



AUSTRALIAN
YARD DOG
ASSOCIATION

Code of Conduct

This document details the Competition Rules for the facilitation of Australian Yard Dog Association Events.

Approved 5th of April 2022

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Definitions	3
3	Judicial Committee	3
4	Appeal Tribunal	4
5	Breaches of the Code of Conduct	4
6	Procedure: Breach of Code of Conduct.....	5
7	Procedure: Appeal Process	5

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Code of Conduct applies to all Handlers, Judges, Organisers, paid or unpaid workers, and individuals who otherwise represent the sport, at an AYDC / AUC, or any event/ activity organised or sanctioned by the AYDA.
- 1.2 Actions or behavior which are considered "prejudicial to the interests of the AYDA" will be dealt with by the Judicial Committee as outlined in this Code of Conduct, and consistent with the AYDA Constitution and Competition Rules.
- 1.3 An appeal of a Judicial Committee's decision may be made to the Appeals Tribunal as outlined in the Code of Conduct, and consistent with the AYDA Constitution and Competition Rules.

2 Definitions

- 2.1 For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:
 - a) **Appeal Tribunal** means a three-person panel appointed by the Council to hear appeals against sanctions imposed by the Judicial Committee.
 - b) **AUC** means Australian Utility Championship and includes support classes.
 - c) **AYDA** means Australian Yard Dog Association inc.
 - d) **AYDC** means Australian Yard Dog Championship and includes support classes.
 - e) **DELEGATE** means a member appointed to represent the member
 - f) **Judge** means a person who is a State Association Member, eligible to participate in a AYDC / AUC, and who is qualified to Judge a category in a AYDC / AUC under the AYDA Competition Rules.
 - g) **Judicial Committee** means a three-person panel appointed by the Council to hear charges of breaches against the AYDA Code of Conduct and/or AYDC / AUC Competition Rules.
 - h) **Member** means the affiliated State Associations from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.
 - i) **Organiser** means the entity, person or persons appointed to conduct the AYDC / AUC.
 - j) **Prescribed Fees** means the fees determined, and implemented by the AYDA.

3 Judicial Committee

- 3.1 The Judicial Committee is appointed to deal solely with charges of breaches against the AYDA Code of Conduct and/or the AYDA Competition Rules.
- 3.2 An Judicial Committee must be appointed in accordance with the AYDA Constitution.
- 3.3 No member of the Judicial Committee can reside in the same State as the alleged offender.
- 3.4 The YADA Secretary will provide secretariat services, or in the event of the unavailability of the YADA Secretary, the Chair of the Judicial Committee may appoint an independent secretary.

4 Appeal Tribunal

- 4.1 An Appeal Tribunal is established to hear appeals against sanctions imposed by the Judicial Committee.
- 4.2 An Appeal Tribunal must be appointed in accordance with the AYDA Constitution.
- 4.3 Membership of the Appeal Tribunal need not be limited to the Council Members and may include a person with legal experience who is not involved in the sport.
- 4.4 Appointed Tribunal Members shall not have had any involvement in prior proceedings or have any interest in the matter, other than the overall interests of the AYDA.

5 Breaches of the Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The following is an outline of inappropriate behaviour. This is not an exhaustive list and where relevant includes social media:
 - a) Challenging a decision of a judge;
 - b) Challenging a decision of the Convenor;
 - c) Verbal and/or physical abuse of a person;
 - d) Abuse of an animal by inflicting pain or wilfully causing distress;
 - e) Failure to properly care for dogs [water, shade, exercise, transport accommodation];
 - f) Unsportsmanlike conduct;
 - g) Use of foul or discriminatory language;
 - h) Discriminatory conduct – racial, sexual etc;
 - i) Conducting oneself in a manner which could reasonably be interpreted as being under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst competing or attending an official function;
 - j) Wearing inappropriate clothing or footwear whilst competing or attending an official function;
 - k) Presenting a dog for competition which is in such condition as to bring discredit to the sport; and/or
 - l) If any competitor is unclear as to what may or may not constitute unacceptable behaviour, they should consult a Council Member.

6 Procedure: Breach of Code of Conduct

- 6.1 An alleged breach of the AYDA Code of Conduct must be reported to the AYDA in writing.
- 6.2 The alleged breach will be considered by the appointed Judicial Committee, and a hearing must be conducted as soon as practicable upon receipt of the allegation and may only be attended by those with an interest.
- 6.3 The person charged with the offence must be provided reasonable notice of the hearing.
- 6.4 The person charged must be given the opportunity to defend the allegation and in doing so, may produce evidence and/or witnesses.
- 6.5 The Judicial Committee must demonstrate reasonable opportunity to mount a defense was provided to the person charged.
- 6.6 Failure to appear by the person charged will not result in a stay of proceedings.
- 6.7 Penalties available to a Judicial Committee include suspension and expulsion and have immediate and nationwide effect unless notice of appeal has been lodged.
- 6.8 Judicial Committee decisions must be notified immediately to the person charged.
- 6.9 Judicial Committee decisions must be notified as soon as practicable in writing to the AYDA Secretary who shall formally notify all Members.
- 6.10 Failure of a Member to enforce a penalty imposed by the Judicial Committee will result in the Member being asked to show cause why it should remain a Member of AYDA.

7 Procedure: Appeal Process

- 7.1 A Notice of Appeal against a decision of a Judicial Committee must be lodged with the AYDA Secretary within 24 hours of the decision being notified, and be accompanied by the Prescribed Fee of \$250.00.
- 7.2 The Notice of Appeal must state the grounds of appeal.
- 7.3 The appeal will be considered by the appointed Appeal Tribunal, and a meeting must be conducted as soon as practicable upon receipt of the appeal and may only be attended by the members of the Appeal Tribunal.
- 7.4 If the Judicial Committee's decision prevents the appellant from participation in the Championship class, the appeal hearing must be conducted as soon as practicable to avoid any possible miscarriage of justice.
- 7.5 If the AYDC / AUC has concluded the appeal will be heard via teleconference otherwise it will be convened as soon as practicable at the event.
- 7.6 The Appeal Tribunal's ruling is final.
- 7.7 The Appeal Tribunal's ruling must be notified as soon as practicable in writing to the AYDA Secretary.
- 7.8 The Appeal Tribunal's ruling will be notified to the appellant and Members in writing by the AYDA Secretary.