**ATTACHMENT 5b – DOGS WEST**

**Canine Association of WA Inc**

**Submissions re Review of the Rules for the Conduct of Lure Coursing Trials**

**Submitted September 2023**

**Submission 1 –**

3. PURPOSE, FIELDS, COURSE DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT

**Current Rule**

3.3 The Affiliate is responsible for grounds safety, course design and the laying of the course. The Affiliate may assign this responsibility at its discretion. The course must be between 600 metres to 1000 metres long, unless a shorter course is later approved as a contingency. A single laid course must be used for the entire event unless equipment failure or field conditions on the day otherwise require. The course must be measured by measuring wheel or GPS based app under the supervision of the Judge/s and course length recorded on the judging sheet. Course lengths may vary dependent on field and weather conditions on the day. A course may only be shortened below 600 metres to account for field or weather conditions on the day, with the approval of the Judge/s. Any decision to shorten the length of the course must be recorded on the judging sheet. Course layouts must contain turns in both directions and straight sections that demonstrate the dogs’ lure coursing capabilities. The lure line must be securely anchored to the ground to minimise the risk of dogs becoming entangled by the line.

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

3.3 The Affiliate is responsible for grounds safety, course design and the laying of the course. The Affiliate may assign this responsibility at its discretion. The course must be between 600 metres to 1000 metres long, unless a shorter course is later approved as a contingency. A single laid course must be used for the entire event unless equipment failure or field conditions on the day otherwise require. The course must be measured by measuring wheel or GPS based by the Judge/s **and course length recorded on the official course length document (appendix C).** Course lengths may vary dependent on field and weather conditions on the day. A course may only be shortened below 600 metres to account for field or weather conditions on the day, with the approval of the Judge/s. **Any decision to shorten the length of the course must be recorded on the official course length document.** Course layouts must contain turns in both directions and straight sections that demonstrate the dogs’ lure coursing capabilities. The lure line must be securely anchored to the ground to minimise the risk of dogs becoming entangled by the line.

NEW APPENDIX C

Affiliate:

Trial Date:

Trial Venue:

Declaration:

Per section 3.3 of the ANKC Rules for the Conduct of Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events I, Judges name (state), have supervised the measuring of the course and,

1. The course is of regulation length at metres long

OR

1. I have approved a course length of metres due to

Signature:

Date:

**Rationale**

Currently there is no official documentation to hold the event accountable for courses that are too short, or the frequency of short courses being used. Having an official document that requires submission to the governing body with a rationale for a short course that is sent in with other trial documents will make this rule more official and binding.

**Submission 2 –**

Lure coursing sanctioned event requirement:

**Current Rule**

Nil

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

**6.12 Handlers at sanctioned events must be 16 years or older and physically able to handle the competing dog.**

**Rationale**

Lure coursing is a highly arousing sport for dogs and therefore it is most appropriate that dogs are handled by adults that are most able. The age limit also brings lure coursing in line with other sports.

**Submission 3 –**

Lure coursing sanctioned event requirement:

**Current Rule**

6.5: No Checks Chains, harnesses, head collars, prong collars and/or E-collars are permitted. Only one item of permitted restraint is allowed on the field on the dog.

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

6.5 No check chains, harnesses, head collars, prong collars and/or e-collars are permitted. Only one item of permitted restraint is allowed on to the field on the dog. **At the judge’s discretion, if two handlers are required to safely bring a dog onto the field, two items of permitted restraint may be used on the dog until it reaches the start line.**

**Only one item of permitted restraint must be on the dog for release. Dogs are not permitted to course while wearing any permitted restraint item, including collars. Failure to adequately remove restraint items from the dog at release will result in a Ten (10) point penalty being applied.**

**Rationale**

Currently some dogs are being brought to the field by two handlers, which means that dogs is wearing two leads, this is appropriate as there are two handlers, but can take additional time hence the judge should be made aware of it. The rules currently do not state that dogs cannot run on course with collars or other restraint items. This also means a penalty cannot be applied. Due to the risk of dog safety and holding up a course when a dog needs to be restarted due to a slip lead still being on a penalty should be applied.

**Submission 4 –**

Lure coursing sanctioned event requirement:

**Current Rule**

6.6: Dogs may only have one handler on the field. With the Judge/s permission, handlers with a disability may have an assistant to help bring the dog onto the field but only one person may release the dog.

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

Dogs may only have one handler on the field. **With the judge/s permission, handlers with strong dogs that they are not able to handle individually without risk to their and the dog’s safety, may have an assistant to help bring the dog onto the field but only one person may release the dog.**

**Rationale**

Lure coursing is a highly arousing sport and handlers with big dogs have difficulty with getting their dog safely to the field alone, so a second handler is required. The terrain in which lure coursing events are held is sometimes slippery and hilly, which adds to the difficulty of handling a stronger dog

**Submission 5 –**

8.2 Titles for all other breeds:

**Current Rule**

Nil

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

**e) Coursing Ability Champion (CA Ch)**

**Once a dog has obtained it’s CAA title and is entered into the CAX Class, it is able to accumulate points towards a CA Ch title.**

**To qualify as a Coursing Ability Champion a dog must:**

**- Be competing in the CAX class (have earned its CAA).**

**- Have a minimum passing score of 150**

**- Earn 100 points under at least 4 different judging combinations on 2 different fields.**

**The accrual of points is set out in the table below. To obtain points the dog must achieve a qualifying score of 150 or more.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1st** | **10** |
| **2nd** | **8** |
| **3rd** | **6** |
| **All other entrants that pass with a score of 150 or more** | **5** |

**Rationale**

Some Coursing Ability Dogs make great lure coursing dogs in their own right and currently earning higher titles in coursing ability is more like earning a participation award with dogs only needing a minimum score of 100 over 32 trials to achieve the highest CA title available (not counting multiples).

Consistently successful dogs that course well over time, should be eligible to be awarded a Coursing Ability Champion title, which would allow them to be a dual or triple champions for example. Ensuring that Coursing Ability Champion points can only accrue once the dog is in CAX, will demonstrate that the dog can course consistently over at least two seasons. Providing a minimum score to earn points shows that the dogs are coursing at a consistently high level.

Coursing Ability dogs should be eligible for a Coursing Ability Champion title as there are numerous other sports where dogs that are not bred for those sports are eligible for a champion title in that sport, for example agility, tracking and obedience. Lure coursing would also not be viable without coursing ability dogs and as such a CA Ch rewards those Coursing Ability handlers that continuously support the sport of lure coursing, by providing an opportunity to earn a front-end title. The Coursing Ability Champion title is in addition to the back-end titles already outlined in the rules to allow coursing ability people to continue to have titles to achieve towards.

**Submission 6 –**

**Current Rule**

10. Conduct of the open stake:

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

**10. Conduct of the Trial:**

**a) Dogs shall be called in catalogue order**

**b) Upon signal from the huntmaster, the handler(s) must bring the dog(s) onto the course and to the start line as assigned by the huntmaster.**

**c) The huntmaster will ask the handler(s) if they are ready and upon receiving a clear YES from each handler, will signal the lure driver to commence movement of the lure away from the dogs.**

**d) The lure will be started no more than 2 meters in front of the dog(s)**

**e) The huntmaster will give a clear signal of TALLY-HO**

**f) Handlers must not release their dogs before the “T” of TALLY-HO. If they do so a pre-slip penalty is awarded (see 11.5)**

**g) Once the course is finished and the lure has been stopped and the huntmaster has given the direction of “collect your Dog(s), the handler(s) must move purposefully to collect their dogs and remove them from the course as quickly and safely as possible.**

**h) Handlers must follow any other direction given to them by the huntmaster**

**Rationale**

Currently there is little to no direction in the current rules on the exact steps that handlers/huntmasters need to undertake in the actual process of running a Lure Coursing Event.

**Submission 7 –**

Lure coursing sanctioned event requirement:

**Current Rule**

11. Judging:

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

11. Conduct of the open stake

**Rationale**

formatting to make room for proposed amendment 10

**Submission 8 –**

Lure coursing sanctioned event requirement:

**Current Rule**

11. Judging:

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

12. Judging:

**Rationale**

formatting to make room for proposed amendment 10

**Submission 9 –**

Lure coursing sanctioned event requirement:

**Current Rule**

12. Glossary of terms:

**Proposed Amendment**

WA

13.Glossary of terms:

**Rationale**

formatting to make room for proposed amendment 10