

**REDWOOD EMPIRE SHEEP DOG ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
REVISED NOVEMBER 17, 2018**

1. REDWOOD EMPIRE SHEEP DOG ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

1.1 This organization shall be known as the Redwood Empire Sheep Dog Association, hereafter referred to as the Association. Voting to be conducted under good parliamentary rules, (i.e. Roberts or Sturgis.)

1.2 Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws or General Rules of this club must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the members in attendance at a General Meeting, which was announced by written notice to the members 30 days in advance.²⁰¹⁶

1.3 The Association does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of our activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, election of officers and directors, selection of volunteers and vendors, membership, judging and provision of any other services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members, competitors, spectators, volunteers, vendors, and other parties with whom we interact.²⁰¹⁶

2. MEMBERSHIP²⁰¹⁶

2.1 Membership shall be open to any and all persons who are interested in working dogs and/or Association activities.

2.2 Membership dues shall be twenty-five dollars per person. In order to compete for the High Points Championship, dues must be paid prior to new business at the mandatory spring meeting.

2.3 An honorary membership may be bestowed, by a two-thirds majority vote of members in attendance, upon any person who has served the association over the years, with no loss of rights or privileges.

3. SELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1 Election of officers shall be conducted, by a plurality vote of members present, in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

3.2 Historian, Trial Clerk, and Publicity Chairperson will be appointed by the President. Term of office will run no longer than one year per election or appointment. Elections will be held at the Spring Mandatory Meeting each year.

4. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

4.1 President - shall preside over meetings of the Association. Shall act as chairperson of the Board of Directors. Shall make appointments as listed in the previous section.

4.2 Vice President - shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President

Shall serve on the Board of Directors and be president-elect for the following year.

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4.3 Secretary - shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the meetings of the Association in a permanent record book. Shall prepare and distribute to all members notices of meetings and events, and any other information concerning the Association. Shall carry on official correspondence of the Association as directed. Shall keep an up to date membership list in the minute book.

4.4 Treasurer - shall be responsible for the collection and safekeeping and expenditures of all funds of the Association and for keeping an accurate financial record. Shall advise the Association of paid membership status.

4.5 Trial Clerk - shall be responsible for keeping all records during each Association trials, such as order of running and time, and recording of judges scores, and making this information available to all handlers and the Publicity Chairperson at the completion of the trial.

4.6 Historian - shall be responsible for maintaining a history of the Association in the form of a scrap book containing newspaper clippings and any other items representative of the activities of the Association.

4.7 Publicity Chairperson - shall be responsible for publicizing all club events and shall make available to the press the results of trials and pictures when available.

4.8 Board of Directors - shall consist of nine members, the President will break any ties. Board of Directors to consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Past President and four active members. The primary duty of the Board of Directors shall be to review and study rule and policy changes of the Association and to present their findings to the club for adoption or rejection; and to act for the Association on any business that may arise in crisis and out of control of regular meetings. A member must have participated (compete or work) in at least 3 club events during the past year to be eligible for nomination.

5. SPRING MEETING

5.1 A spring mandatory meeting will be held on the first Saturday of February before the trial season each year. In the event of scheduling difficulties the meeting may be held on the second Saturday of February with written notice to all members at least 30 days prior to the date. Handlers that do not attend or contact an Association board member or officer to represent them cannot be considered contenders to the high point champion for that year.

5.2 All meetings will be conducted in accordance with good parliamentary law, i.e. Roberts or Sturgis.

6. TRIALS

6.1 The aim of this Association is to provide each contestant with equal opportunity without prejudice, to present attractive entertainment to members and spectators, and to advance the concept of good sportsmanship and growth of the Association.

6.2 The Association will insist on a voice in the selection of trial judges.

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6.3 It shall be deemed that a judge's decision will be final. Any abuse put upon or aimed at a judge, trial clerk, or timekeeper will not be tolerated. Contestants will be held responsible for violations committed in their behalf. This Association will be obligated to prepare and present a protest, through proper channels, against any contestant guilty of flagrant violations.

6.4 The number and locations of points trials will be determined at the Spring Mandatory Meeting. Contestants in Spring Trial and Fall Trial shall be confined to Association members only.

6.5 Each dog and handler team will carry any earned points with them throughout the year.²⁰¹⁶

6.6 Dogs will only run once during each trial.

6.7 The dog earning the highest number of points at designated point trials as compiled by the Trial Clerk, will be declared Champion for the year and will be entitled to be inscribed as such in the Association perpetual trophy and record of Champions.

6.8 This Association allows its name, reputation, and officers to be used only at its own sanctioned trials. The use of Association equipment at events other than sanctioned trials must be approved by the board.

7. JUDGING

7.1 All rules in this section will be subject to the General Rules subsection on Judges and Judging.

7.2 All eligible handlers for judging will draw for the judging spots. Remaining handlers will redraw for a no-points date on the same trials. All handlers interested in showing dogs with the Association must be in attendance at the Spring Mandatory Meeting to determine judging or no-points slots for the year. Handlers that do not attend or contact an Association board member or officer to represent them cannot be considered contenders to the high point championship for that year.

Eligible handlers are strongly encouraged to support the club by participating as a judge. Handlers who do not wish to, or cannot judge in the upcoming year may petition the new Board of Directors at the Spring Mandatory Meeting for an alternative judging assignment. Any such petition shall include a specific proposal for alternative trial participation in lieu of judging. They may not run their dog on that day. Examples are serving as clerk, timer, working in the pen/truck, set out, exhausting, or specific combinations of the these or similar duties. The new Board may accept or deny the petition and/or the proposed alternative, or specify a different alternative, as appropriate.²⁰¹⁶

7.3 Each handler will take no points for one trial during the year as determined by lottery, whether judging or not.

7.4 If for a valid reason, as decided by the Board of Directors, a Judging assignment cannot be met it would be moved to the next trial, when, if the obligation is still not met, the member would be considered not in good faith with the Association and would be automatically suspended with loss of all rights and privileges for the remainder of the calendar year. If you miss a judging assignment you should be excused from the high point running for the period of one year.

7.5 All family members will take no points on the same date.

8. DISSOLUTION

8.1 The Association may be dissolved only with authorization of its Board of Directors given at a special meeting called for that purpose, and with the subsequent approval by no less than two-thirds (2/3) vote of members. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the assets shall be applied and distributed as follows:

All liabilities and obligations shall be paid, satisfied and discharged, or adequate provision shall be made therefore. Assets not held upon a condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance to any other organization or individual shall be distributed, transferred, or conveyed, in trust or otherwise, to charitable and educational organization, organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, of a similar or like nature to this organization, as determined by the Board of Directors.²⁰¹⁶

1. GENERAL RULES (Revisions Approved Special Election April 11, 2009)

1.1 ORDER OF RUNNING.

The order of running shall be determined by drawing for position by the contestants or authorized person prior to the trials. The contestant shall draw for only one dog in turn, and if a contestant has more than one entry, the dog for which each drawing is to be made must be stated before such drawing. A contestant showing numerous dogs shall have a minimum of two (2) contestants between runs.

1.2 COURSE USE

Contestants may appear on, or travel over any officially designated course before the trials have begun, but a contestant, under no circumstance, shall take his dog or dogs over the course, under direction or otherwise, before the time the dog is called to appear for his trial run. Violation of this rule shall disqualify any entry known or determined to have had this advantage.

1.3 UNSOUND SHEEP

It shall be the aim of the Association to provide each contestant with sound, healthy sheep. Should an unsoundness, such as blindness, short-wind, nervous collapse, lameness, or similar affliction show during the lift of the sheep by the dog, the judge may order a re-run. Sheep which turn unruly or stubborn or unnecessarily wild or exhausted shall not be treated as "unsound" sheep. Handlers shall report to the holding pen thirty minutes before the trial to inspect the sheep.

1.4 OVER-DRIVING

Exhausting the sheep through much running and faulty work may cause the dog to be ordered from the course, or the dog may continue with loss of points, according to the judges decision. The object is to handle sheep quietly, easily, confidently, having control and directing movement without injury of any sort.

1.5 GRIPPING OR BITING

Any gripping shall result in disqualification or loss of points.

1.6 HUMANE HANDLING OF SHEEP

No abuse of sheep will be tolerated. Any dog and handler team may be called from the course at the judge's discretion. If an animal suffers an obvious injury during a run, the judge should end the run and remove the injured animal quickly and quietly to a non-public area to receive treatment. The judge will determine whether to grant a re-run, if the injury was not the result of improper work on the part of the dog and handler.²⁰¹⁶

1.7 INCOMPETENT DOG

The judge may terminate the run of any dog judged "incompetent" for the work assigned.

1.8 UNFINISHED WORK

A contestant who fails to complete the course in the time set or is called by the judge will be allowed points earned up to that time. The same rule applies when the handler calls his own contest.

1.9 LEAVING ASSIGNED POSITION (PANELS AND CHUTE)

Each contestant shall have regard for assigned position (both feet on base) for each phase of work. Leaving position without instruction prior to completion of the obstacle may result in loss of points. Points shall be deducted only at the obstacle where this occurred.²⁰¹⁶

1.10 HEALTH OF DOG

Under no circumstances will a dog suffering from infectious disease be allowed on the trial grounds before or during a contest. Violation of this rule shall disqualify any entry known or determined to have had this advantage.

1.11 SHEEP LEAVING THE ARENA

It is up to the judge's discretion whether to let a dog re-run or not if the sheep leave the arena.

1.12 NON-CONTESTING DOGS

Non-contesting dogs of all descriptions and under any circumstances are barred from the trials grounds.

1.13 CONDUCT

In any event staged, sportsmanlike conduct will be expected of all concerned. Any abusive or derogatory remarks by a handler or members of a handler's family, profanity, obscene language, drunkenness, abuse of animal or animals or other misconduct shall be deemed as ample cause for disqualification, with loss of entry fees, points, and privileges for the trial in question.²⁰¹⁸

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If you RSVP, you will be drawn a number. If you are not present when your number is called, you will be required to run last. This will affect only the dog(s) whose turn was missed. If you are a no show, you forfeit your turn and will be billed for your entry fee. If a member refuses to pay, their membership can be dropped.²⁰¹⁸

1.14 HOST HANDLERS

Host handlers are allowed to work their dogs in competition provided the trial is not held in their training pen or other much used practice area. The honor system will govern this rule.

1.15 INJURED SHEEP

Handlers will be responsible for full damages to any sheep up to full market value.

1.16 HANDLER APPEARANCE

To compete, handlers and trial judges shall be required to be properly attired for all competitions. California Fair and Exposition rules will apply when applicable.

1.17 INABILITY TO RUN DOG

If a dog owner is physically unable to handle his/her dog, as determined by the board of Directors, the owner may have another handler run his/her dog. This will not affect the handler's own entries.

2. JUDGES AND JUDGING

2.1 Judges are to score individually and are not to compare scoring. If there is more than one judge, scores are to be averaged. There should be in addition to the Judge, a timekeeper and a clerk for each judge.

2.2 The judge should not converse with other officials unless necessary, but should give his undivided attention to the performance of the dog and handler. Judges are to note or instruct the clerk to make notes regarding the performance on the score sheet when ever possible. A judge may appoint a course director at his/her assigned trial. The course director's responsibilities will be assigned by the judge.

2.3 Judges and handlers are earnestly requested to familiarize themselves with and study all the rules and regulations of the trials.

2.4 Judges shall have regard for the fundamental consideration that every movement on the part of a good sheep dog at work should produce some desired result or movement of the sheep. Faulty style includes such mannerisms as excessive: clapping, freezing to position, bouncing around, dodging in and out, over-running, too wide or too sharp flanking, over cautious waiting, belly-crawling and hiding, indifference, shyness, and similar traits. Good style is distinguished by the dog that is alert, fast to respond, concentrated, intelligent, who works his dog with the fewest commands, quietly given, gains preference over the handler who works his dog with excessive or confusing commands, much shouting, whistling, waving of arms, or otherwise causes unnecessary

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commotion. The judges shall appraise the manner in which the dog accepts commands and responds to them. A dog may come ahead to control the sheep without loss of points.

2.5 The Judges may order a dog from the arena at any time for roughness, inability, or time.

2.6 In case of tie score, the judge has the option of awarding the trial to the dog with the shortest time, or calling for a total re-run or a re-run of any portion of the course between the dogs involved. In case of tie in time and points, the tie can be broken by comparing lift scores. The dog with the highest lift score will win. If a tie still remains after comparing scores, judge's discretion will break the tie.

2.7 The Judge shall decide any case of unequal opportunity which may seem to entitle a dog to a re-run; and in case of declaration of eligibility to a re-run, the handler may decide whether to accept a re-run or rest on the score of points earned during the initial run. All re-runs follow after the full entry list has been presented.

2.8 It shall be deemed that a judge's decision will be final. Any abuse put upon or aimed at judge, trial clerk, or timekeeper will not be tolerated. Contestants will be held responsible for violations committed in his or her behalf with the points and/or prize money to be forfeited.

2.9 Judges will be limited to handlers with two or more full years experience in trial work with the Association or those individuals accepted with 2/3s club approval.

2.10 Any obvious prejudiced or biased judging, as decided by the Board of Directors at the trial involved, will be cause for immediate suspension of that member from the club for the remainder of the calendar year.

3. SCORING

3.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Each dog shall work its assigned sheep through each obstacle and into the pen unassisted in any way by the handler other than spoken command, whistle. Any overt movement of arms, legs, or body, or use of canes or hand held objects or acts aimed at intimidation of dog or sheep shall result in a severe loss of points.

Each contestant will have ten (10) minutes to complete the course. At the judge's discretion, an advisory warning may be issued at seven minutes.

3.2 OUTFRUN – LIFT - FETCH

Line A is a line which extends parallel to the back of the pen the width of the field.

Line B is a line which extends parallel to the front of the pen the width of the field.

Dog and handler must stand anywhere behind line A to start the outrun-lift-fetch. The dog should begin the outrun from within 10 feet of the handler. Deviation from this will result in a loss of points. On the outrun the dog may go left or right and shall carry along on this line until beyond the

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sheep. Any cross-over or tendency to cross-over shall cause a loss of points according to the judge's decision. The lift of the sheep should be cautious and calmly done without frightening the sheep. The fetch should be on a straight or near straight line from the point of lift to the handler. A completed fetch shall be when all the sheep pass all four corners of the pen in the same direction and cross line B. Failure to do so will be judged as an incomplete fetch and will terminate the run with no points. The handler may not proceed in front of Line A until after the dog has brought the sheep across that line.

3.3 OBSTACLES

Gather (Outrun, Lift and Fetch)	15 points * ²⁰¹⁵
Panels (2)	5 points each
Chute	10 points
Pen	15 points
Total Possible	50 points *

* If the gather is over 150 yards, the outrun and fetch may be assigned 10 points each, making a total of 60 possible points. In this event, the computation of scores for the year end high point award shall be proportioned as 5/6 of that score.

Judges may weight each phase of the outrun, lift and fetch at their own discretion, as long as it is followed consistently for all dogs. ²⁰¹⁵

The handler must complete at least two (2) obstacles and attempt a third before proceeding to the pen. If no attempt is made, the handler will receive no further points. An attempt shall consist of two (2) tries to complete the obstacle. Failure to have both feet on base loses points only for the obstacle involved.

3.4 PENNING

The handler must stand at the end of the gate in assigned position and must finish with the same sheep and number of sheep started with. Sheep must be in the pen past the line of the closed gate before the handler may leave his assigned position and close the gate.

3.5 TRIAL COURSE LAYOUT

The trial course may include driving the second panel at some ranch trials, at the discretion of the trial host (if any) and/or the Board of Directors. Entry forms shall describe the course, with the traditional 50-point course as default and at all Fair trials. ²⁰¹⁴

4. PROTESTS ²⁰¹⁸

4.1 PROTEST PROTOCOL

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Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of State, Local, or Redwood Empire Sheep Dog Association *Rules or Bylaws*.

Protests shall be submitted to the current year's RESDA President, unless he/she is the other party in question, in which case protests shall be submitted to the current year's RESDA Vice President. This process for registering protests should be followed even if the President or Vice President were not present at the trial in question.

No protest will be accepted unless it:

- a. Is filed within 48 hours of the time of the cause of the protest
- b. Is filed or received, in writing, with a signed original and a signed duplicate copy
- c. Clearly states which rule has been violated
- d. States when the protester first became aware of the facts and rule violation
- e. States the facts relied upon for the basis of the protest
- f. States that the protester will cooperate with the investigation of the protest and that the protester will be available and agrees to attend any hearing held to resolve the protest at the time and place directed by Board
- g. Includes the names of supporting witnesses, with accessible phone numbers
- h. Describes or attaches any documents relating to the protest, which must include the written decision issued by the local arbitrating body
- i. Is accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00 (cash, money order or certified check made payable to RESDA)

NOTE: The deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is upheld, the violator may be held liable for any portion of the direct costs incurred by the association in the course of the protest resolution. Failure to reimburse the association shall be cause for disallowing future entries in any RESDA events.

If the above requirements are met, the President and/or Vice President will distribute the protest to the entirety of the RESDA Board to adjudicate.

- a. The RESDA Board will make every effort to resolve protests as quickly as possible. All competitors by entering a trial, RESDA members, and all persons by filing a protest agree to cooperate with the RESDA Board to resolve protests in a timely manner. All protests must be resolved prior to the next Spring Meeting.
- b. At the discretion of the Board, judging and/or awards can be delayed to allow time for the Board to resolve the protest.
- c. A hearing may be conducted at the discretion of the Board.

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Any RESDA member involved in a protest filed before or during judging is eligible to compete until the protest is resolved.

Once the Board has ruled on a protest, no additional protest or appeal will be considered relating to that incident in perpetuity.

4.2 JUDGING RELATED PROTESTS

Judging protests follow the same protocol as general protests.

Decisions of judges cannot be protested and are final.

At the discretion of the Board, judging and/or awards can be delayed to allow time for the Board to resolve the protest.

Any RESDA member involved in a protest filed before or during judging is eligible to compete until the protest is resolved.

These Bylaws were updated after the 2018 Fall General Membership Meeting by the Redwood Empire Sheep Dog Association Secretary.

Sharon J. Heringer
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