified and the handler will quickly retire from the post. No points are awarded.

11. A handler should be ready to run whenever his/her name is called. Failure to come to the post when called is cause for disqualification of that run.

D. Dogs:

1. Any dog may compete regardless of breed, age, or color. A dog is not required to be registered or purebred.
2. There are restrictions as to the equipment a dog is allow to wear on the trial field premise and during competition. Non-adherence to these restrictions may result in disqualification, as well as loss of fees, prizes and premium monies.
 - a. A dog may be equipped with any standard collar.
 - b. Restricted devices include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Any remote controlled device on premise.
 - ii. Dummy or weighted collars.
 - iii. A leash or rope not detached before the dog is cast.
 - iv. Any device used to distract or cause pain to a dog.
 - v. The judge and course director have the right to inspect a dog for any violation to this rule.
3. All dogs should be kept securely tied, on a leash, or in a crate while not competing.
4. Dogs that are competing should be kept off the trial field prior to their run.

E. Trials:

1. Every competitor prior to competing in an OSDA trial must sign a Statement of Responsibility.
2. The OSDA does not limit the number of dogs per handler per class, but the trial host may do so.
3. Entry fees are payable to the person designated in the newsletter or web site.
4. No entries are accepted after the cutoff date for trials that require pre-entries.
 - a. Entrants may be put on a waiting list.
 - b. The trial host may make an exception on a case-by-case basis.
5. Entries are not accepted once a class is underway.
6. The OSDA secretary will furnish scoreboard sheets and a time clock. A run order may be furnished if requested by the trial committee.
7. The complete run order must be drawn prior to the first entry in a class proceeding to the post.
8. No entry may be pulled after the draw.
 - a. The handler is liable for the entry fee.
 - b. The trial host may allow substitutions.
9. A draw in a run order consists of a dog/handler team
 - a. An entry must run in order drawn.
 - b. A handler cannot name the order in which his/her dog shall run.
10. A random or rotation draw by the trial committee or someone appointed by the trial committee determines the run order.

- a. Should a handler's entries be drawn back-to-back or with only one draw between runs, entries are drawn and inserted so the handler has two draws separating his/her runs.
 - i. If it is not possible to separate a handler's runs by at least two (2) draws, that handler is allowed enough time to put up one dog and get the other to the post without the risk of forfeiting his/her run for being tardy to the post.
 - b. All classes are drawn in this manner.
- 11. Score sheets are checked and posted by the trial secretary in an area not readily accessible to the judge.
 - a. Total scores only are posted as soon as practical after run.
 - b. Point deductions are filled in after the last contestant in a class has run.
- 12. Once a class starts, the method of spotting livestock cannot be changed. It may be changed at the start of another class.
 - a. Should it be necessary to change the method of spotting livestock before the end of a class, all competitors who ran using the first method must be given the option of a re-run.
- 13. The OSDA secretary must receive the original score sheets, as filled out by the judge and clerk, for every sanctioned class run during a trial.
 - a. A trial may use its own score sheet or the form found in the newsletter and web site.
- 14. Each entry fee will include a \$3.00 OSDA fee (office charge) to be paid to the OSDA.
- 15. The division of the premium money is at the trial host's discretion. It should be included in the trial application or properly advertised in the newsletter or web site.
- 16. Any dog may run in a jackpot class without affecting their OSDA class standing. No Dog of the Year points are awarded.
- 17. Deviations from OSDA guidelines may result in disqualification as a sanctioned, trial loss of points for entries, etc.
- 18. A limit of \$100.00 for sheep loss/damage (per head) unless otherwise stated on web or newsletter.

F. Membership:

- 1. Membership is not required to compete in an OSDA trial.
- 2. Dues are paid annually, January 1 through December 31.
 - a. Regular Membership: \$20**
This level is for handlers who want to vote in OSDA elections, receive newsletters, and receive points toward the Dog of the Year Championship. Also eligible to join the Yahoo Group.
 - b. Family Membership: \$25**
This level is for family members living in the same household. The household receives only one (1) newsletter and 1 vote. Also eligible to join the OSDA Yahoo Group.

V. DOG OF THE YEAR CHAMPION POINT SCHEDULE

Open, Nursery, Open Ranch, Ranch, Novice Classes

Every qualifying run will receive 1 point.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
# Points	10	8	6	4	2

VI. PREMIUM MONEY SCHEDULE

Premium Money Schedule

Open, Open Ranch, Ranch, Novice, and Nursery Classes

Unless otherwise stated in newsletter, catalog, brochures, etc.

Total Entries	Places Paid
1 - 3	1
4 - 6	2
7 - 11	3
12 - 15	4
16 - 22	5
23 - 28	6
29 - 35	7
36 - 42	8
43 - 48	9
49 - over	10

VII. PERCENTAGE OF MONEY PAID SCHEDULE

Percentage (%) of Money Paid

Open, Open Ranch, Ranch, Novice, and Nursery Classes

Places Paid	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
One	100%									
Two	60%	40%								
Three	50%	30%	20%							
Four	40%	30%	20%	10%						
Five	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%					
Six	30%	24%	18%	12%	9%	7%				
Seven	28%	23%	16%	12%	9%	7%	5%			
Eight	25%	20%	15%	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%		
Nine	23%	18%	15%	11%	9%	8%	7%	5%	4%	
Ten	20%	16%	14%	11%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%