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NORTH EAST BORDER COLLIE ASSOC.



# HANDLERS GUIDE TO TRIALING



MARCH 2024 | DEVELOPED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PHOTO BY KAREN BENNETT



# HANDLERS GUIDE TO TRIALING

## PRIOR TO THE TRIAL

- **Entry Form**
  - Make sure it's legible
  - Sent on opening day
  - Accurate payment enclosed (including for a handler's dinner if offered)

## GOING TO THE POST

- **Attend Handler's Meeting**
  - Ask questions if course is unclear
  - Be brief and polite
- **Be early enough for your run in case there are scratches,retires or DQs**
- **Enter the field with your dog under control - leashes are allowed for walking to the post**
- **Introduce yourself and your dog to the scribe**
- **Go to the post; do not stay to socialize with scribe or judge**
  - If leash is used, remember to remove it before you send your dog
  - Send your dog in a timely fashion - sheep are not always easy to hold
- **If your dog is chasing /running the sheep, or the run is in a mess, retire by turning to thank the judge and going to collect your dog and then exiting the field**
- **When you have completed the run or time has run out**
  - If your dog isn't under good verbal control, put your leash on
  - Let sheep out of the pen and send them toward the exhaust
  - Collect your dog
  - Close the pen gate
  - Leave the field quickly so the next run can begin

## HELPING AT THE TRIAL

- **Volunteer for any and every job available**
  - Good way for novice handlers to learn
  - Really helps the trial host
- **Setting sheep is not a training ground for young dogs**
  - Your dog should be under good verbal control
  - You do not want to ruin someone else's run
  - You and your dog should have practiced this in several non-trial settings and be good at it before you attempt it at trial
- **Be prepared to exhaust the next person's sheep unless there is a dedicated exhaust team**
- **Familiarize yourself with 'Scribes Best Practices' found on the NEBCA website so that you will be prepared if lucky enough to be assigned as a scribe**

## UNDER THE TENT

- **Provide your own chair**
- **Never criticize the judge**
- **Don't criticize the trial host or organizers**
- **Be in a good humor**
- **Keep track of your dog**
  - Keep them from wandering to other handlers or their dogs
  - Make sure your dog is never in a position to interfere with someone else's run
  - Prevent male dogs from lifting their legs on other people's belongings
- **If you have a bitch in heat, do not sit with her under the tent**

## SPORTSMANSHIP

- Treat your dog and fellow handlers with respect and consideration
- Refrain from blaming the sheep, judge, set out or anyone else
- Try to graciously accept advice about your run from other handlers, they are usually trying to help you improve
- If a spectator asks you a question and you are not about to run, take a minute or two to answer them ; goodwill goes a long way
- Always return perpetual trophies
- Cheer for your fellow handlers who receive prizes/ribbons

## GENERAL

- Thank the trial host, the judge and volunteers
- If sponsors are present, be sure to go out of your way to thank them
- Make sure to camp in designated camping area

(General Continued)

- **Please respect fellow handlers and their camping space**
  - Be quiet arriving after dark and in the evenings
  - If you need to run a generator at night, park as far away from others as possible
  - Clean up after your dogs
  - Keep your dogs away from other campers and their dogs
  - Never let your dog wander unattended
  - Plan to take your trash home with you unless you're invited to dispose of it at the trial site
  - Leave your campsite clean
- **Don't let your dogs bark; if you have noisy dogs, park away from others**
- **Do not play ball, Frisbee etc. in the handler's parking or camping area**
- **Avoid running your generator where the exhaust will go in into someone else's camper**
- **Treat the sheep well, we need them; someone has worked hard to take good care of them and they are valuable**
- **Do not enter a trial unless you believe your dog is trained well enough to reasonably complete the course**

## HELPFUL LINKS

### NEBCA

[Trial Managers Handbook](#)

[Open Trial Rules](#)

[Fall Foilage Rules](#)

[Points](#)

[Novice Guidelines & Finals Guidelines](#)

[Points Submission Guidelines](#)

ISDS - [Rules](#)

### USBCHA

[USBCHA Rules](#)

[Trial Schedule](#)

[Points](#)

### Education & Development

[NEBCA Clinic Schedule](#)

[NEBCA Webinars](#)



This is dedicated to Bud Ames, a committed supporter of NEBCA learning trials.

