

## **2017 USDAA® DOG AGILITY STEEPLECHASE® & PERFORMANCE SPEED JUMPING<sup>SM</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SERIES**

USDAA's 2017 *Dog Agility Steeplechase*® tournament series is designed to showcase top competitors with emphasis on jumping and speed, which recognizes competitors through cash prizes at local, regional and final championship events.

USDAA's Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup> tournament series follows the same basic rules except that jump height divisions and obstacle specifications are used to match USDAA's Performance Program.

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

Each tournament is structured on three levels:

- Local qualifying events held during the Qualifying Period
- Regional championships consisting of two progressive rounds of competition (semifinals and finals), held in select cities from March to September, and
- A final championship event, consisting of quarterfinals, semifinals and finals, held at the Cynosport® World Games in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 25-29, 2017

### **General Rules**

This tournament concept was derived from the equestrian world and is designed as a spectator attraction featuring speed and the sport's two most dynamic obstacles—the A-frame and Weave Poles—when working with speed. The course design requires constant flow and a design that encourages speed throughout the course, while testing the handler's response control. Control challenges that serve to detract from the speed element should be excluded.

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 general 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.
- 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 event organizers in their sole discretion deem to present a poor image or representation of the sport, USDAA or other organizations shall not be exhibited in or about the ring
- Other restrictions in the spirit of these regulations may be imposed by USDAA without prior notice Qualifications ("Qs") earned in local qualifying events and in Round 1 of a regional championship event are recorded for titling purposes and Lifetime Achievement Awards and count as a required Q for Cynosport.
- Qualifications ("Qs") earned in advanced rounds (i.e., regional finals and all rounds at the *Cynosport® World Games*) are recorded for tournament advancement only and are not recorded for titling or Lifetime Achievement Award purposes and do not count as a required Q for Cynosport.

## **Scoring**

USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply. Standard scoring rules for the Starters level class as set forth in Chapters 5 and 7 of USDAA rules and regulations shall apply to these tournament series, with the exception of:

- Competition shall be run on jumpers-style courses including between seventeen and twenty obstacles that include primarily hurdles and tunnels, with at least two spread hurdles, a long jump, an A-frame and a minimum of 10 weave poles. Either the A-Frame or weave poles shall be performed twice
- 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 defined under Masters rules as set forth in Chapter 3 of USDAA rules and regulations and shall be scored as an "Elimination"
- Course design guidelines for the Masters Jumpers class shall generally apply. Course design should establish flow throughout that encourages speed.
- A Qualifying Score is based upon a formula that defines a "Qualification Standard" in Round 1 at a local qualifying event and regional championship, as follows:
  - When there are five or more Championship competitors actually competing in the 12", 14", 16" or 18" height classes (10", 14", or 16" height class after 12/28/2016), or seven or more competitors in the 22" or 26" height classes (20", 22" or 24" height class after 12/28/2016), a competitor with a score within 25% of the average of the top three scores in the height class shall qualify.
  - When there are five or more Performance competitors actually competing in the 8" and 12" height classes, or seven or more competitors in the 16" or 20" height classes (14", 16", or 20" height classes after 12/28/2016), a competitor with a score within 25% of the average of the top three scores in the height class shall qualify.
  - When there are fewer than the minimum number of competitors specified above for averaging of the top three competitors scores, the maximum qualifying score shall be determined for each height class by multiplying the top score for that class by 1.25. (By default, when only one competitor in a height class has a score, the competitor qualifies.)
  - Separate qualification standards may apply in designated countries or territories outside the U.S. Only local residents within those areas that do not have ready access to competitions are eligible for such special standards.

## **Local Qualifying Events Eligibility & Advancement**

- Local qualifying events consist of two progressive rounds of competition.
- One qualifying score is required for entry to the regional championship
- Two qualifying scores in an eligible jump height (one of which may be earned in round 1 at a regional championship) are required for entry to the world championship quarterfinals or semifinals, the latter of which also requires a bye earned at a regional championship.
- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in Round 2 (i.e., the competitor running in Round 2 must be the same handler of the dog that earned the Round 1 qualification or bye).

## **Regional Championship Events Eligibility & Advancement**

- One qualifying score earned at any local qualifying event in any geographic region, within or outside the United States, is required to be eligible to enter any regional championship.
- Generally, a competitor must be entered in a Regional championship 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 Regional championship 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.
  - Regional championships are open to anyone who has earned a qualifying score at a local qualifier in this tournament series without regard to geographic region.
  - 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.
  - A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e. Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.
  - The first-round of a local qualifying tournament class shall be held in conjunction with a regional championship event to provide an opportunity for competitors to qualify for the regional. (A final round of the local qualifying tournament class may be held at event host's option). Competitors who enter the local qualifying class must submit a provisional entry to round 1 of the regional with entry.
  - There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in Round 2 of a regional championship (i.e., the competitor running in Round 2 must be the same handler of the dog that earned the Round 1 qualification.)
  - Competitors earning a qualifying score in Round 1 shall advance to Round 2 to compete for cash prizes and for the opportunity to earn a "bye" in the Cynosport quarterfinals.
  - In Round 2 of a regional championship, a competitor meeting the performance standard for a "bye" as defined below is eligible to directly enter the Cynosport semifinals. The same formula for calculating the Qualification Standard at a local qualifying event is used for calculating the performance standard for a "bye", except that:
    - The actual number of competitors competing in Round 2 is used, and
    - The percentage is 15% instead of 25% (e.g., 1.15 times the average of the top scores)
    - In a regional championship, "bys" in the Cynosport® World Games quarterfinals (i.e., earning the right to directly enter the semifinals) will be earned in each jump height by competitors placing 1-3 in Round 2 or placing within the top 15% in each jump height in Round 2, whichever is larger.
  - The competitor who places first in each height class is named Regional Champion.

### **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 (i.e., 24" Steeplechase, 22" Grand Prix, 24", etc.) provided they have met the height class eligibility requirements for each tournament.
- Competitors must meet 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
  - 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

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- 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).
- Competitors who earn a “bye” in Round 2 of a regional Championships shall be eligible to enter the Cynosport® World Games semifinals. Entry is subject to additional qualification criteria set forth herein.
- Competitors whose score is within 15% of the top score of those entered in each height class in the quarterfinals shall advance to the championship semifinals.
- Competitors who score within 15% of the top score of those competing in their height class in the semifinals advance to the finals, subject to limitations for the maximum number of competitors allowed in each jump height published in the Agility Test Schedule. In the event a tie score results in the number of competitors exceeding these requirements, the additional competitors shall advance to the finals in lieu of holding a runoff.
- The competitor earning the lowest score (i.e., the fastest time after faults have been added) in the finals shall be the winner. Should a tie occur, a runoff shall be held, with each competitor running on the same or similar course, until a winner is determined.
- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in the advanced rounds in the Cynosport® World Games (i.e., the competitor running in the semifinals must be the same handler of the dog that earned the qualification in the quarterfinals or earned the bye into the semifinals from a regional championship event. Also, the competitor running in the finals must be the same handler who earned the qualification in the semifinals.)

**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.

Prize money equal to 30% of the total entry fees (or other such amount for a local qualifying event, being no less than 20% or no more than 40% of the entry fees as stipulated in the Agility Test Schedule) shall be awarded to top winners in Round 2 at local qualifying and regional championship events in accordance with the payout table below, regardless of the size of entry in any height class:

<b>Championship Program</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total*</b>
12"	8%	4%	2%	1%			15%
14"	8%	4%	2%	1%			15%
16"	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%		17%
18"	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%		17%
22"	8%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	19%
26"	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%		17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Performance Program</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total*</b>
8"	12%	6%	4%				22%
12"	12%	6%	4%	3%			25%
16"	12%	6%	4%	3%	3%		27%
20"	12%	6%	4%	3%			25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3%</b>		<b>100%</b>

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The following tables shall apply after 12/28/2016:

<b>Championship Program</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total*</b>
10"	8%	4%	2%	1%			15%
14"	8%	4%	2%	1%			15%
16"	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%		17%
20"	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%		17%
22"	8%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	19%
24"	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%		17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Performance Program</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
8"	10%	5%	3%				18%
12"	10%	5%	3%	1%			19%
14"	10%	5%	3%	2%	1%		21%
16"	10%	5%	3%	2%	1%		21%
20"	10%	5%	3%	2%	1%		21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>3%</b>		<b>100%</b>

*NOTE: Allocable prize money to Round 2 positions that are not filled for any reason, and amounts less than \$5.00, shall not be paid unless otherwise stipulated in the Agility Test Schedule.*

- Qualifying ribbons or certificates will be awarded to those with a qualifying score in Round 1 of the Regional Championships.

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.
- Cynosport® Semifinalist Bye Vouchers will be awarded to those earning a bye in the Cynosport® Quarterfinals in accordance with these regulations.
- A Regional Championship trophy shall be awarded to the first place winner in each height class.

USDAA will sponsor tournament awards at the Cynosport® World Games as follows:

- Semifinalist rosettes or certificates shall be awarded to those who advance from the quarterfinals to the semifinals at the world championship event.
- Gold, silver and bronze medals and rosettes shall be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in each height class of the final round at the Cynosport® World Games event
- Prize money totaling up to \$10,000 shall be distributed among top competitors as specified in the Agility Test Schedule for the Dog Agility Steeplechase® final round. Prize money as specified in the Agility Test Schedule will be distributed in Performance Speed Jumping.
- Polo shirts shall be awarded to all finalists and are to be worn in the finals.
- Finalist rosettes shall be awarded to all finalists not earning a medal placement.

USDAA may offer awards in addition to those indicated above at its discretion.

### **Interpretations of Rules**

These tournament rules cannot address all matters that may arise during the course of the tournament series. Interpretation of these regulations shall be made from time to time by judges and show officials as circumstances arise. These interpretations shall be made in the spirit of sportsmanship and in fulfillment of the purpose of this tournament series in seeking to identify and promote top competitors in head-to-head competition for the current tournament season. Final authority for interpretation of these rules shall be the USDAA Rules Advisory Board.

*\*See the respective tournament rules for definition of a qualifying score and eligibility requirements for each respective tournament.*