



**WINNEMUCCA COW DOG TRIAL**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION AND RULES**  
**Listed and Sanctioned by National Cattledog Association**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION CENTER**  
**(775) 623-2220**



**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Winnemucca Cow Dog Trial is conducted in conjunction with the Winnemucca Ranch Hand Rodeo Weekend. In the spirit of the Ranch Hand Rodeo and the working ranchers of the Great Basin, this trial is tailored for the working cowboy and cowgirl. This trial gives these handlers and dogs a venue in which they can participate in a local trial that is inexpensive and enjoyable. The majority of the personnel that assist in this dog trial are community volunteers.

**NUMBER OF ENTRIES AND RUNNING ORDER**

Overall number of entries accepted will be limited. Each handler is limited to two entries for the OPEN class and one entry for the BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, RANCH, and GAMBLER classes. If an additional spots exists in the BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, or RANCH after January 2, 2018, an additional entry may be granted. Running order will be determined by a computer draw.

**ENTRY FEES FOR PULLED DOGS**

In the event that an entry is pulled prior to January 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., entry fees will be returned to the handler. Pulled dogs after January 2, 2018 will not receive a refund. However, the Winnemucca Cow Dog Trial may consider refunding a portion of the entry fee (up to 80%) with a letter of injury from a licensed veterinarian or medical doctor. The remaining amount will be retained for administrative fees.

**COURSE**

Rules cannot be changed once trial has started. This trial will not be a judged event, but will be a points and time trial. The handler is required to be on horseback. The dog that accumulates the most points and the fastest time will win the class. Contestants will enter the finals with a clean score. The course may change for the finals and/or the Gamblers' Scramble. The course will be explained during the Handlers' Meetings.

**NATIONAL CATTLEDOG ASSOCIATION SANCTIONING**

The Winnemucca Cow Dog Trial will sanction the 2018 trial with the National Cattledog Association. Please refer to their website at [www.nationalcattledog.com](http://www.nationalcattledog.com) for more information on eligibility.

**HANDLERS' MEETINGS**

A handlers' meetings will be held before each class in the Event Center arena. It is recommended that all contestants attend this meeting. The Judge and Trial Director are not required to repeat instructions given for contestants arriving late. If the preceding class finishes early, we may proceed sooner than expected. Participants should be prepared. SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE. Announcements will be made if the meeting times change. You are responsible to stay updated on any changes.

**BRACE CLASS-** The handlers' meeting will be held tentatively at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, immediately preceding the class. Announcements will be made if the meeting times change. You are responsible to stay updated on any changes.

**OPEN CLASS-** The handlers' meeting will be held tentatively at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, immediately preceding the class. Announcements will be made if the meeting times change. You are responsible to stay updated on any changes.

**NURSERY CLASS-** The handlers' meeting will be held tentatively at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, immediately preceding the class. Announcements will be made if the meeting times change. You are responsible to stay updated on any changes.

INTERMEDIATE and RANCH CLASSES- The handlers' meeting for both classes will be held tentatively at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018. Announcements will be made if the meeting times change. You are responsible to stay updated on any changes.

### JUDGE OR TRIAL DIRECTOR'S DECISION

The Judge or Trial Director's decision will be final in all situations. The Judge or Trial Director may disqualify a contestant or dog at any time due to any violation of rules.

### TRIAL OBSTACLES AND POINTS

1. DRIVE/FETCH/PEN The first challenge may include a drive, fetch, and/or pen. The handler will receive their cattle. When the last cow exits the gate, the time will start and the handler can initiate the drive or fetch. There is a 2 minute time limit that WILL SERVE AS THE TIEBREAKER. The course and scoring will be explained at the handlers' meeting.
2. AN OBSTACLE is considered complete when one or more of the cattle pass beyond the exit plane. Each obstacle must be completed in the order specified at the handlers' meeting. Points will be awarded on the number of cattle that pass through each obstacle. The handler cannot return to a previous obstacle if he/she has moved on to the next obstacle.
3. DAYLIGHTING OF OBSTACLE If any animal enters an obstacle from the wrong direction, it must completely daylight the obstacle and be put through again correctly. Points will be awarded for cattle that pass through the obstacle.
4. TROTting RULE Handlers may trot, canter, or lope their horse. If the handler does not trot their horse throughout the course and completes the course in the allotted time, the handler will receive an additional 5 points.
5. IF TRAILER IS THE LAST OBSTACLE, points will be given for each head standing in the trailer when time expires. If a trailer is used and it is not the last obstacle, points will be given for each head to exit the trailer.

### NURSERY CLASS DESIGNATION

A NURSERY CLASS dog must have been 30 months or younger on April 1, 2017 to be eligible to compete in the NURSERY CLASS.

### INTERMEDIATE CLASS DESIGNATION

\*\*AN INTERMEDIATE CLASS dog is a dog that has never run in an OPEN class. An INTERMEDIATE CLASS handler is one that competes in sanctioned trials for points.

### RANCH CLASS DESIGNATION

\*\*A RANCH CLASS dog is a dog that has never run in an OPEN class. An RANCH CLASS handler is one that does not routinely compete in trials. The ranch class is intended for novice handlers to attempt running their dog in a trial setting.

### BRACE CLASS

TWO DOGS WILL BE WORKED IN THE BRACE. No additional points will be awarded for the dogs' performance if the dogs work separately or together. However, this is a BRACE and the dogs are expected to work as a team. The handler should be able to sufficiently demonstrate this ability. **There will be a warning issued if the Judge or Trial Director feels that the dogs are not working together.** The Judge or Trial Director reserves the right to disqualify a handler for not working both dogs.

### FINALS

There will be a final round in the OPEN, BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, and RANCH classes. The top five in the preliminary round for the OPEN and the top three BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, and RANCH will advance to the finals. The finals will be held 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018, or immediately following the Gamblers' Scramble. **Contestants will enter the finals with a clean score.**

### CALCUTTA

There will be two separate CALCUTTAS one for the Gamblers' Scramble and one for the OPEN finals. Teams will be auctioned off prior to competing. The first place winner will win 50% of the pot and the second place winner will win 30% of the pot. 10% of the pot will go to the top handler/dog in the OPEN, and 10% will be split between the top team in the Gambler's Scramble.

### AWARDS & PRIZE MONIES

Prize monies will be awarded first through fifth place in the OPEN class and first through third place in the RANCH, INTERMEDIATE, NURSERY, and BRACE classes. A buckle will be awarded in the OPEN, BRACE, NURSERY, INTERMEDIATE, and RANCH classes.

### **TIEBREAKER**

In placing each class, the score will come first and then the overall course completion time next. The fastest time on the drive/fetch/pen will be used as the final tie breaker in the event that one is needed.

### **DOG ON GROUNDS**

All dogs must be under control at all times while on the grounds. If a contestant's dog enters the course while another dog is competing, the contestant who owns the dog may be disqualified from the entire trial or the class the dog is in. The decision will be made by the Trial Director and/or Trial Judge. Any dog entered in the trial may not be used to handle or settle the livestock. If an unattended dog enters the arena while a handler is participating, the Trial Director may issue the handler a re-run. **ONLY DOGS PARTICIPATING IN THE TRIAL ARE ALLOWED INSIDE THE WINNEMUCCA EVENT CENTER.**

### **INJURED DOG**

If a dog is injured, the Trial Director may elect to leave it up to the handler whether to continue or pull their dog. The Trial Director and/or Trial Judge may stop the clock for a short time to allow the dog to regain their soundness or the Trial Director and/or Trial Judge may demand the dog be taken from the trial. An injured dog will not justify a re-run.

### **CATTLE**

New cattle can be awarded to a contestant at the discretion of the Trial Director and/or Trial Judge.

### **MISHANDLING LIVESTOCK**

NO objects may be carried in the hand or used in any way in assisting the contestant/dog with the run. The cattle must not be touched by the contestant during the run, to do so will result in a loss of points on that obstacle on each animal. Overworking the livestock may result in disqualification. This is at the discretion of the Trial Director and/or Trial Judge. Contestant is responsible for the replacement, at market value, of cattle or veterinarian services associated with injured livestock due to actions by them or their dog.

### **COLLARS**

No training collars or devices will be allowed in the arena area immediately prior to or while running your dog.

### **CALLING OF TIME**

If a handler calls time on his or herself, the points accumulated up until that point will be scored. This is to be used for an injured or out of control dog.

### **GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

Grievances will be heard **ONLY AFTER** the last dog runs in a class. Do not approach the announcers' stand during the class. The Trial Director and Judge will have the final say in any grievances. Violation of this policy may result in disqualification. No video-taping will be conducted at the trial.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification and a possible forfeiture of winnings from a previous class. This will include, but not be limited to, abusive conduct and language towards dogs, livestock, trial officials, contestants, or spectators. No refund on entries will be issued to disqualified handlers. The Trial Director will make the final determination in cases of unsportsmanlike conduct.

### **DRESS CODE**

Long sleeved shirt with collar, boots, and hat with brim or bill must be worn while competing. The weather may change dress code, and the Trial Director or Judge may make exceptions.

**The McAuliffe Gamblers' Scramble- March 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. (4:30p.m. check-in & card draw)**

*A tribute to Ambrose McAuliffe. This is pure fun in honor of our good friend, who contributed immensely to the stock dog industry. The Gamblers' Scramble will run just prior to the finals. Contestants must be present and ready in the main arena on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. or sooner. Announcements will be made if the time is moved.*

- Cards drawn to determine teams
- High pairs determine the order of go
- Limited to 5 total teams of 2 Handlers / 2 Dogs
- 2 Handlers, 2 Dogs & 6 Head of Cattle
- Same rules as in other classes apply
- Both handlers and both dogs must approach every obstacle.
- There will be a warning issued if the Judge or Trial Director feels that the dogs are not working together.
- Wildcard draw will shake things up!
- \$50 entry fee per person
- Payout is as follows: 100% of the entry fees for the Gambler's Scramble will be split between the two handlers of the winning team. The winning team will also receive the 10% split from the Gambler's Scramble Calcutta.