

## **RULES FOR THE 2017 USDAA® MASTERS CHALLENGE BIATHLON<sup>SM</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP & PERFORMANCE MASTERS CHALLENGE BIATHLON<sup>SM</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SERIES**

USDAA's 2017 *Masters Challenge Biathlon*<sup>SM</sup> championship tournament series is designed to feature mastery of training for execution of controlled maneuvers on both a standard agility and jumpers course, each of European-style design. Scores from the two classes are combined to determine the winners. An annual champion and medalists will be named in each height class.

The *Performance Masters Challenge Biathlon*<sup>SM</sup> championship tournament series follows the same structure and rules as the *Masters Challenge Biathlon*<sup>SM</sup>, except that obstacle specifications as used in USDAA's Performance Program are utilized.

The Qualifying Period for the 2017 Tournament Season is September 6, 2016 through September 7, 2017.

Each tournament series is structured on three levels:

- Local qualifying events held during the Qualifying Period
- Regional championships consisting of two cumulative rounds of competition (Standard and Jumpers), held in select cities from March through September, and
- A final championship consisting of two cumulative rounds of competition (Standard and Jumpers) held at the Cynosport® World Games in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 25-29, 2017.

### **General Rules**

This tournament is designed to provide a test in head-to-head competition with challenges that conform to the Course Design Guidelines of the Masters Challenge ("MC") Standard and Masters Challenge ("MC") Jumpers classes, with emphasis on control challenges at speed, as further set forth under "Scoring" in these regulations.

Competitors are eligible to compete in the tournament series with any dog that is fully registered with USDAA without regard to previous accomplishments in the sport. The following rules apply:

- 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 of this tournament at the same event.
- Any competitor may enter any of the local qualifying trials or regional championship events without regard to geographic location.
- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in a Masters Challenge Biathlon tournament. The same handler must handle the dog in both rounds for tournament qualification, advancement and awards. (This shall not preclude handler substitutions for titling purposes in the titling classes.)
- Competitors and all ring personnel must wear specified attire. Such attire, if any, shall be set forth in the Agility Test Schedule for the event, and/or distributed at the event. In addition:
  - T-shirts other than USDAA t-shirts are not permitted in the main performance ring at the World Championship event
  - Polo shirts are recommended and shirt-tails should be tucked-in in a neat manner
  - Apparel or accessories may not be worn or exhibited in or about the ring that include any insignia, name or logo 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
  - Apparel or accessories may not be worn that include offensive graphics or remarks or include any statements promoting a cause or agenda
  - Apparel or paraphernalia the event organizers deem to present a poor image or representation of the sport, USDAA or other organizations shall not be exhibited in or about the ring, or others

## 2017 Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Tournament Rules – Continued



- Other restrictions in the spirit of these regulations may be imposed by USDAA without prior notice
- Zero fault rounds meeting the titling requirements of Chapter 12 that are earned in each of the Masters Challenge/Performance Masters Challenge biathlon tournament classes at Local Qualifying events or Regional Championship events are recorded as qualifications for titling purposes and Lifetime Achievement Awards.
- Scores earned at the Cynosport<sup>®</sup> World Games are not recorded for titling or Lifetime Achievement Award purposes.

### Scoring

USDAA<sup>®</sup> Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect as set forth in Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules and Regulations at the date of competition shall apply, except that scoring of the Biathlon tournament shall be on a time plus faults basis, rather than being run against a standard course time.

- Competitors receiving a score through both rounds (i.e., no elimination) shall be eligible for Biathlon awards. An elimination in either round results in elimination from the tournament.
- The competitor earning the fastest time with faults added through both rounds in the finals shall be the winner. Should a tie occur, the competitor achieving the fastest time is the winner. Should competitors have a tie of both faults and time on course, a runoff shall be conducted on a same or similar course until a winner is determined.
- Scoring in the individual classes of the tournament for qualification for titling purposes shall follow the regulations as set forth in Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules & Regulations for the titling program (i.e., qualification requires zero faults run against a standard course time in the class).
- A Qualifying Score is earned in a MC Biathlon Tournament at a local event or Regional Championship event with an overall score being within 25% of the average of the top three scores in a height class. When there are fewer than three competitors with scores, the maximum qualifying score shall be determined for each height class by multiplying the top score in that class by 1.25. (By default, when only one competitor in a height class has a score, the competitor qualifies.)
- When seeking eligibility for the Biathlon under the alternative criteria of competing in the Masters Challenge titling classes, a Qualifying Score is the same as defined in Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules & Regulations.

### Eligibility & Advancement

Qualifications (“Qs”) may be earned through the Masters Challenge (“MC”)/Performance Masters Challenge (“PMC”) Biathlon Tournament held at local events and Regional Championship events. Alternatively, Qs may be earned through the MC/PMC Standard and MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes. Qualification in the Biathlon tournament for advancement to the Cynosport<sup>®</sup> World Games are as follows:

- Two Qualifying Scores in a MC/PMC Biathlon Tournament earned at a local or Regional Biathlon event, or
- Four Qualifying Scores in MC/PMC titling classes, with two Qs in MC/PMC Standard titling classes and two Qs in MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes, when the titling classes are not held as part of a Biathlon (or when no biathlon Q is earned when concurrent scoring in a Biathlon is done for titling purposes), or
  - Three Qualifying Scores, with—
    - One Q in a MC/PMC Biathlon Tournament (local or Regional), and
    - Two Qs, with one Q in MC/PMC Standard titling classes and one Q in MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes, when the titling classes are not held as part of a Biathlon (or when no biathlon Q is earned when concurrent scoring in a Biathlon is done for titling purposes).

Separate standards may apply in designated countries or territories outside the U.S. Only local residents in those areas that do not have ready access to competitions are eligible for these special standards.

## 2017 Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Tournament Rules – Continued



In addition—

- Generally, a competitor must be entered in Cynosport World Games in the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) and height class in which eligibility was earned; however,
  - For competitors transitioning to new eligible program jump heights beginning 12/28/2016, qualifications and byes earned at a local event prior to 12/28/2016, enable a competitor to enter the Cynosport World Games in any eligible new jump height in either program, regardless of which height class or program the qualifications had been previously earned.
  - Such qualifications may be combined with qualifications earned in either program after 12/28/2016, as if earned in the new jump height and program.
- Any dog entered in this tournament that does not have a completed registration card, i.e. three measurements that place the dog in a specific jump height, must be measured prior to competing at a regional championship. Should the dog measure up (i.e., into a higher height class), 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 cannot be used at the event where the dog measured up, and the competitor must compete in any preliminary rounds that might have been foregone.
- A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.
- When a Biathlon tournament is held at a local or regional event, concurrent scoring of the individual classes may be conducted for titling purposes pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 12 in USDAA Rules & Regulations. When titling classes are scored concurrently as part of the Biathlon,
  - a Biathlon Tournament Q takes precedence over qualifications earned for titling purposes with regards to tournament qualification and eligibility. That is, if a Biathlon Q is earned, any titling Qs arising from concurrent scoring in the individual class or classes cannot be considered for Biathlon eligibility; such titling Qs earned shall only be considered for titling purposes and for Lifetime Achievement Awards (i.e., no “double dipping”).
  - In the case where no Biathlon tournament Q is earned and one or more titling Qs are earned from concurrent scoring within the tournament, the titling Qs shall be considered toward Biathlon tournament qualification along with qualifications earned in other Masters Challenge titling classes when such classes are not held as part of a Biathlon tournament.

### Eligibility for entry to Regional Championships

- No qualifications are required for entry to a Regional Championship event in this tournament.

### **Cynosport® Championship Event Eligibility & Advancement**

- A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.
- A competitor may enter different jump heights in different tournaments within the same program provided they have met the height class eligibility requirements for each tournament.
- Competitors must meet entry qualification and eligibility requirements\* in two of the four tournaments in the same program to compete at Cynosport® 2017, summarized as follows:
  - Grand Prix of Dog Agility®/Performance Grand Prix<sup>SM</sup>
    - Quarterfinals: Two Qs
    - Semifinals: Two Qs plus a bye earned in Round 2 of a regional championship
  - Dog Agility Steeplechase®/Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup>
    - Quarterfinals: Two Qs
    - Semifinals: Two Qs plus a bye earned in Round 2 of a regional championship
  - Dog Agility Masters® Team/Performance Versatility Pairs<sup>SM</sup> – Two Qs

## 2017 Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Tournament Rules – Continued



- Masters Challenge (“MC”) Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> /Performance Masters Challenge (“PMC”) Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> –
  - Two Qs in a MC/PMC Biathlon Tournament earned at a local or Regional Biathlon event, or
  - Four Qs in MC/PMC titling classes, with two Qs in MC/PMC Standard titling classes and two Qs in MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes, when the titling classes are not held as part of a Biathlon (or when no biathlon Q is earned when concurrent scoring in a Biathlon is done for titling purposes), or
- Three Qs, with—
  - One Q in a MC/PMC Biathlon Tournament (local or Regional), and
  - Two Qs, with one Q in MC/PMC Standard titling classes and one Q in MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes, when the titling classes are not held as part of a Biathlon (or when no biathlon Q is earned when concurrent scoring in a Biathlon is done for titling purposes).

### Awards

Qualifying ribbons (or certificates) and placement ribbons or rosettes at local qualifying events and at championship events held outside the United States shall be the responsibility of the host organization. USDAA may offer awards in addition to those provided at its discretion.

USDAA will sponsor tournament awards at the Regional Championship events held throughout the United States as follows:

- Regional championship placement rosettes and medals shall be awarded to first through third places in each height class.
- Regional championship trophy shall be awarded to the first place winner in each jump height class.

USDAA will sponsor tournament awards at the Cynosport<sup>®</sup> World Games as follows:

- Rosettes and medals shall be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in each jump height class of the final round. A Trophy will be awarded to the gold medalist in each jump height class.
- Additional awards will be announced in the Agility Test Schedule for the event.

### Interpretations of Rules

These tournament rules cannot address all matters that may arise during the course of the tournament season. Interpretation of these regulations shall be made from time to time by judges and show officials as circumstances arise. These interpretations shall be made without bias in fulfillment of the goals of this tournament series (i.e., in seeking to identify and promote top competitors in head-to-head competition for the current tournament season). Through participation in any class of this tournament series, competitors and show officials acknowledge and accept USDAA as the final authority for interpretation of these rules.

*\*See the respective tournament regulations for the definition of a qualifying score in each tournament.*