



# International Invitational Policy

(Operational Policy O-INVIT02)

(As approved by the Board of Directors, March, 2016)

Each year the ASFA will host the International Invitational. The purpose of which shall be to promote and further test those hounds that have attained a certain number of points toward their Field Championship and hounds that have earned the Field Champion or Lure Courser of Merit titles. When hosting the International Invitational, the ASFA will endeavor to abide by established regional rotation schedules but reserves the right to locate the event in alternate geographical areas as the ASFA deems appropriate.

The chair of the Invitationals Committee shall submit a copy of these current International Invitational (II) policies to the Internet Liaison for publication on the ASFA website.

**Date.** The International Invitational (II) may be held at any time from January to December, except that any club with a corresponding priority date for a trial to be held within 150 miles of the International Invitational site at the time of scheduling the International Invitational must agree, in writing to the Scheduling Chairman, to relinquish the date for the holding of the International Invitational (II). Any club relinquishing the date would retain priority for the following year.

Additionally, any club holding a priority date for a trial to be held at a site more than 150 miles from the International Invitational site in any year which chooses not to hold that trial on the same dates as the International Invitational that year would retain priority for that date for the following year.

No other trial shall be held on the same weekend within 150 miles of the International Invitational. Both Saturday and Sunday will be reserved for the event.

**Club(s) Proposal.** The club(s) submits a proposal to the ASFA Corresponding Secretary. This proposal should include at a minimum:

- Name of the Club(s)
- Proposed date including appropriate weather and daylight statistics
- Approximate location of trial and description of the grounds
- Entry fee
- Additional activities (if any)
- Proposed budget
- Financial terms of the co-host arrangement

When a proposal is submitted to the ASFA Corresponding Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary shall forward the proposal to the Invitationals Committee and the CFO. The CFO will be responsible for reviewing the overall economics of the proposal and, as appropriate, discuss alternative terms with the proposing club(s). When financial terms are agreed to by the CFO, the CFO will submit the proposal to the Invitationals Committee for their approval prior to their submission of the proposal to the Board.

The Scheduling Chairman, Records Coordinator, Membership Chairman and the respective Regional Director shall be asked for comments regarding the potential co-host club(s) and field committee members before a final decision is reached. The co-host club(s) will be approved by the Board of Directors, following the order of preference stated above, no later than December 1st, two calendar years before the event in question, if possible, and each of the club(s) submitting a proposal shall be advised of the decision.

If no proposals from club(s) are received by the beginning of the board meeting one calendar year prior to the year of the International Invitational in question, the Board of Directors will assume the responsibility for hosting the event. At its discretion, the ASFA Board may negotiate a co-hosting arrangement.

Each year, the Regional Directors will review all proposals received from club(s) requesting to co-host an International Invitational. The Regional Directors will present their recommendation to the Board of Directors. After a decision has been made, the Corresponding Secretary shall notify the

Scheduling Chairman and each of the club(s) that submitted a proposal of the decision. The appropriate Regional Director shall serve as a liaison between the co-host club(s) and ASFA Board.

**Evaluating proposals.** The following system will be used by the Regional Directors when evaluating proposals.

**Location.** Sections are defined as:     **WEST** - Regions 1, 2, 3 and 10  
  **CENTRAL** - Regions 4, 5 and 6  
  **EAST** - Regions 7, 8 and 9

Rotation schedule calendar:

2016 – Central	2017 – East	2018 – West
2019 – Central	2020 – East	2021 – West
2022 – Central	2023 – East	2024 – West

Any club(s) in the appropriate section of the country for that year may submit a proposal to co-host the International Invitational. This proposal should be submitted by the conclusion of the ACoD, two calendar years before the trial date in question. The co-host club(s) will be chosen with consideration to the following:

- the overall economics of the proposed event
- appropriate section of the country for that year
- the club(s) deemed most likely to co-host the highest quality event
- timely receipt of proposal

If, in the opinion of the Invitationals Committee and/or the ASFA Board, no viable proposal is received from the section with priority by the conclusion of the ACoD, two calendar years before the year of the International Invitational, any club(s) in the country may submit a proposal to co-host the International Invitational. This proposal should be submitted by the ACoD one calendar year before the trial year in question. The co-host club(s) will be chosen with consideration to the following.

- the overall economics of the proposed event
- the proposal that appears to be likely to result in the highest quality event
- the region that has hosted an International Invitational least recently
- club(s) status (member, longevity, etc.)

**Grounds.** The grounds must be adequate to accommodate an entry of 300 or more hounds. Course lengths must be within rule specifications (500 yards or more), but a length in excess of 750 yards is recommended. The grass must be a length that allows the lure operator clear visibility of the lure.

Consideration should also be given to accessibility, lodging, refreshments and restroom facilities. A description of grounds should include dimensions of running area, either by yards or acres, and should include aerial photographs of fields from Google Maps or other internet source. It also should include a statement regarding the expected footing on the grounds for the dates proposed.

**Budget.** The final budget and/or financial arrangements shall be approved by the Board.

**Entry limits.** As this event is to promote competition of exceptional hounds, the entry shall not be limited and shall be open to all hounds eligible to compete. The ASFA Board of Directors must specifically approve any entry limitation.

**Additional activities.** Activities such as banquets, seminars, dog shows, awards, etc., (if offered) should be listed.

**Eligibility.** Any hound that has earned at least 20 ASFA points, or equivalent points in its country of residence, or is an AKC or equivalent foreign Field Champion of Record in another lure coursing field trial-sanctioning organization or has placed in a Regional Invitational (with competition) is eligible to enter.

Proof of non-ASFA title and non-ASFA points for hounds should be in the form of a photocopy of the certificate, or page of formal printing/publication, and be included with the entry. For a Limited breed to be eligible, the entry must have one first placement, or two second placements, with

competition in the Limited Stake. For a Provisional breed to be eligible, the entry must have one first placement, or two second placements, with competition within its breed. All points or placements must be earned by the entry closing date of the event. Hounds entered in the Single Stake are not eligible to be entered in Breeder, Kennel, or Bench stakes.

**ASFA Website.** One page will be available on the ASFA website for announcing and providing the premium for each International Invitational, provided the host club(s) submits ad copy to the Internet Liaison ([webmaster@asfa.org](mailto:webmaster@asfa.org)). The date of the "current" II can be announced on this page as soon as the date is approved by Scheduling for the next year. The page will remain available after the trial to post results and pictures. Again these must be provided by the host club(s) to the Internet Liaison. The article and photos of each Best of Breed, Best in International Invitational and winner of the Gillette Stake should be submitted as soon as possible after the trial. There is no charge to the host club(s) for this page. All reported content added to this page will be submitted to [webmaster@asfa.org](mailto:webmaster@asfa.org) by a single representative of the II Field Trial Committee.

The Scheduling Chairperson will submit the II premium list to the ASFA website for publication.

**General.** The sample premium list should be submitted to the Scheduling Chairman and the Regional Director at least 120 days before the trial and should include both co-host club(s)' and ASFA's Officers and Board Members. The approved premium list shall be distributed to each club(s) delegate, each judge for the event, and all ASFA Board Members by the FTS of the co-host club. Judges shall be fully licensed for the breed(s) that they judge.

Equipment provided by the co-host club(s) should be adequate to handle an entry of 300 or more hounds per day. The co-host club(s) is encouraged to recruit lure operators and other members of the field trial committee and judges from outside the area, whenever possible. A veterinarian should be on call or at the trial site.

Three sets of International Invitational banners will be passed on to each International Invitational. The current field trial chairperson will be responsible for getting the banners.

**After the trial.** Within a reasonable time after the International Invitational, the field trial secretary shall forward a copy of each of the following to the ASFA Corresponding Secretary and the chair of the ASFA Archives and Historical committee:

- a copy of the premium lists
- a marked catalog (if any)
- a completed and signed II Perpetual Trophy Return Agreement for each perpetual trophy winner.

The Corresponding Secretary shall forward the return agreements to the next International Invitational field trial secretary; the other information shall be forwarded upon request.

All additional requirements and exceptions to the ASFA rulebook relating to International Invitational are noted; all other ASFA rules and policies shall apply to International Invitational. The ASFA Board of Directors must approve exceptions to any of the previously listed invitational policies.

Consult the ASFA Corresponding Secretary or your Regional Director for more information.

**Rosettes and trophies.** Rosettes will be awarded for all placements including Best of Breed, High Scoring Single (if offered), Bench, Kennel and Breeder stakes (if offered), Gillette stake, and Best in International Invitational winner. Medallions will be awarded for Best of Breed, High Scoring Single (if offered), Gillette Stake and Best in International Invitational winners.

Rosettes should not be ordered until entries close or until 30 days prior to the first day of the trial whichever is earlier.

In addition, the following perpetual trophies are awarded each year to each breed winner:

SATURDAY'S TROPHIES	BREED	SUNDAY'S TROPHIES
Gary Forrester	AFGHAN	"Bandit"
	AZAWAKH	"Cinnamon"
Merv and Wilma Bauer	BASENJI	"Sheena"
"Locket"	BORZOI	"Pyerun"
Mike Lorenzo	GREYHOUND	"Fantasy"
Dean Wright	IBIZAN	"Flyer"
Kevin Bryson	IRISH WOLFHOUND	"Joshua"
Jack Downing/Teri Dickinson Whirlwind IGs	ITALIAN GREYHOUND	"D"
George and Joyce Martin	PHARAOH HOUND	"Bozo"
Marc Gembala	RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK	"Ida"
Bill Henry	SALUKI	"Haseeb"
Robert Sellers	S. DEERHOUND	"Pyns"
	SLOUGHI	"Bouthayana"
Tom Leone	WHIPPET	Betz Leone
Lyle Gillette	GILLETTE STAKE	
"Darkling"	GILLETTE BORZOI	
"Eterna"	GILLETTE IBIZAN HOUND	
American Whippet Club	GILLETTE WHIPPET	
	HIGHEST NGA GREYHOUND	Gallant Trophy
	BEST in INT'L INV'L	President's Cup

**"Links to the Past" Best in II Trophy.** The remarkable "Links to the Past" II Chain is the property of ASFA and was awarded for the first time at the 2007 International Invitational; a truly fitting tribute to the 35th Anniversary Year of the ASFA. It is absolutely spectacular. This truly unique trophy was the brainchild of Kathy Nelson and Jack Helder, and was purchased by ASFA clubs and their members.

The "Links to the Past" Best in II Trophy is hand-crafted in sterling silver, and is comprised of a chain bearing engraved links that recognize every Best in II hound in ASFA's history, stretching back to the first II in 1976. The hound's name is on one side, and the year on the other. The trophy links every former Best in II hound within one exceptional trophy. It remains in the possession of the ASFA President for display at IIs. The "Links to the Past" Best in II Trophy is displayed in a case to protect the chain. The Best in II hound, will receive a sterling silver "take-home link".

**NOTE:** When awarding these trophies, please refer to the II Perpetual Trophy information sheet for assistance in their presentation.

With the ASFA Board's approval, the co-hosting club(s) may award other rosettes and/or trophies as may be funded from trophy donations. These trophies shall not be in competition with the approved perpetual trophies (i.e. they may be a breed flight winner or highest scoring bench champion for a particular breed).

The co-host club(s) at each II is responsible for obtaining a completed and signed II Perpetual Trophy Return Agreement (INV-02) from each individual who takes possession of a perpetual trophy. (A \$100 fine will be imposed and all points and placements will be held on all hounds owned by an individual who does not return an II perpetual trophy). The completed forms shall be forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary after the completion of the II. The co-host club(s) is responsible for contacting the previous year's winner of each trophy and arranging for the return of the trophies to the II trial site.

**The Gillette Stake.** The Gillette Stake is a premier event held annually at the International Invitational. This competition is to showcase form and function in our finest sighthounds and to honor the father of the sport of lure coursing in America, Lyle Gillette.

- **Eligibility.** Entry shall be open to hounds that have achieved all of the following:
  - AKC or foreign bench championship, and
  - ASFA Field Championship, and
  - 20 or more ASFA points during the 12-month period prior to the closing date of the International Invitational.
- **Entry.** Each hound must be entered in either the Field Champion or Veteran stake on

Saturday of the International Invitational. The field trial secretary must receive a special entry form for the Gillette stake, and proof of bench championship, by the closing date of regular entries. There is no additional fee for an entry in this stake.

- **Competition.** The Gillette stake competition will be run on Saturday, following the same procedures as a regular Best in Field. The eligible hound in each breed that receives the highest, qualifying, combined score during regular competition on Saturday will be randomly drawn to run in the Gillette Stake. Ties within a breed, if any, will be run off or forfeited prior to the draw. The hound receiving the highest score in this one course (more only if required by a tie) shall be the winner of the Gillette Stake.
- **Judges.** One or two judges shall be selected from the ASFA all-breed licensed judges present. The judge(s) need not be published in advance.
- **Awards.** The name of each year's winning hound shall be engraved on the perpetual Lyle Gillette Memorial Trophy. An ASFA medallion shall be awarded for the winner to keep.
- **Decisions.** The field trial chairman shall be responsible for any and all decisions regarding this stake, not specifically covered above, unless the chairman has a hound eligible to compete in this stake. Then, the field trial secretary shall make all decisions. If the field trial secretary also has a hound eligible to compete, the field trial committee shall make the decisions.

The Invitationals Committee shall review the International Invitational Policies on an annual basis. The review is **not** intended to be a re-write of the policies, but rather a time to address issues that may have come up during the most recent International Invitational and any rule or policy changes that directly affect this policy.

- 1) The timing of the annual reviews:
  - a) International Invitational review to begin no later than 90 days after the running of the current year's International Invitational.
- 2) The process that should be followed:
  - a) Issues that cause concern or problems are given to the Invitationals Committee Chairman by clubs, exhibitors, or anyone with first-hand knowledge of the issues.
  - b) The Invitationals chair shall present the issues to the committee members and will establish a timetable and process for discussion and resolution. Modifications/changes must be approved by a simple majority vote of committee members voting.
  - c) At the completion, the resolution will be made into a motion and presented to the ASFA Board of Directors at their next face to face Board Meeting, with the complete document with strike-throughs and additions in red in accordance with standard ASFA Board motion procedures, unless the Invitationals Committee deems it necessary to move the change forward via the Board electronic meeting forum.
- 3) If the Board of Directors passes the motion, the results will be disseminated in normal ASFA methods.

## II TROPHY DONATIONS

The purpose of perpetual trophies donated for the ASFA International Invitational and The Gillette Stake Breed Winners is to honor those hounds that have achieved outstanding records in the sport of lure coursing. This fosters the continued remembrance of remarkable individual coursing hounds.

Trophies may also be donated for individuals who have donated a great part of their life to improve and promote the sport of lure coursing for sighthounds.

Only one trophy per category per breed will be accepted. All trophy donations must be approved by the Board of Directors of the ASFA, using the following criteria:

**Saturday's trophies will be for persons.** Individuals should have been active in the sport for a minimum of 10 years and have served on the ASFA Board as an Officer, Regional Director, or have provided service of distinction to the sport.

**Gillette Breed Trophies** will be accepted for ASFA Dual Champion hounds. Hounds should be deceased or have not competed for 5 years. Hounds should have been in the top twenty at some point in their careers.

**Sunday trophies will be accepted for hounds** that are in, or have been in, the ASFA lifetime Top Twenty of their breed at some point in their careers.

**Breeder Stake Trophies** will be for breeders that have produced a minimum of 10 Top Twenty Hounds of that breed, have provided service of distinction to the sport, or have produced progeny that have achieved special distinction within the sport.

**Kennel Stake Trophies** will be for kennels that have owned a minimum of 10 top Twenty Hounds of that breed, have provided service of distinction to the sport, or have hounds within the kennel that have achieved special distinction within the sport.

Trophies, along with a shipping crate, will be paid for by the donors. The trophy and the shipping crate will become the property of the ASFA.

Requests to donate a trophy will be sent to the ASFA Corresponding Secretary and will be presented for approval by the ASFA Board of Directors after review by the Invitationals committee.

Winners each year will be responsible for adding their winning hounds' name to the trophy and for the return of the trophy in good condition at the next year's II. \*A \$100 fine will be imposed and all points and placements will be held on all hounds owned by an individual who does not return an II perpetual trophy. Upon the return of the trophy to the ASFA, the "hold" on accumulated points and placements will be lifted and the accumulated points and placements recorded.