

2009 DOG AGILITY STEEPLECHASE® LOCAL QUALIFIER

Description: The “Steeplechase” is a two-round tournament with emphasis on speed. Each round will be conducted on a jumpers-style course that shall include at least two spread hurdles, a long jump and an A-frame and weave poles. Either the A-Frame or weave poles shall be required to be performed twice. Top competitors as set forth below (see qualification and advancement) shall advance to Round 2 to compete for prize money and Tournament Top Ten points. Qualifiers as defined herein earn the right to enter either the quarterfinals or semifinals at the Dog Agility Steeplechase® championships to be held in autumn of 2009. This tournament is open to all competitors not entered in Performance Speed JumpingSM qualifier at this event regardless of titles earned.

Scoring: The tournament shall be conducted pursuant to USDAA Championship Program Starters level rules, except that scoring in each round shall be on a time plus faults basis, with a five-point penalty added to a competitor’s performance time for each occurrence of a fallen hurdle or missed contact; running the wrong course shall be scored as an elimination as defined under Masters rules. For purposes of qualification calculations, a competitive performance resulting in “elimination” as a result of performance error in the normal pursuit of a round* shall be included in the count of competitors “actually competing” in the qualifying score computations.

**The judge shall mark a score of “Withdrawn” rather than “Elimination” where a competitor is disciplined in accordance with Appendix C of the regulations because of an incident in the ring resulting in elimination, including but not limited to a courtesy warning by the judge, when such action is instituted. Withdrawals and absentees shall not be included in the number of competitors “actually competing”.*

Qualification & Advancement

Local Qualifiers: Qualification shall be determined based upon the Round 1 scores of the top three dogs in each jump height provided there are at least 5 scores each in the 12” and 16” height classes or 7 scores each in the 22” and 26” height classes. The top three scores shall be averaged and multiplied by a factor of 1.25 to determine the maximum qualifying score for each jump height. Only competitors with scores equal to or less than the maximum qualifying score in round 1 qualify.

In the event that fewer than five competitors actually compete in the 12” or 16” height classes, or seven competitors in the 22” or 26” height classes, the top three scores must be determined from the combined height division for small dogs (12” and 16”) OR large dogs (22” and 26”) to determine the maximum qualifying score for all dogs competing in that division in the manner described above.

If there are fewer than five competitors actually competing in the small dog division or seven in the large dog division, the top score from the division shall be used to calculate the maximum qualifying score. In this case, the top score shall be multiplied by a factor of 1.25 to determine the maximum qualifying score.

Qualifiers and placement winners (minimum of four, there is no maximum) in the height class are eligible to advance to Round 2 at a local qualifying event in order to compete for Top Ten points and prize money, provided they have finished the round with a score. Non-qualifying competitors running in Round 2 shall not be credited with a qualifying score regardless of their final standing and at the Regional level are not eligible to earn a bye based upon their score in Round 2. A finalist slot vacated by a competitor who has earned the right to compete in the final round shall be forfeited and no substitutions are allowed.

Regional Championships: The same process used for determining qualifying scores in Round 1 at the local qualifier will be applied in Round 1 at a Regional. To determine the maximum qualifying score in Round 2 at a Regional, the same method is applied, but the multiplier of 1.15 will be utilized. Any competitor in Round 2 with a score less than or equal to the maximum qualifying score as calculated in this manner will earn a 'bye' into the Steeplechase semifinals championships. Non-qualifying competitors are not eligible to run in Round 2 to satisfy numerical minimums. Any 'bye' that is earned may only be used by the handler/dog team who earned it and may not be transferred to another dog and/or handler.

Eligibility for Entry:

Regional Championships: A competitor must have one qualification at a local qualifier to be eligible to enter Round 1 of a Regional Championships.

World Championship Quarterfinals: Two qualifications, one of which may be from the first round of a Regional Championship will be required for entry.

World Championship Semifinals: Advancement from the quarterfinals by earning the equivalent of a qualifying score or by direct entry into the semifinal by having earned a ‘bye’ at a Regional Championship.

In regional and world championship events, where a competitor has qualifying scores in both Championship Program tournaments and Performance Program tournaments, a competitor must enter all Championship Program tournaments unless the total number of qualifications earned in all Performance Program tournaments is greater.

Awards:

Local Qualifiers: Prize money shall be computed based upon 20% to 40% (at club’s discretion) of the total entry fees to be allocated in accordance with the payout table below regardless of the size of entry in any height class.

Regional Championships: Prize money shall be computed based upon 30% of the total entry fees to be allocated in accordance with the payout table below regardless of the size of entry in any height class.

| Height Class | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 6 th | Total* |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 12” | 10% | 6% | 4% | | | | 20% |
| 16” | 10% | 6% | 4% | 3% | | | 23% |
| 22” | 10% | 6% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 30% |
| 26” | 10% | 6% | 4% | 4% | 3% | | 27% |
| Totals | 40% | 24% | 16% | 11% | 6% | 3% | 100% |

Allocable amounts to finalist positions that are not filled for any reason or allocable prize amounts less than \$3.00 shall not be paid.

2009 Performance Speed JumpingSM Tournament Qualifier

Description: This is a two-round tournament with emphasis on speed. Each round will be conducted on a jumpers-style course that shall include a long jump, an A-frame and weave poles. Either the A-Frame or weave poles shall be required to be performed twice. All obstacles are set according to Performance specifications. Top competitors as set forth below (see qualification and advancement) shall advance to Round 2 to compete for Tournament Top Ten Points and prizes or awards. Qualifiers as defined herein earn the right to enter either the semifinals at the Performance Speed JumpingSM championships to be held in autumn of 2009. This tournament is open to all competitors not entered in the Steeplechase qualifier at the same event regardless of titles earned.

Scoring: The tournament shall be conducted pursuant to *USDAA* Championship Program Starters level rules, except that scoring in each round shall be on a time plus faults basis, with a five-point penalty added to a competitor’s performance time for each occurrence of a fallen hurdle or missed contact; running the wrong course shall be scored as an elimination as defined under Masters rules. For purposes of qualification calculations, a competitive performance resulting in “elimination” as a result of performance error in the normal pursuit of a round* shall be included in the count of competitors “actually competing” in the qualifying score computations.

**The judge shall mark a score of “Withdrawn” rather than “Elimination” where a competitor is disciplined in accordance with Appendix C of the regulations because of an incident in the ring, including but not limited to a courtesy warning by the judge, when such action is instituted. Withdrawals and absentees shall not be included in the number of competitors “actually competing”.*

Qualification & Advancement

Qualification shall be determined based upon the Round 1 scores of the top three dogs in each jump height provided there are at least 5 scores each in the 8” and 12” height classes or 7 scores each in the 16” and 22” height classes. The top three scores shall be averaged and multiplied by a factor of 1.25 to determine the maximum qualifying score for each jump height. Only competitors with scores equal to or less than the maximum qualifying score in round 1 qualify.

In the event that fewer than five competitors actually compete in the 8” or 12” height classes, or seven competitors in the 16” or 22” height classes, the top three scores must be determined from the combined height division for small dogs (8” and 12”) OR large dogs (16” and 22”) to determine the maximum qualifying score for all dogs competing in that division in the manner described above.

If there are fewer than five competitors actually competing in the small dog division or seven in the large dog division, the top score from the division shall be used to calculate the maximum qualifying score. In this case, the top score shall be multiplied by a factor of 1.25 to determine the maximum qualifying score.

Qualifiers and placement winners (minimum of four, there is no maximum) in the height class are eligible to advance to Round 2 at a local qualifying event in order to compete for Top Ten points and prize money, provided they have

finished the round with a score. Non-qualifying competitors running in Round 2 shall not be credited with a qualifying score regardless of their final standing and at the Regional level are not eligible to earn a bye based upon their score in Round 2. A finalist slot vacated by a competitor who has earned the right to compete in the final round shall be forfeited and no substitutions are allowed.

Program eligibility in Regional and National/World Championships shall be determined as follows: Where a competitor has qualifying scores in Championship Program tournaments and Performance Program tournaments, a competitor must enter all Championship Program tournaments unless the total number of qualifications earned in all Performance Program tournaments is greater.

Eligibility for Entry into the Championships: Two qualifying scores as defined herein are required to enter the semifinals at the Performance Speed JumpingSM Championships to be held in autumn of 2009.

Awards:

Local Qualifier: Prizes or awards shall be provided at the club's discretion.

Local Qualifier held in conjunction with a Regional Championship: Prizes or awards shall be awarded to first through third places in each jump height. Should prize money be awarded, the following table shall be utilized:

| Height Class | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | Total* |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 8" | 12% | 8% | 5% | 25% |
| 12" | 12% | 8% | 5% | 25% |
| 16" | 12% | 8% | 5% | 25% |
| 22" | 12% | 8% | 5% | 25% |
| Totals | 48% | 32% | 20% | 100% |

*Allocable prize money to Round 2 positions that are not filled for any reason shall be forfeited.