



# International Invitational Policy

(As approved by the Board of Directors August 2024)  
(O-INVIT02)

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. The Invitationals Committee shall be comprised of all the Regional Directors (RD's). The RD's shall designate one person as the chair for the Invitationals Committee.

**Date:** The International Invitational 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. 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.

**Per Capita Fees to ASFA:** The International Invitational per capita fee is published on the ASFA website. This fee will be forwarded to the Records Coordinator with the trial results. The per capita fee for each Bench, Breeder and/or Kennel stake entry will be forwarded to the Records Coordinator with the trial results. Copies of the Bench stake, Breeder stake and/or Kennel stake entries will accompany the records

**Club(s) Proposal:** The club(s) wishing to host, or co-host the event must submit a proposal to the ASFA Corresponding Secretary. This proposal must include at a minimum:

- Name of the Club(s) involved
- 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 including how earnings will be shared among the clubs involved
- If LCI and Singles Stakes are to be offered, an entry limit may be requested by the host club(s) or applied, at the recommendation of the II Committee

When a proposal is submitted to the ASFA Corresponding Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary shall forward the proposal to the Chair of the Invitationals Committee and the Chair will forward it to the Invitationals Committee with any notes or comments from the Chair. The Scheduling Chairman, Records Coordinator, Membership Chairman and the respective Regional Director may be asked for comments regarding the potential co-host club(s) and field committee members before a final decision is reached. Once the Committee approves, the proposal, it will then be forwarded to the ASFA Board by the Committee Chair for final approval to the Board of Directors with the necessary committee comments. After a decision has been made by the Board of Directors, the Corresponding Secretary shall notify the Scheduling Chairman 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.

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.

Any club(s) may submit a proposal to host or 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 host club(s) will be chosen with consideration to the following:

- the overall economics of the proposed event
- the club(s) deemed most likely to co-host the highest quality event
- timely receipt of proposal
- the region that has not hosted an International Invitational 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.

The course should be set so that 90% of the course should be visible to the Owner/Handler releasing the dog at the Start/Stop location.

**Budget:** The final budget and/or financial arrangements and revenue sharing shall be sent with the proposal for review.

**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 lifetime 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 any of the Stakes offered.

Singles and LCI entrants must have earned 20 lifetime ASFA points. Entrants in breed stakes must have earned the 20 lifetime ASFA points running against competition in their specific breed's stake. Points earned in singles stakes do not count towards eligibility to compete in the breed stakes.

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, and be included with the entry. 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). 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 Committee.

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

**General:** The sample premium list should be submitted for approval to the Scheduling Chairperson, the Chair of the II Committee, and the Regional Director of the region hosting the II, at least 120 days before the trial and should include both co-host club(s) and ASFA Officers and Board Members.

The approved premium list shall be distributed to each club liaison, 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.

**Before the Trial:** The FTS for the II shall send a list of entries in each of the breed stakes to the Records Coordinator to ensure that hounds are entered in the appropriate stake.

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 committee and judges from outside the area, whenever possible. A veterinarian should be on call or at the trial site.

**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 ASFA Archives and Historical committee:

- a copy of the premium lists
- a marked catalog (if any)
- a completed and signed I.I. 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 and the International Invitational Trophy Chair. 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:** ASFA only provides the Medallions for the II Breed winners, Best in Event and Gillette Stake winner. Medallions should be ordered either at the close of entries or 30 days prior to the first day of the trial, whichever is earlier. All ribbons and rosettes are the responsibility of the host club(s) for ordering and purchasing.

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

<b><u>SATURDAY'S TROPHIES</u></b>		<b><u>SUNDAY'S TROPHIES</u></b>
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"
Meg Willis-Redfern	RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK	"Ida"

Bill Henry	SALUKI	"Haseeb"
Robert Sellers	S. DEERHOUND	"Pyns"
Tom Leone	WHIPPET	Betz Leone
Lyle Gillette	GILLETTE STAKE	
"Darkling"	GILLETTE BORZOI	
"Eterna"	GILLETTE IBIZAN HOUND	
"Woopie"	GILLETTE IRISH WOLFHOUND	
"Nitro"	GILLETTE RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK	
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. 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."

To maintain the "Links to the Past" Best in II Trophy, the ASFA II Committee shall establish a sub-Committee of the ASFA II Committee, named "Links to the Past" and appoint a Chair that will have the responsibility of updating and maintaining the "Links to the Past" Best in II trophy. The Chair would also ensure the "take home link" is ordered and sent to the Best in II winner.

Costs for updating, maintaining, manufacturing, and shipping the take home link, and having the "Links to the Past" Trophy at all ASFA II's shall be a reimbursable expense.

**NOTE:** When awarding these trophies, if time permits, please refer to the II Perpetual Trophy information sheet for assistance in their presentation. This information must be included in the premium.

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 appointing a trophy Co-Chair that will work with the International Invitational Perpetual Trophy Chair and will obtain 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 International Invitational Perpetual Trophy Chair is responsible for contacting the previous year's winner of each trophy and arranging for the return of the trophies to the next II trial site.

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. If the winner elects to not take the trophy home, there will be a \$30.00 charge payable to ASFA for the transportation and engraving of the trophy. When engraving the name plate on the trophy the following format should be followed:

- FONT must be matched from previous years
- YEAR on the top line
- "CALL NAME" with quotation marks along with REGISTERED NAME of hound on the second line
- OWNER'S NAME on the third line

**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, ISWS, or foreign-based registries\* bench championship (copy of championship certificate required, and
  - ASFA Field Championship*\*The ASFA does not recognize the UKC as a foreign-based registry as of January 1, 2022.*
- **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 Stake or the single hound remaining after all tie runoffs, other competitors forfeit or withdraw, 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 secretary also has a hound eligible to compete, the field trial committee shall make the decisions.

**Policy Changes:** The Invitational 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 Invitationals and any rule or policy changes that directly affect this policy.

- 1) The timing of the annual reviews:
  - a) International Invitational review shall begin within 60 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 Invitational 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 by the International Invitational Committee Chair with the complete document showing strike throughs and additions in red in accordance with standard ASFA Board motion procedures.
- 3) If the Board of Directors passes the motion, the chair of the Invitationals Committee shall submit a copy of these current II policies to the Internet Liaison for publication on the ASFA web site.

## **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, along with 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 approved by the ASFA Board of Directors after review by the Invitationals Committee.