

Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America, Inc.

2008 Nationals MVA Rules

1 The Most Versatile Aussie Award is offered to recognize the dog that best combines the attributes of trainability, desire and ability to work livestock, and faithfully represents the breed standard. The dog demonstrates trainability and willingness to please by the combination of skill and expertise required to qualify in at least one of the recognized performance events - specifically agility, Rally O, obedience and/or tracking. The dog is a true and honest representative of the breed when evaluated against the breed standard. Working ability, performance measurement, and breed evaluation are based on the rules and scorecards established by MASCA for the individual events, and the combined event Most Versatile Aussie.

For 2008 MOST VERSATILE RULES (MVA-arhi)

1. Until such time that all events are added, the awards will be named according to which events are offered. This year events are conformation, herding, agility and Rally-O, and a minimum requirement of completion of a herding instinct test to take place at Nationals, and the award will be MVA-arhi. The a designates agility; the r designates Rally-O; the hi designates the minimum requirement of on site completion of an instinct test. As other events are added, those initials designating the event will be included until we achieve a true MVA. At that time, award name will revert to MVA.

2. To qualify for the MVA-arhi award one must earn a score in the conformation evaluation, complete the minimum of a herding instinct test at the Nationals event (or compete in the herding trial at the Advanced, Open, or Started levels; JHD or Herding Capability), and at least one of the following: a score in the Rally-O section and/or a score in Regular Agility (only one score from Agility and Rally will be used for the primary MVA points, additional qualifying scores in these events will be worth 5pt bonus points). These scores will be added together to determine the winner of the MVA-arhi award.

3. Placements will be awarded for 1st 4th place. The first place dog will receive the award MVA-arhi. In the event of a tie for the MVA-arhi award or for placements, the tie will be decided by the highest score earned in the herding trial. In the event a tie still exists, the dog with the highest conformation evaluation score will be the winner. If the tie is still not broken the dogs with the highest overall performance venue score will be the winner.

4. One identified member chosen by the MASCA Board will handle computation of all scores for awarding the Most Versatile Aussie Award. The Host Club may request assistance in the tabulation and auditing of the MVA scores from the Versatility Committee or the MASCA BoD. The Host Club will provide a location where all scores will be posted as soon as practicable after each eligible competition is completed. It is the owner/handler's responsibility to check the scores as posted, and report to the MVA chairperson any discrepancy no later than one hour prior to the time scheduled for awarding MVA.

5. Awards for MVA-arhi are final once presented.

6. All entrants shall be presented with a participant ribbon during the conformation evaluation. The participant ribbons at Nationals are to be given immediately upon completion of the individual conformation evaluation. Immediately thereafter the participant may be allowed to leave the ring.

7. All MVA participants must be a minimum of 12 months of age as of the first day of the competition (minimum age to compete in the agility trial is 18 months old).

8. The person(s) who will be responsible for versatility record keeping for the entire competition will be identified to the MASCA Board prior to the start of the Nationals.

9. CONFORMATION EVALUATION (See Conformation Worksheet)

A. The MVA evaluator must be an ASCA judge or an AKC herding judge. The MVA Evaluator will be allowed to show prior or subsequent to the day of the MVA evaluation. Further, any dog(s) owned by the evaluator may compete in any and all venues, other than MVA, on the same day that the evaluations are performed, provided the handler is someone other than that evaluator. Members of the evaluator's immediate family may handle the dog. If the evaluator is judging other classes or venues in addition to the MVA evaluation at the cluster, the MASCA rules pertaining to that judging shall take precedence.

B. One hundred points are available. The form and point schedule used will be provided to the evaluator.

C. This class will not be placed and no awards will be given. The score given by the evaluator will be used.

D. Only Australian Shepherds registered with MASCA are eligible for the MVA competition. Both full and limited registrations qualify. This class is open to spayed and neutered animals as well as intact animals.

10. HERDING

A. 2008 MASCA Nationals MVA Herding runs will be scored using the NAMASCUSA Herding trial'

B. The highest score earned at the trial on September 4th will be used to compute MVA-arhi points.

C. The minimum level of herding required for 2008 MASCA MVA-arhi is the successful completion of the Herding Instinct Test (mHIC) at the Nationals. Certificates earned outside the Nationals events will **not** be accepted.

D. Points will be awarded as follows:

Advanced (HAD) clean = 120, faulted = 115

Open (HOD) clean = 110, faulted = 105

Started (HSD) clean = 100, faulted = 95

Junior (HJD) clean = 90, faulted = 85

Capability (HCC2) clean = 80, faulted = 75

Capability (HCC2) clean = 70, faulted = 65

Instinct (mHIC) = 10 pts

*note, qualifying in the levels are not required, score will be whatever score is awarded at the trial; however successful completion of the Instinct Test (mHIC) is required if that is the level chosen to enter.

h. 5 Bonus points will be awarded for each additional qualifying run.

*note bonus points for herding are only available for qualifying runs.

11. PERFORMANCE SCORING

- A. The dog will receive one MVA score from one of the available performance venues (Agility or Rally-O)
- B. The one Qualifying score with the highest point value will be used as the base score for performance.
- C. Any and all additional qualifying scores will be worth an additional 5 points. For example, a qualifying clean Skilled Novice run in Agility and a faulted Novice Rally-O leg will give you a base score of 175 (for the agility run) and a bonus of 5 points for a total of 180 for the performance score.

12. AGILITY

- A. MASCA MVA agility runs will follow CPE rules when such items are not addressed in this document. These rules can be found in the 2008 CPE Rulebook.
- B. The MASCA MVA agility runs for 2008 shall be scored from the CPE Agility trial on September 5th, 2008 using the regular agility runs for the standard, veterans and junior division.
- C. The jump heights for MVA agility will be in accordance with CPE rules.
- D. Agility Point schedule:

Level 5/C clean = 200, faulted L5 = 195
Level 4 clean = 195, faulted = 190
Level 3 clean = 190, faulted = 185
Level 2 clean = 185, faulted = 180
Level 1 clean = 180, faulted = 175

- E. Bitches in heat will not be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Agility Trial. Failure to comply with this rule will result in dismissal from all agility trials held in conjunction with the MASCA Agility National Specialty.

13. RALLY-O

- A. MASCA MVA Rally-O runs for 2008 will be scored using SCORE rules and regulations and criteria for entering levels
- B. The score will be determined from the results of the trial held on September 5th, 2008 at the 2008 MASCA Nationals. Participants who enter multiple rounds of the MASCA Nationals Rally competition may count the best score earned towards MVA.
- C. Only qualifying scores earned in the trial will count towards MVA points, with score earned being used to calculate MVA points.
- D. Please see NAMASCUSA SCORE Rally-O Rules for additional information
- E. Points will be awarded as follows:

Level 3 clean = 200, faulted = 195 (not offered for 2008)
Level 2 clean = 190, faulted = 185 (not offered for 2008)
Level 1 clean = 180, faulted = 175

F. Bitches in heat will not be allowed to run at the Nationals Specialty Rally-O Trial. Failure to comply with this rule will result in dismissal from all agility trials held in conjunction with the MASCA Rally-O National Specialty.

14. SPECIAL AWARDS

A. The Host Club for the MASCA Nationals shall include in their flyer any special awards to be given in the MVA competition.

For questions regarding the 2008 MVA rules please contact: Deb Dulaney

Sample of MVA scoring in case of a tie:

	Dog A:	Dog B:
Conformation score:	100	95
Herding score:	100	105
Performance points:	<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>
MVA Total:	380	380

Dog B wins MVA-arhi award for the higher score in Herding
Dog A places 2nd in MVA