

2009 USDAA[®] Tournament Rules for GRAND PRIX OF DOG AGILITY[®] WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Description: USDAA's 2009 *Grand Prix of Dog Agility*[®] is designed to showcase top competitors in the sport of dog agility and to name an annual world champion. All competitors are eligible to compete with any dog, without regard to previous accomplishments. The tournament is structured on three levels, offering local qualifiers, regional championships and an overall world championship event. The tournament will include more than one hundred fifty local qualifying and regional championship events leading to the annual world championship event.

The tournament qualification season shall run from September 19, 2008 through September 14, 2009. Six or seven Regional Championships will be held in select cities from May through September, with each event consisting of two rounds - a semifinal round in which all pre-qualified entrants compete to earn a slot in the final round. The *Grand Prix of Dog Agility* World Championship event is to be held in conjunction with the Cynosport[®] World Games in the fall on a date following the end of the tournament season at a location to be determined and will consist of a quarterfinals, semifinals and final round for this tournament.

Scoring: USDAA[®] Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply. The following additional rules shall apply:

- Standard scoring rules for the Masters standard agility class as set forth in Chapter 3 of USDAA rules and regulations shall apply, except that standard course times shall range from 3.50 to 3.75 yards per second for competitors entered in the 22" and 26" classes, and 2.85 to 3.05 yards per second if entered in the 12" height class, and 3.10 to 3.40 yards per second if entered in the 16" height class. Results for second round of Regional Championships or in the World Championship event shall not be applied toward calculation of agility certification titles.
- Local Qualifying Trials consist of a single round on a standard course; a qualifying score is zero (0) faults. One qualifying score is required for entry to a Regional Grand Prix Championship, and two qualifying rounds (one of which may be earned in round 1 at a Regional Championship) are required for entry to the World Championship quarterfinals.
- First place winners earning a qualifying score at a local qualifier shall be awarded a voucher or ticket for a first-round bye at a Regional Championship at the jump height in which earned. The Qualifying Event First Place Voucher must be included with entry to the Regional Championship and are not reusable and will not be replaced if lost or destroyed. Qualifying Event Vouchers and byes earned at Regional Championships are nontransferable.
- All dogs entered that do not have a permanent registration card must be measured prior to competing at a Regional Championship or the Cynosport World Games. Should the dog be measured up, the competitor must jump their dog at the higher height, regardless of the height previously qualified. If a bye was earned at the lower height, it is forfeited, and the competitor must compete in any preliminary rounds that might have been foregone as a result of the bye.
- The six or seven Regional Championships are open to entry by anyone who has qualified for entry in any geographic region. These events are rated based upon the number of qualifying local events and the number of competitors eligible for entry in the geographic region. Both types of Regional Championships consist of two rounds, with competitors who earn zero faults in Round 1 advancing to Round 2 to compete against competitors who have earned Qualifying Event byes.
 - In a Type 1 Regional Championship, competitors placing within the top 50% of each height class in Round 2 with zero faults earn a "bye" in the World Championship quarterfinals (eligible to directly enter the semifinals). Competitors must place first with zero faults in each height class to be named Regional Champion and earn a bye in the World Championship quarterfinals. **There are no byes into the finals.**
 - In a Type 2 Regional Championship, the greater of the number of competitors placing within the top 50% or the top three competitors in Round 2, and have earned a zero fault qualifying score in both rounds shall earn a bye in the quarterfinals of the World Championships. Competitors who place first in each height class shall not earn a slot in the World Championship finals but shall carry the distinction as being the Regional Champion. Type 2 Regional Championships are held only in geographically isolated or developing regions where a sufficient number of supporting events or competitors are not being held to warrant a Type 1 Regional Championship event.
- Competitors who place within the top 50% of those entered in each jump height class in the World Championship quarterfinals with zero faults shall advance to the World semifinals, and competitors who place within the top 15% (maximum to be announced) of those entered in the semifinals with zero faults (including those who advance from the quarterfinals) earn the right to compete in the Finals.
- The dog earning zero faults and the fastest time shall be the winner. Should a tie of faults occur, the dog achieving that result in the fastest time is the winner. Should competitors have a tie of faults and time on course, a runoff shall be conducted on the same or similar course until a winner is determined.
- A competitor must be entered in a regional championship and/or the World Championship event (as applicable) in the same height class in which eligibility was earned, unless the dog is measured up as explained further in these tournament regulations.

- Where a competitor may earn qualifications in both the Championship Program tournaments and Performance Program tournaments throughout the tournament season, the competitor must enter the Championship Program tournaments at the Regional and World Championships unless a majority of qualifications from all qualifying tournaments have been earned in the Performance Program.
- A person may enter more than one dog in the tournament; however, no dog may be entered by more than one person and no dog may be entered in both the Championship and Performance Program tournaments at the same event.
- Any competitor may enter any of the local qualifying trials or regional championship events without regard to geographic location.
- No competitor, steward, judge or other show official shall be permitted to wear or exhibit in or about the ring any insignia of corporations or associations other than that of USDAA or its national and regional sponsors on the day of the tournament, without the express written permission of USDAA.
- Competitors must wear specified attire at all events. Such attire, if any, shall be set forth in the Agility Test Schedule for the event, or otherwise distributed at the event. No T-shirts are permitted in the main performance ring at the World Championship event; polo shirts are recommended and shirt-tails must be tucked-in in a neat manner. Similar attire should be worn in Regional championship final rounds.

Eligibility & Entry Rules

General Eligibility

Any competitor who has a dog registered with USDAA is eligible to compete. *Competitors who reside outside North America* and who have no access to sanctioned tournament qualification or Regional Championship events may be eligible for entry to the World Championship event based upon recognition of their performance results in recognized national or international tournaments or other events having met standards in competition as outlined below for eligibility for entry to the World Championship event quarterfinals below.

Foreign entrants seeking reciprocal recognition of overseas results are encouraged to submit their proof of eligibility in advance of entry to provide sufficient time for validation, and must register their dog with USDAA along with their entry to the Cynosport® World Games.

Eligibility for entry into Regional Grand Prix Championship Events

To be eligible for entry to a Regional Championship Event, a competitor must qualify by earning one qualifying round with zero faults in a local qualification event. Any competitor earning a qualifying score and winning first place in their jump height at a local qualifier is eligible to enter the final round at a Regional Championship. Competitors may opt additionally to run in Round 1 for Top Ten Points and the chance to earn a second qualifying score; a disqualification in Round 1 will not affect their eligibility for Round 2 at a regional championship.

Eligibility for entry into the World Championship Event

Quarterfinals

- Competitors who have earned two qualifying scores in sanctioned events, one of which may be earned in the semifinals at a Regional Championship event
- Competitors residing outside of North America who are not in proximity to qualifying competitions must –
 - be a finalist in a USDAA-recognized national or international championship tournament outside North America meeting competitive standards of USDAA's Masters classes, FCI's Agility III classes or The Kennel Club (of Great Britain)'s Intermediate or higher level classes, or
 - have two or more zero fault rounds in Intermediate or higher level classes in the current year in Great Britain or elsewhere outside of North America, earned a title in FCI Agility III title competition and have two or more zero fault rounds in FCI Agility III equivalent competition during the current year.

Semifinals

- Competitors earning a bye as defined in these tournament regulations in Regional Championship events.
- Competitors residing outside of Qualifying regions who have won a USDAA recognized international or national tournament meeting strict competitive standards commensurate with Grand Prix performance criteria, involving at least two rounds of competition.

Finals

- Competitors who place in the top 15% of the World Championship semifinals with zero faults shall advance to the final round. This number will be subject to numeric limitations as determined based upon an analytical review of the number of competitors qualifying through no less than two-thirds of the tournament season. Any limits shall be listed in the Test Schedule for the event.

Awards

Qualifying ribbons and placement ribbons shall be offered for each local qualifier, regional championship and the Championships at the Cynosport World Games, as set forth in the Test Schedule for each event. The club hosting a regional championship shall assume responsibility for providing placement rosettes at their discretion to the winners in each jump height. USDAA will sponsor qualifying ribbons for each competitor earning a qualifying score. Qualifying ribbons will be awarded to those with a qualifying score in Round 1 of the Regional Championships. Semifinalist qualification rosettes shall be awarded to those with zero faults in the top 50% of the Regional Championship Finals. USDAA will provide a trophy for the regional champion named in each jump height who earns a score of zero faults. Ribbons and rosettes at events held outside North America shall be the responsibility of the host organization.

2009 USDAA[®] Tournament Rules for PERFORMANCE NATIONAL STANDARDSM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Description: USDAA's 2009 Performance National StandardSM is designed to showcase top competitors in the Performance Program and name a national champion. All competitors are eligible to compete with any dog, without regard to previous accomplishments. The tournament is structured on three levels, offering local qualifiers, regional championships and an overall championship event. The tournament will include more than one hundred fifty local qualifying and regional championship events leading to the annual championship event.

The tournament qualification season shall run from September 19, 2008 through September 14, 2009. Six or seven Regional Championships will be held in select cities from May through September, with each event consisting of two rounds - a semifinal round in which all pre-qualified entrants compete to earn a slot in the final round. The Performance National Standard Championship event is to be held in conjunction with the Cynosport[®] World Games in the fall on a date following the end of the tournament season at a location to be determined and will consist of a quarterfinals, semifinals and final round for each respective tournament.

Scoring: USDAA[®] Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply. The following additional rules shall apply:

- Standard scoring rules for the Masters standard agility class as set forth in Chapter 3 of USDAA rules and regulations shall apply, except that standard course times shall be applied utilizing time standards generally ranging from 3.30 yards per second to 3.55 yards per second for competitors in the 16" and 22" height classes, from 2.95 to 3.25 yards per second for competitors in the 12" height class and 2.75 to 2.95 yards per second in the 8" height class. Results for second round of Regional Championships or in the World Championship event shall not be applied toward calculation of agility certification titles.
- Local Qualifying Trials consist of a single round on a standard course; a qualifying score is zero (0) faults. One qualifying score is required for entry to a Regional Performance National Championship, and two qualifying rounds (one of which may be earned in round 1 at a Regional Championship) are required for entry to the Championship quarterfinals.
- First place winners earning a qualifying score at a local qualifier shall be awarded a voucher or ticket for a first-round bye at a Regional Championship at the jump height in which earned. The Qualifying Event First Place Voucher must be included with entry to the Regional Championship and are not reusable and will not be replaced if lost or destroyed. Qualifying Event Vouchers and byes earned at Regional Championships are nontransferable.
- All dogs entered that do not have a permanent registration card must be measured prior to competing at a Regional Championship or the Cynosport World Games. Should the dog be measured up, the competitor must jump their dog at the higher height, regardless of the height previously qualified. If a bye was earned at the lower height, it is forfeited, and the competitor must compete in any preliminary rounds that might have been foregone as a result of the bye.
- Six or seven Regional Championships are open to entry by anyone who has qualified for entry in any geographic region. These events are rated based upon the number of qualifying local events and the number of competitors eligible for entry in the geographic region. Both types of Regional Championships consist of two rounds, with competitors who earn zero faults in Round 1 advancing to Round 2 to compete against competitors who have earned Qualifying Event byes.
 - In a Type 1 Regional Championship, competitors placing within the top 50% of each height class in Round 2 with zero faults earn a "bye" in the World Championship quarterfinals (eligible to directly enter the semifinals). Competitors must place first with zero faults in each height class to be named Regional Champion and earn a bye in the World Championship quarterfinals. **There are no byes into the finals.**
 - In a Type 2 Regional Championship, the greater of the number of competitors placing within the top 50% or the top three competitors in Round 2, and have earned a zero fault qualifying score in both rounds shall earn a bye in the quarterfinals of the Championships. Competitors who place first in each height class shall not earn a slot in the Championship finals but shall carry the distinction as being the Regional Champion. Type 2 Regional Championships are held only in geographically isolated or developing regions where a sufficient number of supporting events or competitors are not being held to warrant a Type 1 Regional Championship event.
- Competitors who place within the top 50% of those entered in each jump height class in the World Championship quarterfinals with zero faults shall advance to the World semifinals, and competitors who place within the top 15% (maximum to be announced) of those entered in the semifinals with zero faults (including those who advance from the quarterfinals) earn the right to compete in the Finals.
- The dog earning zero faults and the fastest time shall be the winner. Should a tie of faults occur, the dog achieving that result in the fastest time is the winner. Should competitors have a tie of faults and time on course, a runoff shall be conducted on the same or similar course until a winner is determined.
- A competitor must be entered in a regional championship and/or the Championship event (as applicable) in the same height class in which eligibility was earned, unless the dog is measured up as explained further in these tournament regulations.

- Where a competitor may earn qualifications in both the Championship Program tournaments and Performance Program tournaments throughout the tournament season, the competitor must enter the Championship Program tournaments at the Regional and World Championships unless a majority of qualifications from all qualifying tournaments have been earned in the Performance Program.
- A person may enter more than one dog in the tournament; however, no dog may be entered by more than one person and no dog may be entered in both the Championship and Performance Program tournaments at the same event.
- Any competitor may enter any of the local qualifying trials or regional championship events without regard to geographic location.
- No competitor, steward, judge or other show official shall be permitted to wear or exhibit in or about the ring any insignia of corporations or associations other than that of USDAA or its national and regional sponsors on the day of the tournament, without the express written permission of USDAA.
- Competitors must wear specified attire at all events. Such attire, if any, shall be set forth in the Agility Test Schedule for the event, or otherwise distributed at the event. No T-shirts are permitted in the main performance ring at the World Championship event; polo shirts are recommended and shirt-tails must be tucked-in in a neat manner. Similar attire should be worn in Regional championship final rounds.

Eligibility & Entry Rules

General Eligibility

Any competitor who has a dog registered with USDAA is eligible to compete.

Eligibility for entry into Regional Performance National Standard Championship Events

To be eligible for entry to a Regional Championship Event, a competitor must qualify by earning one qualifying round with zero faults in a local qualification event. Any competitor earning a qualifying score and winning first place in their jump height at a local qualifier is eligible to enter the final round at a Regional Championship. Competitors may opt additionally to run in Round 1 for Top Ten Points and the chance to earn a second qualifying score; a disqualification in Round 1 will not affect their eligibility for Round 2.

Eligibility for entry into the Championship Event

Quarterfinals

- Competitors who have earned two qualifying scores in sanctioned events, one of which may be earned in the semifinals (round 1) at a Regional Championship event

Semifinals

- Competitors earning a bye as defined in these tournament regulations in Regional Championship events.

Finals

- Competitors who place in the top 15% of the World Championship semifinals with zero faults shall advance to the final round. This number will be subject to numeric limitations as determined based upon an analytical review of the number of competitors qualifying through no less than two-thirds of the tournament season. Any limits shall be listed in the Test Schedule for the event.

Awards

Qualifying ribbons and placement ribbons shall be offered for each local qualifier, regional championship and the Championships at the *Cynosport* World Games, as set forth in the Test Schedule for each event. The club hosting a regional championship shall assume responsibility for providing placement rosettes at their discretion to the winners in each jump height in the semifinals (round 2). USDAA will sponsor qualifying ribbons for each competitor earning a qualifying score. Qualifying ribbons will be awarded to those with a qualifying score in Round 1 of the Regional Championships. Semifinalist qualification rosettes shall be awarded to those with zero faults in the top 50% of the Regional Championship Finals. USDAA will provide a trophy for the regional champion named in each jump height who earns a score of zero faults. Ribbons and rosettes at events held outside North America shall be the responsibility of the host organization.