

## **RULES FOR THE 2018 USDAA® MASTERS CHALLENGE BIATHLON<sup>SM</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP & PERFORMANCE MASTERS CHALLENGE BIATHLON<sup>SM</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SERIES**

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USDAA's 2018 *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 2018 Tournament Season is September 5, 2017 through September 3, 2018.

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 Scottsdale, Arizona, October 31 – November 4, 2018.

### **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

## 2018 Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Tournament Rules – Continued



- 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
- Other restrictions in the spirit of these regulations may be imposed by USDAA without prior notice
- Scores\*\* meeting the titling requirements of Chapter 12 (*as amended January 3, 2018*) 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 *and Masters Challenge Agility Cup<sup>SM\*\*</sup>* 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\*\* (as amended January 3, 2018)* for the titling program.
- 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.)

### Local Qualifying Events Eligibility & Advancement

- Local qualifying events consist of two rounds of competition—one Masters Challenge standard agility course and one Masters Challenge jumpers course, with scores combined.
- Two qualifying scores at the same jump height from a local qualifying event and/or regional championship events are required for entry to the world championship finals.

### Regional Championship Events Eligibility & Advancement

- Regional championships consist of two rounds, one of Masters Challenge standard agility and one of Masters Challenge jumpers.
- No qualifications are required for entry to a Regional Championship event in this tournament.
- Two qualifying scores at the same jump height from a local qualifying event and/or regional championship events are required for entry to the Cynosport 2018 world championship biathlon finals.
- A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.
- 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.
- The competitor who places first in each height class is named Regional Champion, regardless of faults earned.

### Cynosport<sup>®</sup> Championship Event Eligibility & Advancement

- A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.
  - Where a competitor may earn qualifications in both the Championship Program tournaments and Performance Program tournaments throughout the tournament season Qualifying Period, the competitor must enter the Championship Program tournaments at the Cynosport<sup>®</sup> World Games unless a majority of qualifications from all qualifying tournaments have been earned in the Performance Program (i.e., Performance Grand Prix<sup>SM</sup>, Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup>, Performance Versatility Pairs<sup>SM</sup>, and Performance Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup>).
  - In addition, during the tournament Qualifying Period a competitor must earn—
    - a minimum ten (10) qualifications in titling classes (i.e., any qualifications earned in any program towards standard, jumpers, gamblers, snooker, or relay class titles at any level; does not include tournaments qualifications), and
    - 25% of their titling Qs in the same program (Championship or Performance) as qualified in tournaments for Cynosport eligibility.
- A competitor may enter different jump heights in different tournaments within the same program (e.g., 24" Steeplechase, 22" Grand Prix, 24", 22" MC Biathlon) 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<sup>®</sup> 2018, summarized as follows:
  - Grand Prix of Dog Agility<sup>®</sup>/Performance Grand Prix<sup>SM</sup>
    - Quarterfinals: Two (2) Qs
    - Semifinals: Two (2) Qs plus a bye earned in Round 2 of a regional championship
  - Dog Agility Steeplechase<sup>®</sup>/Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup>
    - Quarterfinals: Two (2) Qs
    - Semifinals: Two (2) Qs plus a bye earned in Round 2 of a regional championship
  - Dog Agility Masters<sup>®</sup> Team/Performance Versatility Pairs<sup>SM</sup> –
    - Two (2) Qs earned at a local or regional championship event
  - Masters Challenge ("MC") Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> /Performance Masters Challenge ("PMC") Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> –
    - Two (2) Qs earned at a local or Regional Biathlon event. (Includes only biathlon tournament Qs\* for 2018)

### 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 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.

Separate regulations or exceptions to these regulations may be issued from time to time for competitors residing in geographically isolated or developing regions outside the United States where a sufficient number of supporting events for qualification or advancement are not available.

Final authority for interpretation of these rules shall be the responsibility of the USDAA Rules Advisory Board.

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

*\*\*Amendments effective January 3, 2018, are presented in Italics. Amendments are prospective in that they reflect changes in the qualification scoring rules for titles and includes reference to the new Masters Challenge Agility Cup to be held in August 2018.*

