

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

1 INTRODUCTION

The stockdog trials sanctioned by the USBCHA (HA) are modeled directly after trials in Britain where both sheepdog trials and the Border Collie originated. The “Rules for Trials” and “Notes for the Guidance of Judges” developed by the ISDS are recognized by the HA as the foundation of how HA trials are to be run and judged.

The ISDS notes for judges, while brilliantly written and based on a long and proven history are, nevertheless, somewhat vague and open to misinterpretation. The notes lack details regarding the specifics of scoring. This has resulted in a large variation in scoring amongst judges and in some cases errors. To remedy this, the HA has assembled these Judging Guidelines. They attempt to standardize the way trials are judged by providing more detail and specifics on the numerous situations that can occur and how they should be scored. They should be of great value to educate both judges and competitors.

These guidelines were generated by a collaborative effort of a number of well-known handlers and judges. They are not intended as hard and fast rules that must be strictly obeyed on all occasions. As noted in the ISDS guidelines “Judges must take into consideration all the relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly”. The HA cannot overstate this point. In the event, however, that a judge wishes to make a significant departure from these guidelines, handlers should be informed of this at the handlers meeting.

The HA believes that the future of Sheepdog Trials in North America is dependent upon judges of experience and integrity who are prepared to study and understand these Guidelines and then apply them impartially.

2 GENERAL

The object of a Trial Course is to test the ability of a dog to manage stock (sheep or goats) properly under the differing circumstances that may be encountered in everyday work. Hence the various test such as Gathering, Driving, Shedding, Singling and Penning are all tasks that may be necessary as the shepherd goes about his/her daily work. The guiding philosophy behind judging a run should always be related to the practical aspects of real farm work.

2.1 *The Judges Responsibilities*

- Seeing that every competitor has a fair chance
- Scoring each run to the same standard
- Seeing that secretary/scribe is accurate in recording scores and keeping time
- Disqualifying runs that violate certain rules on a consistent basis

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

2.2 Disqualifications and Retires

Runs can be prematurely terminated by the handler as a “Retire” (RT) or by the Judge as a “disqualification” (DQ). If the judge disqualifies a run, the judge or secretary or course director will notify the handler who should promptly exhaust the stock and leave the field.

Runs which result in a RT or DQ will receive no total score.

2.3 Re-Runs

If the Handler deems that he should have a rerun he may indicate such to the judge up until the stock have completed the turn at the completion of the fetch. If no such request is made prior to the completion of the turn then the handler has accepted the stock and may not later request a rerun. The judge may grant a rerun at any point during the run. When a rerun is granted the score from the first run will be used up to the point where the judge feels that the condition requiring a rerun first affected the dog's performance. Under no circumstances after the run may the handler approach the judge to request a rerun. This could result in DQ of all the handler's dogs from the entire trial. The request must be made of a member of the Trials Committee.

2.4 Decorum & Sportsmanship

Any conduct not in the best interests of the sport either before, during or after a run can result in a DQ, the handler being reported to the HA or removal of the handler from the trial field or all three. This includes un-sportsman like conduct such as foul or abusive language or actions, any loud remarks made about the judging within earshot of the judge, encouraging aggressive behavior toward the stock by the dog or deliberate abuse of the stock or dog by the handler. Handlers are possible role models for the general public who admire their abilities with their dogs and their performances on the trial field. Handlers should treat their sport, their fellow competitors, the stock, their dogs and the judge with the same respect that they would like to receive. The good conduct and sportsmanship of dog handlers has been admired for centuries and it is the responsibility of every handler to protect that image. Handlers should try to take defeat with the same grace as they enjoy success.

Handlers should identify themselves and their dogs to the judge or his secretary when requested to do so. Under no circumstances, however should handlers approach the judge while he is working, for discussions on any subject. Handlers should not make any comments in earshot of the judge that could possibly be construed as efforts to influence the judges scoring or represent an opinion of the handler about the judge's scores or abilities. Such behavior could result in an immediate DQ and reporting to the HA for disciplinary action where such action appears appropriate.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

2.5 Course Set-up

The judge should have an opportunity to examine the course and suggest any alterations that he thinks would improve the trial. Special consideration should be given to the judge's opinion in areas where the judge feels that the nature of the course could affect his ability to adequately judge the work of the dogs. However, the setting up of the course is the responsibility of the local organizing committee or trial manager and they will have the final determination as to the layout of the course.

2.6 Stock Handling

Excessive chasing of the stock by the dog is abusive to the stock and such actions can result in disqualification. While grips should generally be disqualified it is possible that aggressive behavior by the stock toward the dog will sometimes leave the dog with no alternative except to grip. In such a case, provided the grip is appropriate, it should not be penalized. The judge must take into consideration in such cases if prior actions by the dog have caused this behavior in the stock. If the judge deems that the dog has caused this behavior the dog can be disqualified.

In situations where after a prolonged period of effort the dog is unable to shift the stock the judge may disqualify the team.

3 SCORING A NATIONAL STYLE COURSE

3.1 Outrun (20 points)

The set out crew should keep the stock settled at a location as near the "set out post" as possible. The crew should attempt to keep the stock in that general area until the competing dog either affects the stock on his outrun by coming in tight or straight or the dog has completed his outrun and is ready to begin his lift. The harder the stock is to hold the quieter the setout dog and handler must be.

Once the competing dog is sent on his outrun there should be no whistling, shouting, waving of sticks or rash behavior by either the setout crew or their dogs. If it is necessary to recall the setout dog prior to the lift it should be without affecting the stock. Any of the aforementioned acts could result in not giving the competitor a fair chance to show his dog. Consideration being given to the behavior of the stock the judge must also take the behavior of the setout crew into account in scoring the outrun, lift and fetch.

From a position near the handler (how far away from the handler the dog is allowed to be set up would depend upon the length of the outrun) who stands at the post, the dog should run out, either right or left, in a cast that is neither too straight nor too wide, arriving behind his stock at a sufficient distance from them not to disturb them. Should the stock have moved, or be moving from the post the correct end to the outrun should

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

be when the dog is in a position to bring them straight to the first obstacle. A command by whistle should be considered the same as a spoken command. The dog should not stop and should not cut in. It is obviously more serious if a dog stops on his outrun than if he receives a re-direction without stopping and judges should mark accordingly.

Waiting for the stock to settle after being set out is permitted, however, the handler should be at the post and ready to send his dog as soon as possible. A good outrun should be the shape of one side of a pear with the blunt end of the pear at the stock's end of the course (an outrun in the shape of a half circle will also be acceptable). The dog should finish the outrun far enough away from the stock so as not to disturb them. The outrun lasts from the time the dog is set in motion until the dog is in a position to lift the stock. The fence may interfere with the distance the dog can keep from the stock any penalties assessed will need to take this into account if it proves to be a factor.

Most judges do not judge the outrun until the lift is complete, as often the lift will indicate if the dog has run out to the correct place. If the dog walks straight toward the stock and they do not lift straight to the handler (or the first obstacle) then the dog may not have stopped in the correct place on his outrun.

Dog set up more than four yards from the handler.	1-2 points
Dog set up more than 10 yards from the handler.	3-10 points
Dog sent before the handler reaches the post.	1-2 points
Handler slingshots the dog from behind him at the beginning of the outrun.	0-2 points
Dog runs too square at the beginning of the outrun.	1-4 points
Dog runs straight up the field (minimum 10 points).	10-19 points
Dog crosses the centerline of the field in front of the handler (minimum 10 points).	10-19 points
Dog runs too wide (minimum 1/2 point).	2-10 points
Dog runs to exhaust pen.	4-10 points
Dog recalled to post and re-sent.	19 points
Dog that is stopped or stops himself and is re-directed (minimum of 2 points).	2-4 points
Dog that is given a stop whistle and re-direct before stopping (minimum of 2 points).	3-4 points
Dog that is re-directed on the run (minimum 1/2 point).	2-3 points
Dog that is given whistle to keep going in the same direction.	1/2- 2 points
Dog stops short (i.e..... 11:00 or 1:00) or is stopped by the handler causing the stock to lift off-line.	1-2 points
Dog stops short as above and receives a re-direct.	1 point (plus points for stopping short)

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

Dog stops short between 3:00 and 1:00 or 9:00 and 11:00 causing the stock to lift off-line.	2-4 points
Dog stops short as above and receives a re-direct.	1-2 points (plus points for stopping short)
Dog over runs.	1-5 points
Dog off course.	5 points-DQ
Dog walks the last part of the outrun (i.e. 20 yards).	1-3 points
Dog buzzing stock on the outrun and causing them to lift off-line.	3-8 points
Dog is tight at the end of the outrun and disturbs the stock.	2-5 points
Dog runs to holding pen but comes to stock with 1-2 commands.	3-6 points
Dog runs to holding pen and requires many commands to come to the stock.	5-15 points
Dog stops to sniff the holdout dog.	1-3 points
Dog performing bodily functions on the course (This is the same point deduction no matter where on the course it might occur).	3-6 points
Dog spinning on the outrun.	2-4 points.
Dog turning tail at any time.	2-5 points
Dog turns around on the outrun and starts back to the handler.	4-8 points
Dog turns around on the outrun and comes back some distance to the handler.	8-12 points

3.2 LIFT (10 points)

At the end of the outrun, whether the dog has come to a full stop or merely slowed down, his approach to the stock should be smooth, cautious and steady. The main feature of the "lift" is an ability to take control in a firm and quiet manner without disturbing the stock.

The dog should not rush in and thus startle the stock and should not lie back and require numerous commands before getting the stock to move.

Judges will deduct points for excessive commands, rash or rough work, slowness of approach, and any other faults. The stock should be lifted directly toward the first obstacle on the course (fetch gates or handlers post if there is no fetch gate).

In scoring faults consideration should be given if there is heavy pressure back to the let out pen, wool blindness, rough terrain, lifting hungry stock off feed and interference from the set out crew or their dogs.

Dog doesn't lift the stock straight toward the fetch gates.	0-3 points
Dog lifts stock back toward the let out pen.	3-5 points

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

Dog rushes in and splits the stock.	4-9 points
Dog rushes the stock causing them to start too quickly.	2-8 points
Dog grips because it can't shift the stock.	5 points -DQ
Dog lifts stock too slowly (without commands).	1-5 points
Dog requires excessive commands to lift the stock (more than one or two commands). Per commands after the first two.	1/2-1 point
Dog flanks to move the stock. Per flank.	1-3 points

3.3 *FETCH (20 points)*

Once the stock is on the move (lifted) they should be brought at a steady pace and in a straight line from the place of lifting through the gates and thereafter in a straight line to the handler. If the stock were spotted off line they should not be brought back on line, but if the dog forces them off line by being tight on his outrun they should be brought on line before beginning the fetch.

The dog should not hurry or over-flank the stock especially if this means causing the stock to cross the course in a zigzag movement. Judges should take into consideration all the relevant circumstances contributing to the missing of the gate and adjust their scoring accordingly.

The fetch ends when the stock has been passed around behind the handler as close to the post as practical. If the stock initially miss the turn (go on the wrong side of the post) the handler should make a reasonable attempt to get the stock around the post correctly before going on with the drive. If the handler is unable to get the sheep around the post in correct direction the judge will deduct points for the missed obstacle as is appropriate and will continue to score the run.

The whole work should be in a steady smooth manner. Over flanking, unsteadiness, rushing, missing gates, deviation from line, and other faults will all be penalized having regard to the disposition of the stock and the circumstances at hand. As with all parts of the course failure to complete this phase of work before going on to the next phase will result in disqualification.

Dog fetches the stock down the field too fast.	1-4 points
Dog chases stock down the field.	4-8 points
Dog brings the stock too slowly. (Time should sort out this problem).	0 points
Dog allows the stock to stop. Per stop.	0-1 point
Stock is off line all the way from the lift to the handler.	8-19 points
Off the required line all the way but hit the fetch gates.	10-16 points
Off line slightly then back on line.	1 point

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

10-30 yards off line and back on line quickly.	1-4 points
10-30 yards off line and allowed to remain off line for some distance.	2-8 points
Miss the fetch gates. Per head (minimum 1 point) (not to exceed 8 points for a missed panel).	1-2 points
Stock misses the fetch gates and then handler retries the gate. Deduction above for missing the gate plus.	3-5 points
Dog turning in circles or turning tail (this is the same deduction no matter where on the course it might occur). Per turn.	2-5 points
Dog allowing stock to spread out through lack of pressure.	1-3 points
Stock being allowed to graze through lack of pressure from the dog. Per stop.	1-2 points
Dog flanking excessively behind the stock instead of walking on. Per flank.	1/2-1 point
Handler commanding excessively.	1-4 points
Dog comes around in front of the stock (out of control). (Minimum deduction 3 points).	4-10 points
Dog circling stock. (Minimum deduction 3 points).	4-10 points
Dog turning stock back toward the set out. (Minimum deduction 1 point).	2-8 points
Dog turning back for non-existent stock. (Minimum 2 points).	3-6 points
All stock going the wrong way around the post and continuing on with the drive.	8-10 points
All stock go the wrong way around the post and are brought back and taken around the post correctly.	2-6 points
All stock go part way around the post in the wrong direction and are brought back and taken around the post correctly.	1-5 points
If a legitimate effort has been made to turn the post but all the stock turn in front of the post.	6-12 points
One head goes around the post and the others don't. Per head. (not to exceed 8 points).	2-3 points
All the stock go around the post but the turn is wide.	1-6 points
Dog leaves the stock and starts back to the handler.	1-10 points
Dog brings the stock back through the obstacle. Per head. (not to exceed 8 points).	1-2 points
If no attempt is made to turn the post.	DQ

3.4 DRIVE (30 points)

The "Drive" usually takes place in a triangular pattern and can be run either from the left to right or right to left. The first leg of the triangle starts immediately as the stock pass behind the handler. The stock is required to go in a straight line to the first set of gates.

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

Having either made or missed the first gate the stock should be turned immediately on to a direct line across the course to the second set of gates. When these gates are either made or missed the stock should then be turned as neatly as possible on to a straight line to the shedding ring or pen, whichever is required. The dog should show obvious ability to drive steadily without excessive commands. Reasonable turns at the post and at both gates are expected. Good handling in difficult situations will be taken into consideration by the judge. As in the fetch the gates are guides to the alignment of the stock. Throughout the drive the stock should be kept moving gently. Bursts of speed and subsequent stopping are not desirable and should be penalized. If a gate is missed the judge must take into consideration all the relevant circumstances contributing to the miss and adjust deductions accordingly. Handler must remain at the post until the stock enters the shedding ring when a shed is required after the drive. When the drive is followed by a pen the handler may proceed to the pen after the stock have made or missed the final drive obstacle, however the drive is not completed until the stock are in what the judge deems to be the penning area.

Any deviation from line, missing gates, rashness, circling stock or other faults will be penalized having regard to the disposition of the stock and all other circumstances. An honest attempt must be made for each drive obstacle. If the dog is unable to drive the stock to, through or past an obstacle it may not proceed without loss of points and may be asked to retire.

Dog flanking back around the handler to start the drive.	1 point
Handler moving more than 4 yards from the post.	1-3 points
Dog repeatedly looking back at the handler. Per look.	0-1 point
Dog turning right around and looking at the handler.	1-3 points
Dog turning to look at the handler and then continuing around to make a complete circle.	2-5 points
Dog moves the stock too fast.	1-4 points
Dog moves the stock too slowly. (Time should sort out this problem.)	0 points
Lack of pressure from the dog allows the stock to stop. Per stop.	0-1 points
Off line slightly then back on line.	1 point
10-30 yards off line and allowed to remain off line for some distance.	2-8 points
Dog turning in circles or turning tail. Per turn.	3-5 points
Dog allowing stock to spread out through lack of pressure.	1-3 points
Stock being allowed to graze through lack of pressure from the dog. Per stop.	1-2 points
Dog flanking excessively behind the stock instead of walking on.	1-8 points
Handler commanding excessively.	1-4 points

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

Dog comes around in front of the stock (out of control). (Minimum deduction 3 points).	4-10 points
Dog then turns the stock and drives them in the wrong direction on the course. Additional deduction.	2-8 points
Dog circling stock. (Minimum deduction 3 points).	4-10 points
Dog turning back to non-existent stock. (Minimum 2 points).	3-6 points
Stock miss gate. Per head (not to exceed 8 points for a missed panel).	1-2 points
Stock is brought back through the gate the wrong way. Per head (not to exceed 8 points for a missed panel).	1-2 points
Stock miss the gate and the handler retrieves the Gate. Deduction above for missing the gate plus.	3-5 points
Wide turn at the gates.	1-4 points
Stock turns the wrong way after the obstacle.	1-5 points
Handler leaves the post before the stock is in the shedding area.	1-2 points
Handler enters the shedding ring before all the stock is in the ring.	2-4 points

3.5 SHEDDING (10 points)

There should be a clearly designated area for shedding. Although circumstances may dictate a smaller area or an unmarked ring, it is preferable that such an area be clearly marked and should measure 40 yards in diameter. When the shed is after the pen the handler will proceed to the shedding ring leaving the dog to bring the stock from the pen to the ring. The handler is forbidden to assist the dog in moving the stock. When the shed follows the drive the handler will remain at the post until the stock have entered the shedding area.

Having gotten the stock suitably positioned the dog should come in and take off the required stock and once having taken them off the dog must have them under control before the shed can be deemed satisfactory. Too much assistance on the part of the handler should be penalized as not allowing the dog to demonstrate his shedding ability to the judge. Never the less the circumstances at hand should determine the appropriate point deduction. Since shedding the last sheep on the head is not required by the ISDS rules there are no guidelines to describe how this should be pointed. While it is generally recommended that the stock to be shed be clearly marked (ie. collars or crayon marks) when the judge is requiring the last animals be shed he should clearly explain to competitors how he is judging this work.

The dog must take full control of the shed stock and wear them to the judge's satisfaction, otherwise the shed will not be deemed satisfactory and the shed should be penalized or the handler asked to re-shed by the judge. Sheds performed outside the shedding area should not be accepted but must be repeated in the shedding area.

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

On completion of the shed the handler should have the dog bring the stock together in a practical and workmanlike manner. While it is not required judges are encouraged to have the stock be re-gathered into the shedding ring prior to going to the pen.

Stock leave the ring. Per head.	1/2-2 points
Dog chasing stock out of the ring. Per head.	1 point
Dog coming in between the handler and the stock before there is a shed.	2-5 points
Missed opportunity to shed.	1-3 points
Shed tried but not accomplished.	3-5 points
Handler provided too much assistance in making the shed and shed completed.	1-5 points
Handler provided too much assistance in holding, wearing or stopping the stock before or after the dog comes in for the shed.	1-5 points
Handler asking the dog repeatedly to come in because of hesitation or slowness on the dog's part.	1-5 points
Dog flagging tail as he comes in to shed.	1-2 points
Dog turning on the wrong stock before turning to the correct stock.	2-5 points
Dog looking at the wrong stock on the way in on the shed.	0-2 points
Shed stock out of the ring before the dog is in control.	1-5 points
Unwanted stock is out of the ring before the dog has turned toward the shed stock.	2-5 points
Some or all of the stock are out of the ring when the dog is asked to shed. Dog must re-shed the stock in the ring.	3-5 points
Handler slow to ask the dog in on an opportunity.	1-3 points
Shed stock is allowed to rejoin the others before the shed is accepted by the judge. Must re-shed.	3-5 points

3.6 PENNING (10 points)

On completion of the shed the handler must proceed to the pen leaving the dog to bring the stock. The handler is forbidden to assist the dog in driving the stock to the pen. The handler will stand at the gate holding the rope and must not let go of the rope while the dog works the stock into the pen at which time the handler closes the gate. After releasing the stock the handler will close and fasten the gate and shall be penalized for failure to do so.

The handler may assist the dog but over assistance should be penalized, as should stock circling the pen or making breaks away from the pen, unsteadiness, rashness, slackness or any other fault shown by the dog. Scoring for the pen begins when the stock is within 10 yards of the pen, or it is obvious that the penning has begun, in cases

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

of the pen following the drive. When the pen follows the shed the pen begins upon the judge's acceptance of the shed. The pen is completed when the stock has been removed and the pen gate has been closed and fastened.

Handler assists the dog in getting the stock from the shedding ring to the pen.	3-8 points
Stock breaks around the pen. Per head.	1/2 -1 point
Stock gets out of the working area at the mouth of the pen.	1-3 points
Stock goes into the pen and then gets back out before the gate is closed.	2-5 points
Bumping stock with the gate.	1-3 points
Hitting stock hard with the gate. (Minimum 5 points)	9 points-DQ
Touching stock with crook or cane.	5 points-DQ
Hitting stock with crook or cane.	DQ
Stock goes into the pen with the dog way out of contact.	1-3 points
Dog circles the pen opposite direction to the stock to prevent the stock from going around the pen.	1-3 points
When the shed follows the pen and the handler must go into the pen to assist the dog in bringing out the sheep.	0-1 point
Dog giving ground as a result of being pressured by the stock.	1-5 points
Handler jumping, shouting, stamping while the dog lies back doing nothing.	1-4 points
Handler closes the pen gate before all the stock is penned.	DQ
Handler lets go of the rope accidentally.	0-1 point
Handler lets go of the rope to assist the dog.	DQ
Stock become entangled in the rope and the handler doesn't let go of the rope to release the stock in a reasonable manner.	5 points-DQ
Handler fails to close the gate once the stock is penned. Stock must be re-penned.	3-5 points
Handler slams the gate in a un-sportsman like manner.	2-5 points
After the handler leaves the pen, having made a reasonable attempt to close and secure the gate it re-opens.	0 point
A poor attempt is made to close the pen gate and it re-opens.	1-2 points
No attempt is made to close the pen gate after the pen is completed and the sheep are removed.	2-5 points
Pen gate is nearly closed to keep some of the stock in the pen while the others are being worked.	0-1 point

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

3.7 SINGLE (10 points)

There should be a clearly designated area for singling. Although circumstances may dictate a smaller area or an unmarked ring it is preferable that such an area is clearly marked and should measure 40 yards in diameter. When the single is after the pen the handler will proceed to the shedding ring leaving the dog to bring the stock from the pen to the ring. Again the handler is forbidden to assist the dog in moving the stock. When the single follows the drive the handler will remain at the post until the stock has entered the shedding area.

One head will be shed off within the shedding area and thereafter worn (inside or outside the ring) to the judge's satisfaction. While shedding is a partnership between the handler and the dog too much assistance on the part of the handler should be penalized as not allowing the dog to demonstrate his shedding ability to the judge. Handlers are forbidden to assist the dog in driving off or attempting to drive off the single any distance or by forcing the stock onto the dog. Since shedding the last animal on the head is not required by the ISDS rules there are no guidelines to describe how this should be pointed. While it is generally recommended that the stock to be singled be clearly marked (ie. collars or a crayon mark) when the judge is requiring the last one be shed he should clearly explain to competitors how he is judging this work.

If the judge feels that the dog has not been fairly tested owing to the disposition and action of the sheep he may order the handler to collect the stock again and shed off and wear any other animal. As with the shed the dog, not the handler, should come in and cut off the single. The greatest help the handler can give the dog is by getting out of the way and allowing the dog room to prove his ability to take off and wear a single. It is essential that the dog should be able to keep the single away from the remainder and the judge should not express satisfaction until the dog has been thoroughly tested. The judge when deciding whether the single has been effectively completed should consider the behavior of the stock.

Dog crosses between the handler and the stock either in the ring or on the way from the pen to the ring.	2-5 points
Dog crosses between the sheep and the shedding area on the way from the pen to the shedding area.	1-2 points
Dog turns the sheep around the pen before bringing them to the shedding area.	2-4 points
Dog does not bring the stock directly into the shedding area.	2-4 points
Stock leaves the ring. Per head.	1/2-2 points
Dog chasing stock out of the ring.	1-5 points
Missed an opportunity to shed.	1-3 points
Shed tried but not accomplished.	3-5 points
Handler provided too much assistance in making the shed and shed completed.	1-5 points

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

Handler provided too much assistance in holding, wearing or stopping the stock before or after the dog comes in for the shed.	1-5 points
Handler asking the dog repeatedly to come in because of hesitation or slowness on the dog's part.	1-5 points
Dog flagging tail as he comes in to shed.	1-2 points
Dog turning on the wrong animals before turning on to the correct stock.	2-5 points
Dog looking at the wrong group on the way in on the shed.	0-2 points
Shed animals out of the ring before the dog is in control.	1-5 points
Unwanted stock is out of the ring before the dog has turned toward the shed stock.	2-5 points
Some or all of the stock are out of the ring when the dog is asked to shed. Dog must re-shed the stock in the ring.	3-5 points
Handler is slow to ask a dog in on an opportunity.	1-3 points
Shed stock is allowed to rejoin the others before the shed is accepted by the judge. Must re-shed.	3-5 points

4 INTERNATIONAL GATHER (170 POINTS TOTAL)

International gather or double lift competition requires a dog to be cast in a predetermined direction to gather the first lot of animals. The stock will be brought through the fetch gates to a turnback post located approximately twenty (20) or more yards through the gates. The dog is to leave the group at the point and cast out in the opposite direction of the first outrun to gather the second lot of animals.

When the first lot has been taken through the fetch gate to the turnback post and the dog re-directed for his second lot, the first lot might wander off the course. If so, when the second lot has reached the turnback post (or it more suitable a point nearer the handler) the dog should be sent to bring the first lot back on to the course and to join with the second lot. At no time should the second group of animals be driven off the course to join up with others, which have strayed.

4.1 On The Turn Back

Once the stock has reached the post inside the fetch gates the first fetch is completed. Commands and actions of the dog should then be deducted from the second outrun. However, if the dog continues to work the stock while being directed toward his second lot the actions of the stock may require additional deductions from the fetch score as well as deductions from the second outrun.

All of the deductions in the regular judging sections apply to the Double Lift with the following additions and changes. However with the greater distances and larger

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

number of stock involved the deductions for re-directs on the outruns and missing panels should be reduced depending upon the distances involved and number of animals.

4.2 *Second Outrun*

Dog crossing the course (the line for purposes of determining cross-overs on the second outrun is from the center of the back of the first group of animals straight back to the center of the front of the second group of animals.	10-19 points
Dog may receive one command for going back and one directional command without penalty. Additional commands should be penalized per command...	1/2-1 point
Dog starts back for the second group of animals and then returns to the first group.	3-6 points
Dog must be called back to the handler and then cast off after the second group of animals.	19 points-DQ

4.3 *Fetches & Drive*

Dog deliberately brings the first group of animals off line before he accepts the command to go back for the second lot of animals.	3-8 points
Second group are deliberately fetched off line to join the first group (depending upon how far off line).	1-8 points
Missing an obstacle. Per head.	1/2 - 1 point

4.4 *Shed*

Handler and dog change sides. Per occurrence.	1-2 points
Shedding off unwanted animals and driving them away, rather than running the animals off between the dog and handler. Per occurrence-per head.	1-2 points
Marked animal leaves the ring and joins the unmarked animals. Group that the marked animal has joined must be regrouped in the ring before shedding can continue.	3-6 points
Stock outside the shedding ring per sheep.	up to 1/2 per head
Maneuvering all the collared stock to one end and shedding them off. Must re-shed.	5-6 points

This document is meant to be a guide to the judging of trials not a set of rules. At all times judges must take into consideration all relevant circumstances and adjust deductions accordingly.

USBCHA Judging Guidelines

Excessive maneuvering of the stock while they are grouped to sort the collared from the un-collared.	1-5 points
Shed stock rejoin the stock in the ring.	1-3 points
While penning a collared animal breaks away and rejoins the un-collared animals. The handler must re-shed. Any points lost while penning should still be deducted from the pen should the pen be completed.	3-6 points
While penning an un-collared animal attempts to join the collared animals and the dog must be turned on to the un-collared animals.	0 points

4.5 PEN

While penning an un-collared animal rejoins the collared animals. The handler must re-shed.	2-4 points
Handler leaves the pen to prevent un-collared animals from joining collared animals.	5-9 points