Most Versatile
Miniature American Shepherd Rules

PURPOSE: The Most Versatile Miniature American Shepherd (MVMAS) Competition offered at a MASCUSA National Specialty recognizes those dogs that exemplify the true meaning of the word versatility by successfully competing in herding and companion competitions while meeting the AKC Miniature American Shepherd Breed Standard in the Versatility Conformation class.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all AKC registered Miniature American Shepherds, including altered dogs and bitches. AKC PAL/ILP dogs are ineligible. Bitches in season will be allowed to compete as dictated by AKC Rules and Regulations. Bitches in Season are not eligible to compete in Agility, Obedience or Rally according to AKC Rules and Regulations. They are eligible to compete in Herding and Versatility Conformation. Refer to the premiums for additional information.

REQUIREMENTS: To qualify in the Most Versatile Miniature American Shepherd Competition, a dog must:

- Earn a qualifying score in the Versatility Conformation class of 50 or greater.
- Earn a score in one of the Herding Test or Trial classes as set forth below.
- Earn a qualifying score in at least one of the Companion classes (obedience, rally or agility). Although one qualifying companion score is required to qualify, a dog may receive up to 3 scores, one qualifying score from each of the 3 companion categories.

Only scores from events designated as MVMAS qualifying events in the Nationals Premium will count.

SCORING: Only qualifying scores in Conformation, Herding, Obedience, Rally and Agility will be counted (with the exception of Herding Test/Trial classes as noted in the rules).

All dogs must compete at their most recent competitive level.

There will be an entry fee for the Most Versatile MAS Conformation Evaluation. This entry fee for the MVMAS Class will be paid with any other conformation entries that you may have. All other entries will be processed according to the event premiums.

MASCUSA Board Approved 06.11.25

CONFORMATION: This class will be held at a time and place designated by the National Specialty Show Committee. All dogs competing for the versatility awards will be judged against the AKC Miniature American Shepherd Breed Standard. One judge, who is eligible to judge or who has judged conformation, will judge the class. Details on ring procedure will be included in the premium each year.

MVMAS Score will be computed as follows for a qualifying score:

- The conformation raw score given by the judge – maximum 110 points
- Minimum score of 50 to qualify

MVMAS Conformation Ring Procedure

The Conformation ring procedure will be shared with each team entered. The judge will judge one entrant in the ring at a time and will judge the entrant according to the MAS breed standard. The Judge will fill out and sign a Conformation Class score sheet that will be shared with the scorekeeper and entrant.

HERDING TESTS & TRIALS: (Instinct, Herding and Pre-Trial Tested, and/or Herding Trials, including Started/Intermediate/Advanced, Stock Sheep/Cattle/Duck, and Course A/B/C/D). If a dog is entered in both Trial and Tested classes, only the highest of either tested points or regular trial score (including bonus) will be used. If a dog qualifies on more than one type of stock, only the highest score (including bonus) will apply.

MVMAS Tested Scores will be computed as follows for dogs PASSING the test:

- Instinct Test: 30 points
- Herding Test: 40 points
- Pre-Trial Test: 50 points

MVMAS Trial Scores will be computed as follows:

- Started raw score
- Intermediate raw score + 5 points
- Advanced raw score + 10 points

Non-Qualifying scores from the “Trial” classes will be used for a dog not retired or removed. If a dog is retired or removed from a class and has proof of an existing AKC Herding title or certificate from the class immediately below that in which it is participating, on the same type of stock, the dog will be given credit for its herding capability by receiving points as outlined below.

MVMAS who are existing AKC Herding Title/Certificate holders, who are retired or removed, will be computed as follows:

- Herding Test Participant with Instinct Certificate: 35 points
- Pre-Trial Test Participant with Herding Tested Title: 45 points
- Started Participant with Herding Pre-Trial Title: 55 points

- Intermediate Participant with Started Title: 55 points
- Advanced Participant with Intermediate Title: 55 points

When there are separate trials or courses for the different types of stock, (sheep, duck and cattle) these will be treated as 1 trial for MVMAS purposes. If a dog qualifies on more than one type of stock, the highest score will apply, with additional points awarded for the additional qualifying score(s). Only the highest score from the combined trials will count for MVMAS with the additional bonus points for qualifying on a second (2nd) type of stock.

Additional qualifying score points will be computed as follows:

- Started 5 Bonus points
- Intermediate: 7.5 bonus points
- Advanced: 10 bonus points

Dogs may not repeat the instinct test just to qualify for MVMAS.

Note: If there is an injury to stock, it will result in a 0 score regardless of title, unless the stock handler and the facility, Do NOT deem it to be the dog's fault.

OBEDIENCE: 50% of highest qualifying score, including bonus, from a Regular or Preferred class. (Beginner Novice, Novice A/B & Preferred Novice, Open A/B & Preferred Open, Utility A/B & Preferred Utility).

MVMAS Scores will be computed as follows (only qualifying scores will be used):

- Beginner Novice: 50% of raw score
- Novice and Preferred Novice: 50% of raw score + 4 points
- Graduate Novice: 50% of raw score + 6 points
- Open and Preferred Open: 50% of raw score + 8 points
- Graduate Open: 50% of raw score + 10 points
- Utility and Preferred Utility: 50% of raw score + 12 points

RALLY: Highest Qualifying score, including bonus, from a regular class (Novice A/B, Intermediate, Advanced A/B, Excellent A/B or Master).

MVMAS Scores will be computed as follows (only qualifying scores will be used):

- Novice: Raw score
- Intermediate: Raw score + 3 points
- Advanced: Raw score + 6 points
- Excellent: Raw score + 9 points
- Choice: Raw score + 11 points
- Master: Raw score + 12 points

AGILITY: Highest qualifying score, including bonus, from a Standard (STD) or Jumpers with Weaves (JWW) class, Premier JWW or Premier Std Class, Regular or Preferred.

MVMAS Scores will be computed as follows (only qualifying scores will be used):

- Novice: raw score
- Open: raw score + 4 points
- Excellent: raw score + 8 points
- Master: raw score + 12 points
- Premier: raw score + 12 points

TIES: If there is a tie, the highest herding score will be used. If there is still a tie, the highest movement score from the conformation evaluation will be used. If a third tie breaker is required, the highest number of classes qualified in shall be used.

Participating in the Most Versatile MAS is an achievement in itself; all qualifiers will be recognized. 1st - 4th places will be given additional recognition.

The Highest Scoring Junior MV-MAS team and the Highest Scoring Veteran MAS (7+ years old) in the MV-MAS competition will be recognized for their achievements.

In addition to the Highest Scoring Junior MV-MAS Team, recognition will be given to the high scoring qualifying junior handler in each age group: 8 and under, 9-11, 12-14 and 15-18. AKC rules for junior performance competition are followed, any junior handler under the age of 18 is allowed to compete in MV-MAS. If any performance judge feels that the dog/junior team they are judging are not under control or performing safely, the judge may recommend to the MV/UPMAS Chairpersons that the team be removed from the MV/UPMAS competition.

Junior Handler Awards - The junior handler must show the dog in all events in order to be eligible for Junior Handler awards. Multiple handlers may handle other dogs entered in this competition.

Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA, Inc

Most Versatile Miniature American Shepherd Conformation Scoring

(Approved by Board 10/01/2020)

Armband Number: _____ **Circle as applicable ► Dog Bitch Altered**

Each category is scored on a scale with the highest number being the ideal for the breed.

Scale for Total Points

Conformation	Points
Poor (Disqualification for MV-MAS)	0-49
Fair	50-64
Average	65-79
Excellent	80-94
Superior	95-110

CATEGORY: APPEARANCE

General Appearance: The Miniature American Shepherd is a small size herding dog that originated in the United States. He is slightly longer than tall with bone that is moderate and in proportion to body size and height without extremes. Movement is smooth, easy, and balanced. Exceptional agility combined with strength and stamina allows for working over a variety of terrain. This highly versatile, energetic dog makes an excellent athlete with superior intelligence and a willingness to please those to whom he is devoted. He is both a loyal companion and a biddable worker, which is evident in his watchful expression. The double coat of medium length and coarseness may be solid in color or merled, with or without white and/or tan (copper) markings. He traditionally has a docked or natural bobtail.

Size, Proportion and Substance: Size: Height for dogs is 14 inches up to and including 18 inches at the top of the withers. Height for bitches is 13 inches up to and including 17 inches at the top of withers. Deductions (see below): under 14 inches and over 18 inches for dogs; under 13 inches and over 17 inches for bitches. The minimum heights set forth in this breed standard shall not apply to dogs or bitches under six months of age. Proportion: Measuring from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks and from the highest point of the shoulder blade to the ground, he is slightly longer than tall. Substance: Solidly built with moderate bone in proportion to body height and size. Structure in the dog reflects masculinity without coarseness. Bitches appear feminine without being slight of bone.

Coat: Moderation is the overall impression of the coat. Hair is of medium texture, straight to wavy, weather resistant, and of medium length. The undercoat varies in quantity with variations in climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head and front of the legs. The backs of forelegs and breeches are moderately feathered. There is a moderate mane and frill, more pronounced in dogs than in bitches. Hair may be trimmed on the ears, feet, back of hocks, pasterns, and tail, otherwise he is to be shown in a natural coat. Untrimmed whiskers are preferred. Severe Fault: Non-typical coats.

Color: The coloring offers variety and individuality. With no order of preference, the recognized colors are black, blue merle, red (liver) and red merle. The merle will exhibit in any amount, marbling, flecks or blotches. Undercoats may be somewhat lighter in color than the topcoat. Asymmetrical markings are not to be faulted. Tan Markings: Tan markings are not required but when present are acceptable in any or all of the following areas; around the eyes, on the feet, legs, chest, muzzle, underside of neck, face, underside of ear, underline of body, under the base of the tail and the breeches. Tan markings vary in shades from creamy beige to dark rust, with no preference. Blending with the base color or merle pattern may be present on the face, legs, feet, and breeches. White Markings: White markings are not required but when present do not dominate. Ticking may be present in white markings. White on the head does not predominate, and the eyes are fully surrounded by color and pigment. Red merles and reds have red (liver) pigmentation on the eye rims. Blue merles and blacks have black pigmentation on the eye rims. Ears fully covered by color are preferred. Severe Fault: White markings covering over 25% of an ear. White markings may be in any combination and are restricted to: the muzzle, cheeks, crown, blaze on head, the neck in a partial or full collar, chest, belly, front legs, hind legs up the hock and may extend in a thin outline of the stifle. A small amount of white extending from the underline may be visible from the side, not to exceed one inch above the elbow. The hairline of a white collar does not exceed the withers at the skin. If a natural undocked tail is present, the tip of the tail may have white. Deductions (see below): Other than recognized colors. White body splashes, which means any conspicuous, isolated spot or patch of white on the area between withers and tail, on back, or sides between elbows and back of hindquarters.

Temperament: The Miniature American Shepherd is intelligent, primarily a working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts. An exceptional companion, he is versatile and easily trained, performing his assigned tasks with great style and enthusiasm. Although reserved with strangers, he does not exhibit shyness. He is a resilient and persistent worker, who adjusts his demeanor and arousal appropriately to the task at hand. With his family he is protective, good natured, devoted and loyal.

_____ / 30

CATEGORY: STRUCTURE

Head: The head is clean-cut, dry, and in proportion to the body. Expression: Alert, attentive and intelligent. May express a reserved look and/or be watchful of strangers. Eyes: The eyes are set obliquely, almond shaped, neither protruding nor sunken and in proportion to the head. Acceptable in all coat colors, one or both eyes may be brown, blue, hazel, amber or any color combination thereof, including flecks and marbling. The eye rims of the reds and red merles have full red (liver) pigmentation. The eye rims of the blacks and blue merles have full black pigmentation. Ears: Are triangular, of moderate size, set high on the head. At full attention they break forward and over, or to the side as a rose ear. Severe Fault: Prick ears and ears that hang with no lift. Skull: The crown is flat to slightly round and may show a slight occipital protuberance. The width and the length of the crown are equal. Stop: The stop is moderate but defined. Muzzle: The muzzle is of medium width and depth and tapers gradually to a rounded tip without appearing heavy, square, snippy, or loose. Length is equal to the length of the crown. Planes: Viewed from the side, the muzzle and the top line of the crown are slightly oblique to each other, with the front of the crown on a slight angle downward toward the nose. Nose: Red merles and reds have red (liver) pigmentation on the nose leather. Blue merles and blacks have black pigmentation on the nose leather. Fully pigmented noses are preferred. Noses that are less than fully pigmented will be faulted. Severe Fault: 25-50% un-pigmented nose leather. Deductions (see below): Over 50% un-pigmented nose leather. Bite: A full complement of teeth meet in a scissor bite. Teeth broken, missing or discolored by accident are not penalized. Deductions (see below): Undershot or overshot bite.

Neck, Topline and Body: The overall structure gives an impression of depth and strength without bulkiness. Neck: The neck is firm, clean, and in proportion to the body. It is of medium length and slightly arched at the crest, fitting well into the shoulders. Topline: The back is firm and level from the withers to the hip joint when standing or moving. Loin: The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top. Croup: The croup is moderately sloped. Body: The body is firm and well-conditioned. Chest and Ribs: The chest is full and deep, reaching to the elbow, with well sprung ribs. Underline: The underline shows a moderate tuck-up. Tail: A docked or natural bobtail is preferred. A docked tail is straight, not to exceed three (3) inches. The undocked tail when at rest may hang in a slight curve. When excited or in motion the tail may be carried raised with the curve accentuated.

Forequarters: The forequarters are well conditioned and balanced with the hindquarters. Shoulders: Shoulder blades (scapula) are long, flat, fairly close set at the withers, and well laid back. Upper arm: The upper arm (humerus) is equal in length to the shoulder blade and meets the shoulder blade at an approximate right angle. The forelegs drop straight and perpendicular to the ground. Elbow: The elbow joint is equidistant from the ground to the withers. Viewed from the side, the elbow should be directly under the withers. The elbows should be close to the ribs without looseness. Legs: The legs are straight and strong. The bone is oval rather than round. Pasterns: Short, thick and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. Feet: Oval shaped, compact, with close-knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails are short and strong. The nails may be any color combination. Dewclaws should be removed.

Hindquarters: Width of hindquarters is approximately equal to the width of the forequarters at the shoulders. Angulation: The angulation of the pelvis and upper thigh (femur) mirrors the angulation of the shoulder blade and upper arm, forming an approximate right angle. Stifle: Stifles are clearly defined. Hock: The hocks are short, perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Feet: Feet are oval, compact, with close knit, well arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails are short and strong. The nails may be any color combination. Rear dewclaws should be removed.

_____ / **40**

CATEGORY: MOVEMENT

Gait: Smooth, free, and easy; exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced, ground-covering stride. Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of the body; as speed increases, the feet, both front and rear, converge toward the center line of gravity of the dog, while the back remains firm and level. When traveling at a trot the head is carried in a natural position with neck extended forward and head nearly level or slightly above the topline. He must be agile and able to turn direction or alter gait instantly.

_____ / **40**

Penalties for Breed Standard Disqualifications – circle all penalties that apply and subtract from score	**Penalty**
Under 14 inches and over 18 inches for dogs; under 13 inches and over 17 inches for bitches.	**-10**
Over 50% un-pigmented nose leather.	**-10**
Undershot or overshot bite.	**-10**
Other than recognized colors. White body splashes, which means any conspicuous, isolated spot or patch of white on the area between withers and tail, on back, or sides between elbows and back of hindquarters.	**-10**
Undescended testicles or testicles not present (unless altered)	**-10**
Blindness or Deafness	**Does Not Qualify**
Changed by artificial means	**Does Not Qualify**
Attacks or vicious behavior	**Does Not Qualify**
Total Penalties	

Total Score _____ **/ 110**