

Current Discussion Items (Feb-March 2017)

The Board of Directors is currently discussing the following items. If you have thoughts, please contact your district representative.

1. Arena Trials: Should point, time arena trials be sanctioned and awarded points for the finals when the format doesn't resemble what we expect at our finals, there are no guidelines for running them, and it appears that nursery legs can't be awarded as the guidelines for nursery seem require a judged, national style course. So, why should open points be awarded?

2. Points and Parity: Handlers frequently talk about the substantial differences among geographic regions in both the availability of trials (and points) and the numbers of dogs entered. Certain areas in the country have several trials with over 80, sometimes over 100 dogs, something that doesn't exist in many other places. Certain areas also have many more trials within closer proximity. Folks have had a variety of ideas on how to address this. Here are some of the thoughts:

1. Limiting all trials to 1 day. (This actually came up at the Annual Meeting in 2015). The idea here is that if all trials were limited to one day, they would be limited in the number of entries because you can only run so many in a day. Even some of the "big" trials in the west (of which there are blessed view) have gone to a single day trial format so more dogs can be entered over the course of 3-4 days. So, they have 3 or 4 open classes, and you get in 2 or 3 of them, but each "trial" completes in a day.

The thought here is that if trials had to start and finish in a day, the available points would be more similar across the country.

2. Handicap trials in some way so that points were consistent with difficulty.

3. Reward the top placements (top 10) with a set number of points, so that the "reward" is similar regardless of the size of the trial. Often times a 5th place at some of the "smaller" trials is more difficult to get than 15th at the larger, yet the points are minimal because of the difference in number of dogs. So, for example, 1st place in all trials would get an 10 points on top of the points now given, 9 to 2nd and so on. This would be true for all trials, even big ones, but it would make the top 10 in a smaller trial more valuable than it currently is.

3. Nursery Import Rule: The current rule states: *“Imported dogs are eligible for the USBCHA Nursery ONLY if imported BEFORE they reach one (1) year of*

age.”

In the discussion so far, there are generally 3 different positions/ideas, which I have indicated in a very shorthand way below.

1. Leave as is. It still serves the original purpose of promoting North American breeding and training.
2. Get rid of the rule as it is no longer necessary to promote N.A. breeding and training and all eligible dogs should be able to run.
3. Change the rule to prohibit all imported dogs from running in the Nursery Finals regardless of the age they were imported. Make the Nursery class a N.A. only class, promoting and celebrating our breeding. No restrictions on running imported dogs in Open.