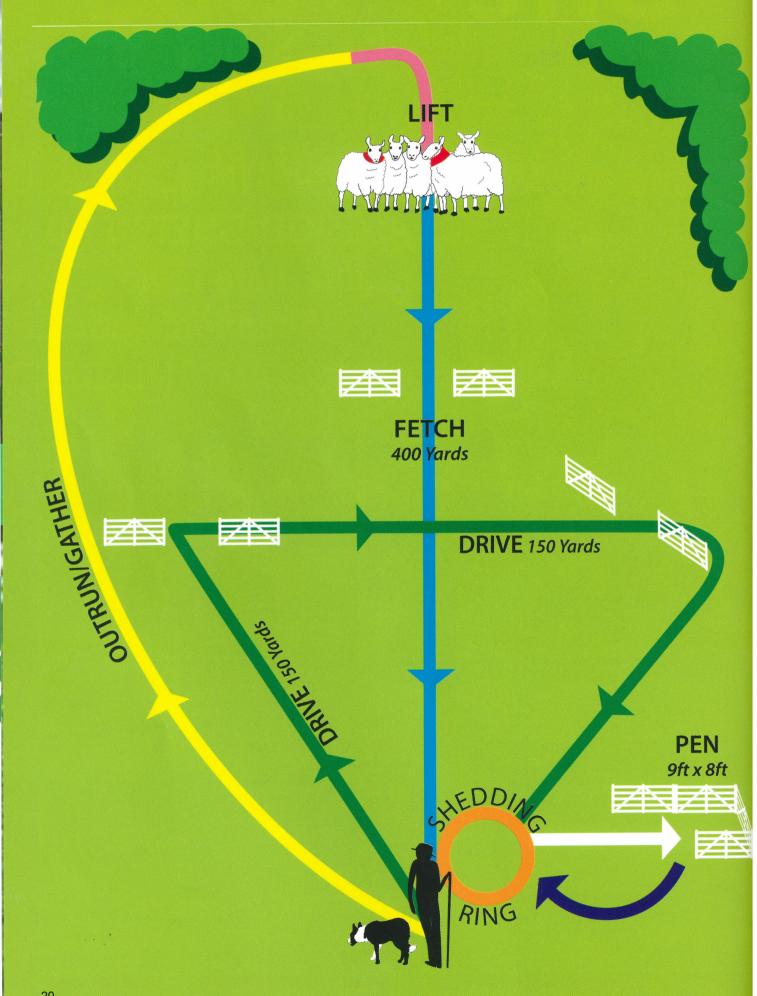
QUALIFYING & SEMI-FINALS COURSE





Qualifying & Semi-Finals Trials Course

The qualifying course involves the handler and dog working together to move five sheep (three unmarked and two marked with red collars) around a course. There are seven components of the course, each of which is scored by the judges.

Outrun

In the outrun the dog is sent out either to the left or right from the post while the handler remains at the post. The dog should not stop until it has reached the point of balance behind the sheep, and should be far enough away from the sheep so as not to disturb them. The point of balance is where the dog will lift the sheep in the direction of the first set of gates.

Lift

At the end of the Outrun, the dog will either come to a full stop or merely slow down. The dog will then approach the sheep smoothly, cautiously and steadily, taking control in a firm and quiet manner. The sheep should move in a direct line to the first obstacle (gates).

Fetch

The sheep must be brought at a steady pace and in a straight line from the place of lifting to the first gates and thereafter in a straight line to the handler/post. If the sheep deviate from the line they should be brought back to that line as soon as practical. If the sheep fail to go through the gates, no retry of the gates is allowed.

Drive

The drive is approximately 450 yards long over a triangular course and consists of two sets of gates through which the dog drives the sheep. The drive starts immediately the sheep have passed behind the handler/post and ends when the sheep enter the shedding ring. The sheep are required to go in straight lines between the obstacles and reasonable turns at the post and at both gates are expected. If the sheep fail to go through the gates, a second attempt at either gate is not allowed.

Shed

Two unmarked sheep are shed (separated) in the shedding ring and held away from the remaining three sheep. The dog must show control of the two unmarked sheep, either in or outside the ring. It is not a requirement for the sheep to be driven away.

Pen

On completion of the shedding the dog will reunite the sheep and the handler must proceed to the pen, leaving the dog to bring the sheep to the pen. The handler will stand at the gate holding the rope and must not let go of the rope while the dog works the sheep into the pen. When the sheep are in the pen, the handler must completely close the gate before releasing the sheep. After releasing the sheep, the handler must close and fasten the gate and go to the shedding ring.

Single

The dog brings the sheep from the pen to the shedding ring. One of two marked sheep will be shed (separated) within the shedding ring and held away from the remaining four sheep until the judges are satisfied.

No points are awarded for any phase of the work that has not been completed within the prescribed time limit. Time limit = 15 minutes.

Points

Points are awarded as follows:

POINTS	
Outrun	20
Lift	10
Fetch	20
Drive	30
Shed	10
Pen	10
Single	10
TOTAL (per judge)	110
Qualifying Aggregate	220
Semi-Finals Aggregate	550

