

Rules for the Continental Sheepdog Championship

agreed upon by the
Committee of the Continental Sheepdog Championship
21 August 2007
Drammen, Norway

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1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. Continental Sheepdog Championship (CSC)

The Continental Sheepdog Championship (CSC) is an annual trial, organised by the CCSC, in which National teams selected by Sheepdog Organisations from Continental European countries can enter with a limited number of competitors.

1.2. Organising Committee of the Continental Sheepdog Championship (CCSC)

The organisation of the CSC is a cooperation between: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Border Collie Deutschland e.V. (Germany); Österreichischer Hütehundeverein (Austria); vzw Werkgroep Schapendrijven in België (Belgium), Dansk Hyrdehundeklub (Denmark); Suomen Paimenkoirayhdistys (Finland); Association Française du Border Collie (France); Associazione Italiana Sheepdog (Italy); Border Collie Club Nederland (the Netherlands); Norsk Sau og Geitalslag (Norway); Svenska Vallhundklubben (Sweden); Swiss Sheepdog Society (Switzerland); Føroya Seydahundafelag (Faroe Islands); Klub Pracovních ovcáckých Psů O.S. (KPOP-CR) (Czech Republic) and the International Sheep Dog Society (United Kingdom).

2. THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHEEPDOG CHAMPIONSHIP (CCSC)

- 2.1. Members of the committee are the under 1.2 summed up national organisations representing their country, the ISDS and a secretary. One organisation per country is admitted.
- 2.2. Members appoint one representative to have a seat in the Committee. Each representative has one vote.
- 2.3. The chairman is chosen amongst the representatives.
- 2.4. The committee lays down and administers the rules for the cooperation on and the organisation of the Championship.
- 2.5. Members select and enter a National team of competitors. Selection must be organised in such a way that all handlers living in the corresponding country have a fair and equal chance to compete.
- 2.6. New members need to send an application for admission to the secretary. On admission is decided with a majority vote.
- 2.7. The participating members must comply with the rules agreed upon by the Committee. Only the Committee can change these rules. Any proposal for a change of rules must be entered on the agenda for the Committee meeting. In case of difference of opinion, decisions are made by a majority vote. Changing of rules has to be agreed upon 12 month before the implementation of the new rules.
- 2.8. The representatives are responsible for the communication of rules and decisions to their Sheepdog Organisations and their teams.

- 2.9. An annual meeting is held near the trial venue of that year's organising member. If this is not possible another venue for the meeting can be agreed on by a majority of votes. If it is impossible to organise a meeting then decisions have to be made by correspondence or at a meeting connected to the CSC itself.
- 2.10. The secretary coordinates the communication on issues coming up which are dealt with by correspondence.
- 2.11. The secretary sends out invitations and agenda for the meeting at least one month prior to the meeting date. Each representative has the right to put an item on the agenda. Such items must be advised to the secretary at least two month ahead of the date of the meeting.
- 2.12. The agenda for the meeting must contain the following items:
- Number of competitors per country
 - New members
 - Organising members in the future
 - Financial report CCSC fund
 - Next years Championship
 - The planning of the annual meeting
 - Judges list
 - Any other business
- 2.13. Each member pays the travel expenses of their own representative to the Committee meeting.
- 2.14. The CCSC will hold a fund to create the possibility to give financial aid to the staging of a Continental Trial to any organising member that meets unexpected financial problems and to cover the costs of the secretary.

The fund consists of two different accounts: one at higher interest to cover financial problems for organising members and one for the secretarial costs. The secretary administers the accounts.

Every year each member pays a contribution to the CSC Fund proportional to the number of dogs the member sends to the CSC that year. Presently the sum to pay is equivalent to Euro 40,00 per dog. The contribution has to be received by the secretary at least two month prior to the trial.

70% of the contribution is put in the account at higher interest and 30% is put in the account for secretarial costs.

- 2.15. If a member does not pay the above-mentioned amount to the fund in due time, the member is not allowed to take part in that current years CSC.
- 2.16. The secretary sends an invoice each year to each representative.
- 2.17. The secretary keeps an archive of all the CCSC's documents and of the annual results of the Championship.

3. Trial Officials

3.1. Trials committee

- 3.1.1. A Trials Committee will be appointed by the CCSC to make decisions regarding inter-

pretation and/or administration of any rule in question during the trial, to lay out the course, and generally supervise the Championship. The Trials committee may alter the course before the trial starts, if in their opinion circumstances demand to do so. Such changes will be communicated to all representatives.

- 3.1.2. In the Trials Committee shall be at least three persons: President / representative of the organising Sheepdog Organisation, President / representative of last years organising Sheepdog Organisation and the representative of the ISDS.

3.2. The Judge(s)

- 3.2.1. The organising member decides if one or more judges will judge the trial. Judges must be recognised by the CCSC. The ISDS representative proposes judges from the UK countries. The secretary sends an invitation to the judge(s).
- 3.2.2. In case of more than one Judge, each Judges' points for a run shall be arithmetically added producing a total for each element and will be posted on the results board during the qualification trials. Individual Judges' points will be made available to each competitor at the end of the Championship. The results in the finals will be made public in the prize giving ceremony.
- 3.2.3. The Judge(s) shall give instruction to the Course Director and have the duty to call off a competitor if he shows insufficient merit, or makes such slow progress that the course cannot be completed in reasonable time, or if the welfare of the sheep or dog are in question. In such instance the Judge(s) decision is final.
- 3.2.4. The Judge(s) may instruct the Course Director to stop a dog at any point of his trial and order a re-run if the circumstances warrant such action. The re-run will commence where the original run was stopped. The time left and the points scored before stopping took place will stand.
- 3.2.5. In the case of a re-run being ordered because of a wrong number of sheep having been let out, or sheep wrongly marked or one or more sheep being unsound for working, the Judge(s) shall decide whether the run should be from the beginning or from which point it is to re-start. If decided that the re-run starts at any point other than the beginning, the time left and the points scored up to the point of the re-start shall stand.

3.3. Course Director

- 3.3.1. The Course Director allows the competitors from the competitors enclosure on to the course in their turn, unless directed otherwise by the Trials Committee.
- 3.3.2. If requested by the competitor before the run starts to explain the course, he shall do so.
- 3.3.3. After the run starts he shall not assist the competitor by giving advice or in any other way.
- 3.3.4. He shall see that each lot of sheep, when let out, is so placed to give each competitor a fair and equal chance.
- 3.3.5. He shall be available at all times during the trial to convey to the competitor any instructions from the judges.
- 3.3.6. He is responsible at all times for keeping the course clear and ensuring that competitors or their dogs are not interfered with in any way while competing.
- 3.3.7. On the fetch he should count the sheep to be sure the correct number has been let out and that the correct number have collars on before the handler starts the drive. If the number of sheep is wrong the course director informs the judges immediately. As in the case of a ribbon missing the judges may instruct the course director, to tell the handler when he enters the shedding ring to take one of the sheep as if it had a ribbon.

3.4. Trials Secretary

- 3.4.1. The trials secretary is responsible for the collection of the results from the Judges - immediately after a run - and their display.

- 3.4.2. Judges' points for a run shall be arithmetically added producing a total for each element and will be posted on the results board during the qualification trials.
- 3.4.3. The results in the finals will be made public in the prize giving ceremony.

3.5. Timekeepers

- 3.5.1. The organising member will appoint no more than three timekeepers. They will be responsible for the timing of the runs. The Trials Committee will instruct them in their duty.
- 3.5.2. The timekeepers will note the time that the run ended or was stopped by the judge(s).

4. ORGANISING MEMBER

- 4.1. The participating members perform the organisation of the CSC in turn. The Championship will be organised the last weekend of August.
- 4.2. The organising member is responsible for the logistic and financial management of the Championship. Final authority rests with the CCSC.
- 4.3. The organising member decides upon the number of judges that will judge the Championship. The CCSC-secretary invites, after proposal from the representative of the ISDS, and after consent of the CCSC, under ISDS acting judges to judge the trial. If more than one judge is invited they will come from different countries. The organising member covers the judges' costs.
- 4.4. The organising member appoints the trial officials: the course director, the timekeepers and the trials Secretary.
- 4.5. The organising member takes care of a veterinary check of the dogs prior to the trial
- 4.6. The organising member produces the starting list and publishes the teams and reserve dogs in a catalog.
- 4.7. A list of perpetual and challenge trophies, and the names and countries of the winners, will be submitted to next years organising member to facilitate reminding the team captains to observe that the trophies are brought with the team to the coming event.
- 4.8. All trial results will be given to the CCSC secretary within a month after the Championship.

5. TEAMS AND COMPETITORS

- 5.1. Each to the CSC admitted Continental member may enter one team with a maximum of eight dogs. It is allowed to bring two reserve dogs with the team in case one or two of the team dogs is/are not able to run due to illness, accident, etc. The reserve dogs are submitted at the same time as the team dogs. After the organising member has received the entries, no alterations can be made. The organising country will publish the teams and reserve dogs in a catalog.
- 5.2. It is the responsibility of the Sheepdog organisations of the participating members to select members for their National team through a fixed qualification system. The standard of the qualification trials shall equal the standard of the lay out of the CCSC's qualification trials.

- 5.3. New coming members in the CSC are allowed to start a maximum of two dogs the first year participating. The Committee decides when the amount of dogs can be enlarged - up to the maximum of eight.
- 5.4. The teams will be entered in the ranking of the competitors in their national qualification. The competitor highest in ranking will be the Team Captain. A member of the team takes part in ceremonies on behalf of the team when asked by the organising member.
- 5.5. It is the responsibility of the CCSC members, that their competitors entry forms are sent to the organising member in time before the appointed closing date. The organising member shall produce and hand out a starting list and all necessary information in proper time before the trial.
- 5.6. Competitors must run for the country they live in, regardless of their nationality.
- 5.7. No handler is allowed to run more than two dogs.
- 5.8. No more than two dogs from one owner can enter the trial.
- 5.9. Competitors are not allowed to wear any commercial sponsor logos (not being their National Team logos) on the trial field and during the presentation of prizes and other ceremonies, other than issued by the trial organisation.
- 5.10. Each competitor must present him/herself to the course director after being called by the announcer. Anyone failing to answer the call shall be disqualified and forfeit his run.
- 5.11. Competitors are required to note that while the order of the program will be followed strictly the timing cannot be guaranteed.
- 5.12. Any competitor wishing to have the course explained or have any point clarified must question the Course Director before he starts his run. He cannot have questions answered once his run commences. By commencing his run he is presumed to know the course and follow it in all its details. Once a competitor starts his/her run he/she is entirely in the hands of the judges.
- 5.13. Any competitor who receives assistance in any form will be disqualified.
- 5.14. If not previously stopped on the instructions of the judges, a handler will be called off at the expiry of the time limit, but in the latter case his/her points to the stage at which he/she is called off will count.
- 5.15. On the bell sounding, a handler will cease working his/her dog and will collect his/her sheep and remove them from the course immediately.
- 5.16. Any competitor who retires or who leaves the field without the judges' permission will forfeit all points.
- 5.17. Competitors shall keep their dogs under proper control at all times and any dog or owner interfering with another dog or competitor while working shall be disqualified.
- 5.18. Competitors and/or others shall not take their dogs on to the course before the competition starts, nor shall any of them run their dogs on the trial sheep before or after the trials.

5.19. Handlers without their dogs may inspect the course before the trial commences.

6. DOGS

6.1. Dogs entered must be registered.

6.2. All entered dogs – including the reserve dogs – must be presented to the veterinary check.

6.3. No dog that is unfit, blind or lame or is suffering from an infectious disease shall be brought on the ground.

6.4. No dog in competition shall wear or carry anything that might in any way assist or modify his performance. Coloring, dyeing or decorating a dog is prohibited.

6.5. If a dog on the first day of the CSC Trial is three years old or more, the handler must send together with the entry form a veterinary certificate showing that the dog is free of the eye disease PRA. This examination must have taken place after the dog is two years old. This rule also applies for reserve dogs. If this documentation is not delivered, the dog is not allowed to run.

6.6. The handlers must bring valid Rabies vaccination certificates and observe any other health requirements if so needed to enter the organising country.

7. THE CHAMPIONSHIP

7.1. The Championship consists of the qualifying trials on Friday and Saturday and the Finals on Sunday. The fifteen highest pointed dogs in the qualification will enter the Finals. The qualification trials will decide the National Team prize. The winner of the Finals is the Continental Champion.

7.2. The ISDS "Rules for Trials" forms the base of the CSC trials regarding the lay out of the Course and Scale of Points.

7.3. Regarding the length of the outrun, one should aim for minimal 400 Meters in the Qualifier and up to 800 Meters in the Finals with certain flexibility as to the physical possibilities in the organising country.

7.4. Deviation from lay out of the course, f. ex. introduction of new obstacles or features, must be endorsed by or decided by the CCSC at a meeting prior to the trial or by mutual agreement of the CCSC. Such agreement must be at least 12 months ahead of the trial.

7.5. *Starting order:*

7.5.1. In the Qualifier on Friday and Saturday, the dogs in each National Team run in the reversed order to their qualification place in their country: the dog finishing 8th in qualifying in their country for the National Team runs 1st in the qualifier, the 7th place dog runs 2nd for that country in the qualifier, finishing with the highest placed dog, who runs last for that country in the Qualifying Trial.

7.5.2. The host country provides the first runner in the qualifier on the Friday and Saturday, and each country with a full team follows in order. This order to be maintained

throughout the qualifier.

- 7.5.3. Teams with less than eight entries should have their team slotted in over the 2 days, with the same number of dogs running in each day, if their number in the team is divisible by two. The top 15 dogs that qualify for the Finals on Sunday, run in the same order as they did in the Qualifying Trial.
- 7.6. **The Qualifier** is set out as follows: Gathering, Driving, Shedding, Penning and Single sheep. Total points: 110.
- 7.6.1. *Gathering* 400 meters, 5 sheep (two marked sheep, three unmarked)
In the outrun the dog may be directed on either side. A straight fetch from the lift to the handler, through a center gate (6,5 meter wide) 140 meters from the handler. No retry at the gate is allowed. The handler will remain at the post from the commencement of the outrun and at the end of the fetch he/she will pass the sheep behind him/her.
- 7.6.2. *Driving* - The handler will stand at the post and direct his/her dog to drive the sheep 420 meters, over a triangular course through two sets of gates 6,5 meter wide, a second attempt at either gate is NOT allowed. The drive ends when the sheep enter the shedding ring.
The handler will remain at the post until the sheep are in the shedding ring.
In the case of a short course, when the fetch is less than 400 meters, the drive will be lengthened when possible so that the total length of the fetch and drive is 800 meters or as near to the length as is reasonably practical.
The drive may be either to left or right and shall be decided by the Trials Committee immediately prior to the Trial.
- 7.6.3. *Shedding* - Two unmarked sheep to be shed within a ring 37 meters in diameter The dog must be in full control of the two sheep shed (in or outside the ring) otherwise the shed will not be deemed satisfactory. On completion of the shed the handler shall unite his sheep before proceeding to pen.
- 7.6.4. *Penning* - The pen will be 2,75 x 2,5 m wide with a gate 2,5 m wide, to which is secured a rope 1,80 meter. On completion of shedding, the handler must proceed to the pen, leaving his/her dog to bring the sheep to the pen. The handler is forbidden to assist the dog to drive the sheep to the pen. The handler will stand at the gate holding the rope unless it is necessary to re-shed and must not let go of the rope (it is for the dog only to work the sheep into the pen). The handler will close the gate. After releasing the sheep, the handler will close and fasten the gate.
- 7.6.5. *Single sheep* - The handler will proceed to the shedding ring leaving the dog to bring the sheep from the pen to the ring. One of two marked sheep will be shed off within the ring and thereafter worn (in or outside the ring) to the judges' satisfaction. Handlers are forbidden to assist the dog in driving off, or attempting to drive off the single any distance or by forcing it on the dog.
- 7.6.6. *General* - No points will be awarded for work done in any phase of the course if the work has not been completed within the prescribed time limit.
- 7.6.7. *Scale of points* - Outrun (20); Lifting (10); Fetching (20); Driving (30); Shedding (10); Penning (10); Single (10); TOTAL 110.
- 7.6.8. *Time limit* - 15 minutes. No extension.
- 7.6.9. *Equality*
If two or more competitors stand equal in total points, the judge(s) will settle their priority by their points for the outrun, lift and fetch. If the outcome is still equal then the points for the drive will be decisive.
A competitor who is disqualified shall lose all his points for that run.
- 7.7. **Finals:** The Finals (20 sheep) is set out as follows: Double Gather, Driving, Shedding and Penning. Total points: 170.

Two lots of ten sheep will be gathered from a distance of approximately 800 meters. In one lot of sheep there are five marked sheep and five unmarked.

- 7.7.1. *Double Gathering* - Distance up to 800 meters for one lot of 10 sheep (if possible unseen by the dog) which should be brought through the gate 8,5 m wide in the center of the field to a post fixed 18 meter through the gate; the dog having reached the post will then be redirected for another lot of sheep (if possible unseen by the dog) which should also be brought through the gate and united with the first lot. The first run to be right or left as decided by the Trials Committee before the Trial and all competitors will run on that side, the second run to be on the other side.
Should the gate be missed, no re-try is allowed.
Both the dog and the first lot of sheep must be past the gate to the post 18 m inside the gate before the dog is re-directed for the second lot. At the end of the fetch the handler shall pass the sheep behind him/her.
- 7.7.2. *Driving* - The drive shall be for 550 meter from where the handler stands in a triangular course through two gate obstacles 8,50 m wide, back to the handler.
The drive may be right or left as directed.
Should the gates be missed, no re-try is permitted at either gate. The drive should be in straight lines and ends when the sheep enter the shedding ring. The handler will remain at the post until the drive is finished.
- 7.7.3. *Shedding* - The fifteen unmarked sheep to be shed off within a ring 37 meters in diameter. In shedding, the sheep will be passed between the handler and his/her dog and the dog brought in to stop and turn back the marked sheep.
Maneuvering for "cuts" is not allowed.
Should any marked sheep leave the shedding ring and join any unmarked sheep already shed off, the unmarked sheep with which the marked sheep has joined will be brought into the ring and shedding restarted.
Until the fifteen unmarked sheep are shed off penning will not be permitted.
- 7.7.4. *Penning* - The five marked sheep must be penned and the gate shut. The pen will be 2,75 x 2,5 m wide with a gate 2,5 m wide, to which is secured a rope 1,80 meter. On completion of shedding, the handler must proceed to the pen, leaving the dog to bring the sheep to the pen. The handler is forbidden to assist his/her dog in driving the sheep to the pen. The handler will stand at the gate holding the rope and must not let go of the rope, unless it is necessary to re-shed. It is for the dog only to work the sheep into the pen.
The handler must close the gate.
After releasing the sheep, the handler will close and fasten the gate.
- 7.7.5. *General* - No points will be awarded for work done in any phase of the course if the work has not been completed within the prescribed time limit.
- 7.7.6. *Scale of points* - Gathering 100 (each Outrun 20; each Lift 10; each Fetch 20); Driving 40; Shedding 20; Penning 10; TOTAL 170.
- 7.7.7. *Time limit* - 30 Minutes. No extension.
- 7.7.8. *Equality*
If two or more competitors stand equal in total points, the judge(s) will settle their priority by their points for the outrun, lift and fetch. If the outcome is still equal then the points for the drive will be decisive.
A competitor who is disqualified shall lose all his points for that run.

8. TROPHIES

- 8.1. The Team Trophy is won in the Qualifier by the team with the highest amount of points all eight runs put together. In case of less than eight competitors in a team, the amount of points is multiplied with the corresponding factor to match a team of eight.

Perpetual trophies:

List of Continental Perpetual Trophies

type	name trophy	description
Winner Final		Large Silver Cup
Winner Final		Shield with sheep and dogs on it
Winner qualification	Jimmy Easton Silver Cup	Cup
Best Team		Shield
Best Lady	Barbara Carpenter plate	Plate with sheep and dog
Best pen of qualification		Crook with little shovel on end
Best Norwegian		Silver Tongs in red bag
Best Swedish		Shield
Best Finnish		Knife
Best Danish		Shield
Best Dutch		Shield
Best German		Wooden trophy with sheep and dog
Best Belgian		Shield
Best French		Bronze trophy
Best Swiss		Wooden trophy
Best Austrian		?
Best Italian		?

9. PROTESTS

- 9.1. Any competitor may lodge a written protest, against any contravention of the rules. Protests must be lodged with the Trials Committee before or at the close of that's day trialing and shall be considered by the Trials Committee who will take any evidence they deem relevant. Protests will not be accepted following the close of the Finals. The decision of the Trials Committee is final.

10. CANCELLATION OF TRIAL

- 10.1. The Trials Committee may cancel or suspend the Trial for any reason beyond their control such as emergency or decree of any local or National authority; under such cancellation there will be no refund of fees. Any other reason must have the approval of the CCSC.