

## **RULES FOR THE 2018 USDAA® GRAND PRIX OF DOG AGILITY® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP & PERFORMANCE GRAND PRIX<sup>SM</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SERIES**

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USDAA's 2018 *Grand Prix of Dog Agility*® world championship tournament series is designed to showcase top competitors in the sport of dog agility and to name an annual world champion in each jump height.

The *Performance Grand Prix*<sup>SM</sup> championship tournament series follows the same structure and rules as the *Grand Prix of Dog Agility*. Obstacle specifications used in USDAA's Performance Program are utilized and the standard course times allow three additional seconds.

The Qualifying Period for the 2018 Tournament Season is September 5, 2017 through September 3, 2018.

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 through September, and
- A final championship event, consisting of quarterfinals, semifinals and finals, to be 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 generally conform to the Course Design Guidelines of the Masters Standard class. Emphasis will be on challenges at speed, which is measured against more stringent course time standards than stipulated in USDAA Rules & Regulations for the Masters Standard titling classes, in part due to the absence of the table in the course design.

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, except as otherwise stipulated herein. 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 appropriate sports attire. Specific attire (e.g., award polo shirts) must be worn as may 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 that 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 required Qs 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. (These Qs do not count as required Qs for Cynosport.)

### Scoring

USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition 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:

- 2.95 to 3.45 yards per second if entered in the 10" height class
- 3.10 to 3.60 yards per second if entered in the 14" height class
- 3.10 to 3.60 yards per second if entered in the 16" height class
- 3.50 to 4.00 yards per second if entered in the 20" height class
- 3.50 to 4.00 yards per second if entered in the 22" height class
- 3.50 to 4.00 yards per second if entered in the 24" height class

A qualifying score shall be awarded for a zero-fault round pursuant to these standards, except in designated countries or territories outside the U.S., where separate standards may apply. Only local residents within those areas that do not have ready access to competitions are eligible for these special standards.

### Local Qualifying Events Eligibility & Advancement

- Local qualifying events consist of a single round on a standard course.
- One qualifying score is required for entry to a regional championship, and
- Two (2) qualifying scores at the same jump height (one of which may be earned in round 1 at a regional championship) are required for entry to the world championship quarterfinals and semifinals, the latter of which also requires a bye earned at a regional championship.
- First place winners in each jump height earning a qualifying score at a local qualifier shall be awarded a Regional Bye Voucher ("RBV") for a first-round bye at a regional championship in the same tournament year at the jump height in which earned; however, when a local qualifier is held in conjunction with an agility test where an equitable offering of all levels of titling classes are NOT being offered, 'bye' vouchers shall NOT be awarded.
  - RBVs earned at local qualifying events must be included with the entry to the regional championship and are not reusable and will not be replaced if lost or destroyed
  - RBVs are nontransferable to another handler or competitor

### Regional Championship Events Eligibility & Advancement

- Regional championships consist of two rounds, with competitors who earn a qualifying score in Round 1 advancing to Round 2 to compete against competitors who have earned byes at local qualifying events.
- One qualifying score is required for entry to a regional championship
- A single-round, local qualifying class shall be held in conjunction with a regional championship event to provide an opportunity for competitors to qualify for the regional. Competitors who enter the local qualifying class for this purpose must submit a provisional entry to round 1 of the regional with their entry.
- A competitor must be entered in a regional championship in the same program (Championship or Performance) and height class in which eligibility was earned.
- A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.
- 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 or in the case of a bye in Round 1, the competitor competing in Round 2 must have earned the RBV.)
- In a regional championship, "byes" in the world championship quarterfinals (i.e., earning the right to directly enter the semifinals) will be earned in each jump height by competitors placing 1-3 with zero faults in Round 2 or placing within the top 50% in each jump height in Round 2 with zero faults, whichever is greater.
- The competitor who places first in each height class is named Regional Champion, regardless of faults earned in the final round.

- 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.

### Cynosport® 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® 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 of—
    - 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 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® 2018, summarized as follows:
  - Grand Prix of Dog Agility®/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®/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® 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)
- Competitors who place within the top 50% of those entered in each jump height class in Round 2 of a regional championship with zero faults shall be eligible to enter the Cynosport® World Championship semifinals.
- 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 championship semifinals.
- Competitors who place with zero faults within the top 15% of the combined number of those advancing from the quarterfinals and those entered in the semifinals (minimum of 6, provided they have zero faults), are eligible to compete in the finals, subject to limitations for the maximum number of competitors allowed in each jump height. 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 least faults in the fastest time in the finals shall be the winner. Should a tie of faults occur, the competitor 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.

## 2018 Grand Prix of Dog Agility® Tournament Rules – Continued



- 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, and 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 (including semifinal round qualifications at regional championships) and at championship events held outside the United States shall be the responsibility of the host organization.

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 with zero faults in the top 50% of a regional championship final
- Regional championship trophy shall be awarded to the first place winner in each jump height class

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

- Semifinalist rosettes or certificates shall be awarded to those who compete in the semifinals and do not advance to the finals at the world championship event.
- Trophy cups, rosettes and medals shall be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in each jump height class of the final round at the Cynosport® championship event
- Finalist plaques shall be awarded to all finalists in the Cynosport® championship event who did not earn a first, second or third place
- Finalist polo shirts shall be awarded to all finalists and are to be worn in the finals

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.

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.*