

TRIAL RULES

NSW Sheep Dog Workers
Incorporated
APRIL 20, 2022

WHY SHEEP DOGS TRIALS ARE RUN

The first competitive sheep dog trials were held many years ago in Wales. Thoughtful men then realised that these events brought together owners and breeders in convivial atmosphere to discuss those matters relating to the breeding, training, feeding, care and development of their charges. Since that time, trials and their rules have been altered periodically, but their objects, which are for the betterment of breeding, work and treatment of the sheep dog, have not changed. Steadily, those tools in trade of the world-wide pastoral industry and in particular of the Australian pastoral industry, have spread to wherever sheep have run.

Present day showground Trials have evolved to display and publicise the tasks dogs undertake on stations, farms and on the roads droving. The size of the ground being restricted; the trials are run with three sheep. This particular number is a most difficult one to work, but more practical than large

numbers on a small ground. The sheep are released from one end of the ground and the dog cast to pull them to the handler.

This is representative of paddock mustering and demonstrates the dog's capabilities in driving sheep unaided. The second test is to pass the sheep through a gate or race in order to show that the dog, by strategy and command, can direct his charges into or through a given place. A bridge must then be negotiated. Sheep do not react kindly to this obstacle and the true command of the dog is tried in forcing them over. Finally, all three sheep must be penned and held until the handler shuts the gate.

Each dog will be allowed equal time as designated by the Sub-committee. Each dog starts with 100 points and points are deducted for each fault made, any obstacles not negotiated or for any assistance, other than commands, given by the handler. Commands may take the form either of hand or stick signals, verbal directions or whistles. At the conclusion of the allotted time, the dog must be recalled.

The oft-expressed public belief that a Trial Worker is useless for the real job is completely without foundation.

New South Wales Sheep Dog Workers' Incorporated holds as its object, the better understanding, better care, breeding and training of its sheep dogs. The members of the Incorporate feel that in the publicity they give to trials, and with greater cognizance of what is being attempted, they will gain many members to aid in even finer achievements.

RULES

1. Naming and Registration of Dogs

- a) Each registered breeder must register a prefix for use in the naming of dogs bred by them. Each dog submitted for individual registration must be named and such name must not exceed two words in addition to the breeders prefix which must be used if applicable. The fee for the registration of a prefix is Ten Dollars (\$10.00).

- b) The Individual registration may be effected at any time, but application must be submitted on the Incorporates approved forms. These forms are obtainable free of charge to members from the Secretary. The fee for individual registration of dogs with registered parents is Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The fee for registration for dogs with unregistered parents is Twenty Dollars (\$20). Entire litters with parents registered by NSWSDWI or any other body as recognized by the NSWSDWI may be registered for a total fee of Twenty Dollars (\$20).
- c) The fees for all registrations and transfers may be altered from time to time at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) To register a dog, the owner must be a financial member of NSWSDWI, and subsequently may name and register the dog, provided that the breeder's prefix is used and the correct breeding, date of birth etc., is correctly filled in on the

application form. The name and address of the breeder of each animal must be given. The breeder of each animal is the owner of its dam at the date of its birth.

- e) When breed of the Sire or Dam is not known the dog can only be registered to compete in trials as Station bred.
- f) Dogs that are registered with any other State or World Sheep Dog Workers' Association are recognised by this Incorporate as being registered.
- g) All dogs that are sold or leased must be transferred on a Transfer certificate form to the new owner. The fee for the transfer is Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each dog.
- h) Any applicant for registration who makes a false statement, or fails or unreasonably delays to give any information or make any notification or return required by the register rules, may be refused registration and if a member of the Incorporate shall also be liable to be suspended or expelled from the

Incorporate and to have the registration of any dogs they owned cancelled.

2. Requirements for the Conduct of Trials

- a) A suitable arena providing sufficient space to enable all obstacles to be placed well away from the fence, with sufficient room for a good clear cast and providing sufficient distance between the obstacles to judge the dog's field working ability; preferably fenced securely for arena trials. Field trials may be held over a natural field the committee may decide.
- b) All sheep must be screened out of sight from the arena with Hessian or any other suitable material or yarded out of sight.
- c) Where possible each lot of sheep should not be used more than once for open trials. Sufficient sheep should be obtained to allow three sheep for each dog competing and each dog in the final, plus extras for emergencies that may arise.

- d) The three sheep to be used may be let onto the ground from a race, tractor carryall, or other suitable methods approved of by the Council.
- e) A marker must be placed on the ground from where the sheep are to be released, or when released from a race the marker should be placed well away from the let out to enable the dog sufficient room to cast well behind the sheep. Sheep are to be in the proximity of the marker before the dog is released. The position of the marker is to be decided on by the judge and committee before the trial commences.
- f) The casting peg and delivery area is to be placed well away from the fence to enable the dog enough room to work sheep behind the casting peg if necessary. The position is to be fixed by the judge and committee.
- g) The time-keeper should be equipped with two reliable stop watches and a

large bell which is sounded at the expiration of time and when the judge rules a dog is disqualified.

- h) An official will record the score of each dog as it completes its trial. Wherever possible an amplification system is to be used to acquaint all concerned of each dog's point score and to call the next competitor to the starting place.
- i) The draw for position should be conducted early and each competitor supplied with a copy of the draw so that the competitor has time to exercise their dogs before Trialing.
- j) The workers' circle should be clearly marked by a rope or wire set no more than three centimetres from the ground and the closest edge three metres from each obstacle.
- k) A straight line will be indicated between the obstacles by a mown line or flat marker.

TRIAL REGULATIONS AND FIELD RULES

1. All trials shall take place over such course as directed by the Incorporated body. Championship trials will be conducted over the standard course and obstacles. The pen may be placed to suit the arena.
2. No championship in NSW shall be recognised unless the trial is conducted under the rules of the NSW Sheep Dog Workers' Incorporate and held on the standard obstacles of this Incorporate. Any Show or Committee who proposes running a Championship trial must first affiliate with the Incorporate and obtain its permission to do so.
3. The circle in which the worker shall stand at each obstacle shall be one metre in diameter. The edge of the circle shall be three metres from the wings or gate and shall be marked by rope or wire no more than three centimetres from the ground.
4. A ring must be provided immediately behind the casting peg from which the competitor

shall not move until the sheep are delivered.
Diameter of ring 1 metre.

5. The angle of the gate at the pen should be in line with the centre of the opposite side of the pen. Ring should be three metres from end of gate in parallel line from front of pen.
6. That delivery area be defined as 16 metres square and a casting peg in centre.
7. That it be 8 metre course and marked out.
8. The trials will be carried out in the order drawn under direction of the committee conducting the trial. The steward in charge will have a draw for the order of running and will notify each competitor. Competitors must take their place at the casting peg by direction of the steward, and any dog absent when called upon to compete may be disqualified at the discretion of the steward.
9. Late entries may be received in the State Championships up until one week prior to trials.

These are to be worked at the end of each round. Additional fees to be paid are 1 ½ times the fee.

10. All open trials of Incorporation Sub-Committee of the NSW Sheep Dog Workers' Incorporated must be run strictly to the draw, and in the event of a worker not being present when called upon to work, without a valid excuse, shall forfeit that run and is liable for payment for the entry fee.
11. Any handler with more dogs than five (5) rounds should be drawn equally throughout the draw. One(1) in the first round and one(1) in the 5th round and the remainder spread evenly between remaining rounds. Any handler with two or less dogs, may nominate the rounds in which they work, but not the day.
12. Any handler working two (2) dogs or less in an encourage event, novice event, improver and/or open event may do so as long as the events are run separately. Events do not have to be run on separate grounds, dogs don't have to be the same two dogs, you may nominate the rounds but not the days. Handler may enter only one dog per round with a maximum of two dogs per event.

13. All dogs entered must be entered on the entry form with their correct names, prefix and registered number and must be run in the order as entered on the entry form. Where post entries are accepted, workers must nominate all dogs before running his first dog.
14. If a worker does not give 72 hours notice to the organising committee, such worker is responsible for all entry fees of dogs entered by that worker in the draw.
15. All competitors working a dog in any event, in all NSW affiliated, Organisation or Association trials must be a member of the official Sheepdog Workers Incorporate in the State where they reside.
16. All dogs competing in sub-committee trials must be registered with the NSW Sheep Dog Workers' Incorporated or the official Sheep Dog Workers' Association of other states, excluding event membership dogs.
17. An owner may appoint at time of entry, a nominee to work their dog/s at a trial. Such nominee must be a member of the Sheepdog Workers Association in the state in which they

reside, and accept full responsibility during the currency of the trial. If a nominee is appointed they must work in both preliminary round and the final, should a final be held.

18. Each dog shall have three sheep for the standard arena trial and shall be allowed time as allotted by the Sub-Committee. The Worker may appeal to the judge to reject any sheep when the sheep are delivered but before he leaves the casting peg. The judge may order three fresh sheep if he deems necessary. The judge may also order three fresh sheep at any time during the trial if he thinks necessary.
19. The organising committee shall determine the number of sheep to be used if Field or Utility trials and the course to be used, also the time allowed for each dog.
20. All Championship trials must be a duration of fifteen (15) minutes.
21. All judges appointed to Judges Panel be nominated by a councillor and approved by a majority of councillors at a General meeting of Councillors.

22. All judges must fill judges cards for each run. If a counter is used then the minimum information transferred to the card by the judge is to include: the deduction made, the score and the judges initials.
23. All NSW Judges on NSW Judges Panel must be financial members of the N.S.W.S.D.W.I.
24. If in the opinion of the judge and/or council any worker ill uses their dog they will be subject to a penalty as determined by a meeting of the council. All judges are directed to be aware and act to eliminate all excessive undue stress on both sheep and dogs. A final does not entitle a judge or handler to disregard this directive.
25. Any protest against a dog or competitor must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the Show or Trial committee within ½ hour of completion of run, and be accompanied by a fee of Twenty dollars (\$20) which will be refunded if the protest is upheld. Such protest will be dealt with by three members of this Incorporate, preferably councillors, if present.

Such members will within fourteen (14) days submit a written report to this Incorporation.

26. In the event of any question or situation arising, not provided for in these rules the matter in question shall be dealt with by three (3) members of this Incorporate preferably councillors, if present, and their decision shall be final.
27. No demonstration shall be given on the trial course by a dog entered in a trial unless prior permission is given by the organising committee.
28. A bitch in season shall be allowed to work in the trial.
29. In all trials, where a final is run, one dog more than there are prizes offered will compete in the final, such dogs will be the highest scoring dogs in the first run
30. The competitor may use a cane not exceeding 46 centimeters in length, provided it is not used for the purpose of creating a noise or blocking sheep at any time during the trial. No electric dog collar or replica thereof or muzzle will be allowed on any dog entering the trial ring.

31. A Novice dog is a dog which has not won an affiliated novice trial or better.
32. An Improver dog is a dog which has won an affiliated novice trial and nothing better.
33. A member of NSWSDWI and/or a dog registered with NSWSDWI winning an Affiliated Encourage or Farmers Trial in New South Wales or any other state or territory of Australia, the win will be counted towards breaking their Encourage status. Affiliated trials restricted to local dogs by invitation are to be considered as encourage trials. An improver or open dog or novice dog not owned by the member winning a trial of this description shall break its encourage status for that handler.
34. An encourage worker is a worker who has never won an affiliated maiden or novice or better in New South Wales or any other state or Territory of Australia, (maximum of 3 encourage and/or Farmers Trial wins). An encourage worker may be allowed to work one dog, improver or better in an encourage trial and as many novice dogs as they like. Each

encourage handler can only win one encourage trial per improver or open dog or Novice dog not owned by the encourage worker to a maximum of three wins. An encourage worker can win more than one or all their 3 Encourage trials with a Novice dog/dogs that are registered in their name.

35. An encourage dog will be allowed to have one cross per encourage trial, ten (10) points will be deducted for this cross.
36. A novice dog cannot compete in an open or improver trial on its novice score unless the trials are run in conjunction and it had been properly entered in such trials.
37. Dogs scoring equal points for first place in any trial do not break their present status, but should they run off for the first trophy or prize then the winner is deemed to have won that trial.
38. Bitches coming in season after close of entries may be substituted with another dog, provided the steward in charge has been notified before the worker's first dog is trialed.

39. Should a worker's own dog come onto the arena when such worker is working another dog, there will be no entitlement to a re-run.
40. Should any dog come onto the arena and interfere with the trial, or should the trial be interfered with by any other reason, a rerun may be awarded at judge's discretion, but, when the competitor has lost more points than will enable them to run in the final or has no chance of qualifying for any other prize then no re-run will be allowed.
41. A final must be run in Novice, Improver and Open Trial in all Sub-Committee Championship Trials, non championship trials do not have to run novice or improver finals, only if time permits.
42. A novice or improver dog breaks its' status by winning a Novice, Improver, Open trial or Trans-Tasman event in a trial affiliated with New South Wales Sheepdog Workers Incorporated or comparative working sheepdog organisation in New South Wales or any other state or territory of Australia, or the world. The winning of a Utility Trial has no

effect on a dog's status for competition levels within NSWSDWI trials i.e. Encourage, Novice, Improver, Open.

43. An award for all trials will be by points. Each dog will commence with 100 points. Points will be deducted during the trials for any misdemeanor or fault by the dog or any assistance other than commands given by the handler. Obstacle points – Race 7, Bridge 8 & Pen 20 are there to be deducted if not gained.
44. The following is the maximum number of points: General work 65; Race 7; Bridge 8; Pen 20; = total 100 points.
45. The trial commences as soon as the judge signals to release the sheep. From this point, worker must be at the peg and the dog must be under control. The worker must not leave the peg for any reason unless told to by the judge. The time starts at the decision of the judge.
46. Any dog after having been cast and traveled a reasonable distance that is recalled to prevent a cross, and re-cast will be deducted 10 points. But any dog being stopped on its cast and re-directed from its present position will have

points deducted at the judge's discretion. If a dog breaks before bell is rung and makes contact with sheep the dog must be disqualified.

47. That any dog crossing on the cast or passing between the competitor and sheep at any time during the trial will be disqualified, Rule 35 and 54 excepted. The dog must be cast from within or behind the delivery area.
48. When the competitor has to move from one given point to another they must do so in a direct line inside of the course markers or on the mowed line and not stop to work the dog. Infringement of this rule will entail a deduction of points for each offence. When a worker passes a peg they must not retrace their steps, they may stay at the peg until satisfied the sheep are clear, but will be penalized 1 point. Excessive change of pace or excessive walking backwards between points should incur a points deduction. Disability exceptions will be at the complete discretion of the judge.
49. The sheep shall after the cast be pulled into the delivery area. When the sheep have been

delivered into the delivery area to the judge's satisfaction the worker at their own discretion is at liberty to proceed by leaving on the right hand side of the casting peg and walking inside of the course markers or on the mown line. After leaving the delivery area the sheep must be carried on the worker's right hand side and kept within 8 metres of the worker and on course, around the winding pegs and through the obstacles to the pen to prevent loss of points. Should any sheep pass on the left hand side of the winding peg, they must be unwound (anti clockwise) once only.

50. At each obstacle a circle shall be fixed where the worker must stand to work the dog. If the worker leaves this position before all the sheep are clear of the obstacle they will be disqualified.
51. In the event of any sheep entering the obstacle from the wrong end, all three must be brought clear of the wings before being put back.
52. Should the sheep negotiate (proceed through and clear an obstacle before the worker is in the circle), such obstacle does not have to be

reworked, but the competitor must stop with both feet in the ring before continuing to the next obstacle. At the pen, if all 3 sheep are clear of the front of the pen, the competitor must stop with both feet in the ring before proceeding to shut the gate.

53. The Trial terminates when the gate is closed. Any worker, who after starting to close the pen gate, and without stopping is able to place a sheep back in the pen, should gain pen points.
54. If a dog is forcing the sheep in the correct manner at an obstacle when one or more sheep cause a cross the dog will not be disqualified but may have points deducted at the judge's discretion.
55. If in the judge's opinion a dog should bite a sheep aggressively or viciously without provocation such dog should be disqualified. However, should a dog bite the fore part of the sheep when stuck-up or in defence against an aggressive sheep, or bite a sheep on the hindquarters when jammed on the bridge, such dog should not be disqualified.

56. Should a dog jump the arena fence or go out of the arena to head sheep in a correct manner such dog should not be penalised, but should a dog leave the arena out of control such dog will be disqualified.
57. The judge shall have power of calling off any dog committing a misdemeanor of any kind or at the expiration of half time, any dog that is in the judge's opinion has no chance of winning a prize or placing and that decision is final.
58. Should a competitor touch the dog during their trial the competitor will be disqualified. The competitor shall not assist a dog in any way except by signal, whistle or word of mouth.
59. During the trial should competitor or dog break any of the above rules the judge will notify disqualification. At expiration of full time the worker will at once take the sheep to the yarding pen.
60. In these rules, owner shall mean the person working the dog.
61. Judge's pencillors at trials may only be encourage workers, non workers, and

competitors who have finished working at said trial.

62. That a dog that does not negotiate any obstacle cannot score more than 50 points.
63. The judge's decision shall be final.
64. A competitor must be a resident and member of NSWSDWI to compete for NSW Handler of the Year, Dog of the Year and Rookie of the Year and scoring will be run on a calendar year from 1 January to 31 December at Affiliated trials in NSW. Supreme Championships and Nationals will also be included in the points score.
65. Point allocation to handler and dog of the year are for open affiliated trials only 1st – 6 points, 2nd – 5 points, 3rd – 4 points, 4th – 3 points, 5th - 2 points, all remaining finalists – 1 point.
66. Points allocated for rookie of the year are awarded for affiliated encourage, novice, improver and open trials, points are same as in rule 65. A competitor may only win Rookie of the Year once. If an encourage worker was to break their Encourage status during the current year, they are still eligible to win

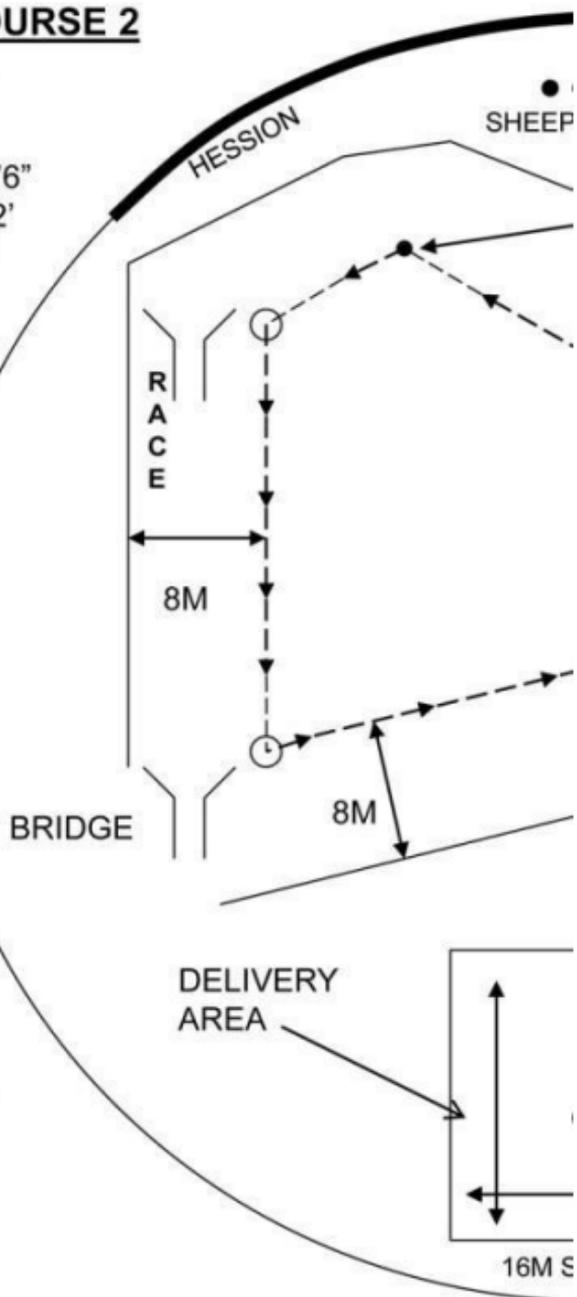
Rookie of the year, however, no further points would be accumulated after breaking their status.

67. Competitors with only Novice dogs be allowed to work one dog in the Improver or Open or both events at the NSW Championships.

CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE 2

RACE DIMENSIONS

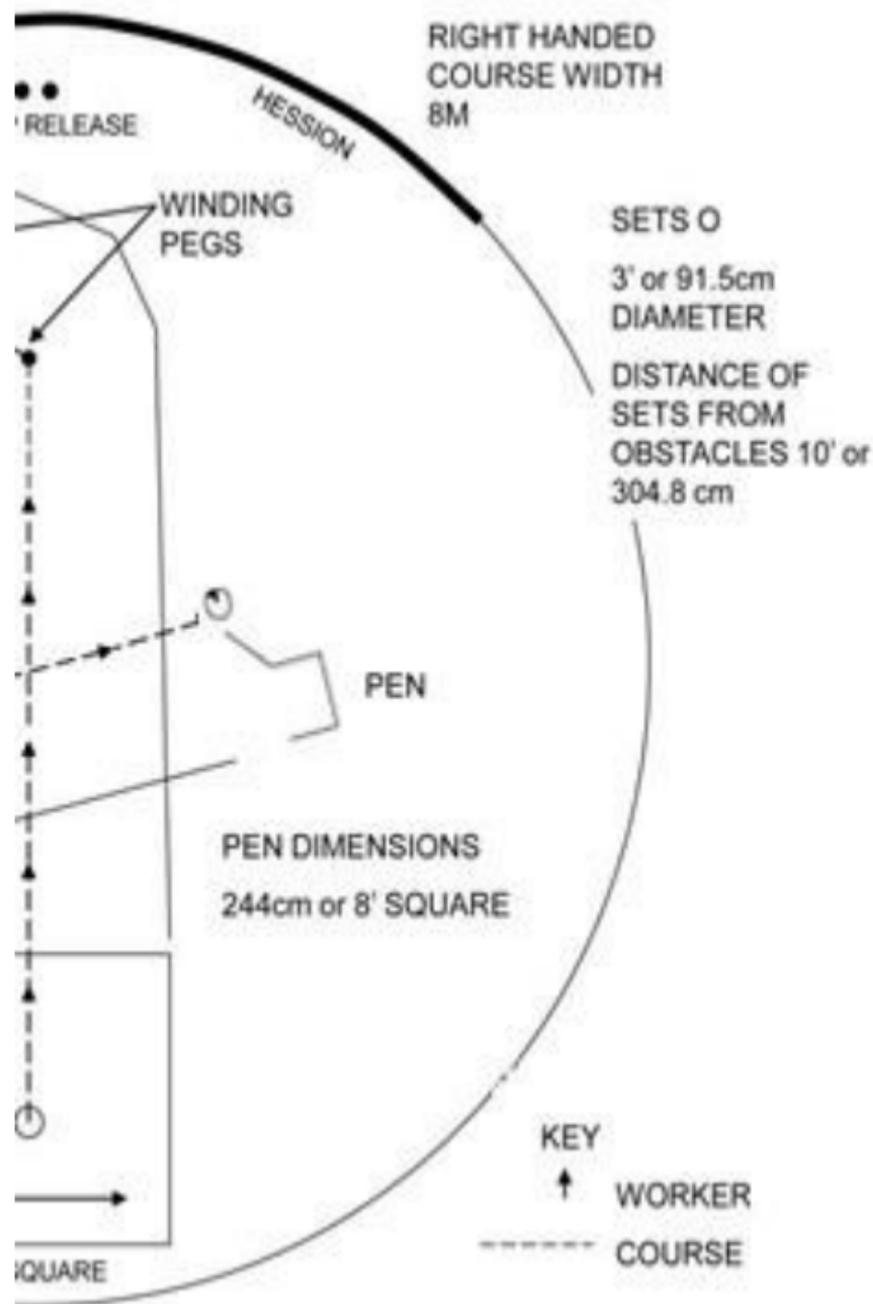
MOUTH 244cm or 8'
WINGS 137.2cm or 4'6"
LENGTH 366cm or 12'
WIDTH 152.5cm or 5'



BRIDGE DIMENSIONS

MOUTH 457.2cm or 15'
WINGS 304.8cm or 10'
LENGTH 304.8cm or 10'
RAMP 137.2cm or 4'6"
HEIGHT 45.7cm or 1'6"
WIDTH 107cm or 3'6"

NOT TO SCALE



SUPREME COURSE Adopted 26/3/04

Obstacles to be set at least 40m to 60m apart – Longest section to the gap

Course to be set in square to suit the arena and Trans Tasman course

Course to be 9metres wide. Markers to be set 9 metres apart.

Edge of circle or square to be 2 metres from edge of obstacle

Put-away area should be as near as possible to let-out area and not on side of arena.

RACE - 7 points

Mouth - 3 metres wide

Race - 1.5 metres wide

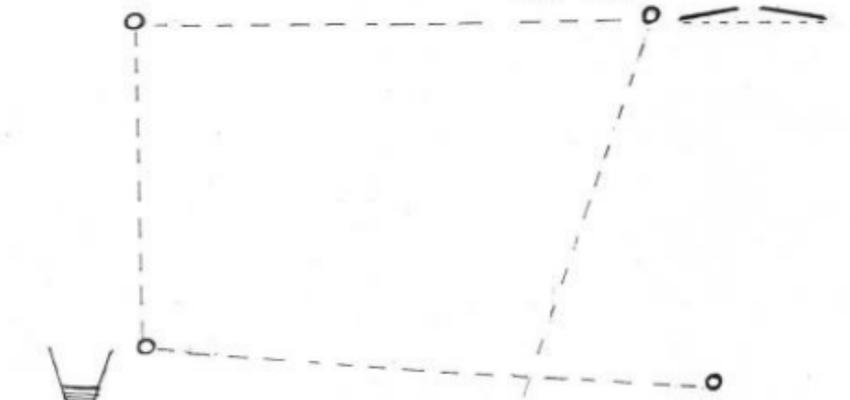
◆
Let Out at least 18 metres from fence

GAP - 3 points

Panels - 2.4m or 3.3 m

Gap - 1.5m wide

Offset 450mm



BRIDGE - 10 points

Height - 450 mm

Ramp - 1.5 m long

Wings - 4 m from top of ramp

And 4 m wide at mouth

Platform - 900mm min. wide

NO OFF RAMP

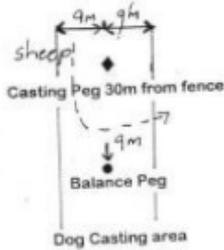
PEN - 20 points

Min. 1.8m x 2.4 m

Max. 2.4m x 3.3m

Hinged gate to be shut

Gate set 45 - half way down opposite wing



Sheep in on left and out on right
If sheep come in on right must be
Unwound once

