



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF STOCKDOG HANDLERS

Washington Association of Stockdog Handlers Annual Awards Program Policy

1. A statistician will be appointed to gather and record points from all Washington trials.
2. Only USBCHA/ISDS format trials will count toward year end awards.
3. Awards will be presented to MEMBERS only.
4. A handler **MUST** be a member in good standing **BEFORE** the trial begins. The treasurer must have the paid dues postmarked prior to the trial start.
5. Sheep classes to count will be National USBCHA ranked Open, Washington State Open, Washington State Pro Novice and Washington State Novice. For cattle, only the Washington State Open class will count and at least three trials must be entered to qualify for points.
6. Awards will be presented to the top two teams in National USBCHA ranked Open, Washington State Open, Washington State Pro Novice and Washington State Novice for sheep trials and for Washington State Open in cattle trials. In Novice class, a handler/dog team is eligible to win the first place team award one time only. That team may continue to compete in the Novice class if eligible to do so, but will no longer be considered for year-end awards in that class.
7. Points will be earned and accumulated from August 1st thru July 31st of each year.
8. Points will be earned by handler/dog **TEAMS**. If a dog is transferred to a new handler, that team will earn points separately from previous teams with the same dog.

9. All members will accumulate points from Open, Pro-Novice and Novice classes presented in trials within Washington State. For Washington State class awards, points will be awarded based on the number of handlers going to the post and the respective finish of WASH teams within that class. For example, assume an Open class has 50 entries. When the results are posted, each team is assigned points in a descending manner based on their respective finish and the number of teams that actually went to the post. If all 50 teams went to the post, the first place team receives 50 points; second place gets 49 points; third place gets 48 points and so on thru the last team to post a score.....DQ's and retires receive no points.

10. National USBCHA ranked Open awards will be determined by member and dog team ranking highest within the USBCHA Combined Open Points spreadsheet at the season completion.

11. Awards qualification for National USBCHA ranked Open will be based on the total of the five highest trial points received during the trialing year. For Washington State awards, if there is a tie between teams, the top six trials will be used and the next highest trial will continue to be added until the tie is broken.

This policy is effective July 1, 2014.

Changes to existing rules with rationale:

1. Change "rules" to policy. This change is to align club document types and titles.
2. Remove Ranch class from year-end awards. It has been determined through several years' data that Ranch has been, by design, a temporary transitional class. The trial data shows that it is common for a team to compete in Ranch for a short duration before advancing to the next class. Because of team's short duration participating in the Ranch class, it has proven difficult to track teams to identify the year end award. This applies only to the WASH club year-end award recognition. A trial host, as always, is allowed to offer any classes they choose.
3. Addition of annual award for national USBCHA ranked Open WASH member. It has been determined that we have a significant amount of club members that compete at a national level. The addition and purpose of this award is to recognize the highest level of USBCHA trial achievement and to help inspire others to also grow and achieve their greatest ability.
4. Annual awards calendar. To facilitate recognition of the year end award for National USBCHA Open, the calendar is aligned with USBCHA.