

CHAPTER 12—MASTERS CHALLENGE CLASSES

The Masters Challenge classes are based in part on the international style of course design featured in Europe. These classes include Standard Agility and Jumpers and are part of the Championship and Performance Titling Programs, being originally adopted January 1, 2012, and amended effective January 3, 2018.

Purpose: The Masters Challenge classes are designed to provide a test in handling a variety of challenges while the dog is working at or near full stride and speed (i.e., at or near “full extension”).

Course requirements vary from those established in Chapter 2 of these regulations, as follows:

- a space of approximately 9,600 square feet (80' x 120') is needed to optimize the test at this level. Space of approximately 11,700 square feet (90' x 130') is recommended. Should a ring dimension be between 8,000 square feet and 9,600 square feet, consideration shall be given to limiting the number of obstacles as set forth in this chapter. Masters Challenge classes cannot be officially held in space less than 8,000 square feet (approximately 80' x 100'; no dimension shall be less than 72'. Obstructions in the ring shall be considered in calculating the minimum utilizable space and number of obstacles to be presented.
- Average spacing between obstacles along the dog's path when working with full extension shall be approximately 24' (7 ½ m), with a minimum spacing of no less than 18' (5m), except in situations where a turn back to or from another obstacle from or to another obstacle is incorporated into the design. (See USDAA Course Design Guidelines). A maximum of 33' (10m) spacing along the dog's path would generally be expected.

Course design for this class use distance and space to encourage speed at or near full extension as the competitor performs a variety of directional changes and other challenges. The dog will have a clear path to execute collection as they begin to perform the next obstacle in sequence; that is, the path should generally flow from one obstacle to the approach side of the next without significant or abrupt adjustments in flow.

Eligibility: These classes are open to all competitors without regard to titles earned. Competitors may continue to enter the regular classes in Standard and Jumpers at other levels in either program for which they are otherwise eligible.

Section 12.1—Minimum Obstacle Requirements

A course shall contain a minimum of seventeen (17) and a maximum of twenty-two (22) obstacles. Consideration shall be given to the maximum number of obstacles that will be presented using the following guidelines:

- When a course is between 8,000 and approximately 9,600 square feet, the number of obstacles shall be nineteen (19) or less to assure sufficient space is available on course to encourage performance freely at full extension.
- When a course is approximately 9,600 square feet or more, the number of obstacles shall be nineteen (19) or more to optimally satisfy the desired objectives for this class.

The same minimum obstacle standards in the Standard and Jumpers classes shall be followed as in the Masters (Level III) classes, except as set forth below.

In the Standard class,

- the Table shall not be used
- at least two of the following specialty jumps should be used
 - Long Jump
 - Viaduct/Wall Jump
 - Tire Jump
 - Spread Hurdle
- a set of twelve (12) weave poles shall be utilized

In the Jumpers class,

- at least two of the following specialty jumps should be used
 - Long Jump
 - Viaduct/Wall Jump
 - Tire Jump
 - Spread Hurdle
- a set of twelve (12) weave poles shall be utilized

Section 12.2—Obstacle Performance Standards

The obstacle performance standards shall be the same as in the Masters class.

Section 12.3—Course Handling Standards

Course handling standards shall be the same as in the Masters class.

Section 12.4—Scoring and Qualification Standards

The Masters Challenge classes shall be scored on a time plus faults basis. Faults shall be penalized as established in Chapter 3 for the Masters classes, except that refusals shall be penalized only as defined in the performance of an obstacle as described in Chapter 3, and after beginning a focused approach to the obstacle (i.e., runouts shall not be faulted when there has been no focused approach to the obstacle).

Placement and ranking for Top Ten shall be calculated based upon placement on a Time + Faults basis.

A course distance shall be measured as in the Masters classes for purposes of establishing a Qualifying Course Time (QCT) utilizing the table in this Chapter.

A competitor's score being equal to or less than the QCT shall earn a qualification. Should the score also be fault-free, a bonus qualification ("Super Q") shall be earned (i.e., effectively, for title purposes, two qualifications towards title are earned if the QCT is met and zero faults are incurred on course).^{12.01}

Fault limits, if any, shall be established as in the Masters Standard and Jumpers classes.

MASTERS CHALLENGE AGILITY CLASS QCT RATES <i>(in yards & meters per second)</i>		
JUMPING HEIGHT	QUALIFYING COURSE TIME RATES	
	Operating Range	Minimum
SMALL DOG DIVISION		
10"	3.25 – 3.75 yds/sec	3.25 yds/sec
25cm	2.97 – 3.43 m/sec	2.97 m/sec
MEDIUM DOG DIVISION		
14" & 16"	3.50 – 4.00 yds/sec	3.50 yds/sec
35cm & 40cm	3.20 – 3.66 m/sec	3.20 m/sec
LARGE DOG DIVISION		
20" & 22"	3.75 – 4.25 yds/sec	3.75 yds/sec
50cm & 55cm	3.43 – 3.89 m/sec	3.43 m/sec
EXTRA LARGE DOG DIVISION		
24"	3.75 – 4.25 yds/sec	3.75 yds/sec
60cm	3.43 – 3.89 m/sec	3.43 m/sec
MASTERS CHALLENGE JUMPERS CLASS QCT RATES <i>(in yards & meters per second)</i>		
JUMPING HEIGHT	QUALIFYING COURSE TIME RATES	
	Operating Range	Minimum
SMALL DOG DIVISION		
10"	3.75 – 4.25 yds/sec	3.75 yds/sec
25cm	3.43 – 3.89 m/sec	3.43 m/sec
MEDIUM DOG DIVISION		
14" & 16"	4.00 – 4.50 yds/sec	4.00 yds/sec
35cm & 40cm	3.66 – 4.12 m/sec	3.66. m/sec
LARGE DOG DIVISION		
20" & 22"	4.25 – 4.75 yds/sec	4.25 yds/sec
50cm & 55cm	3.89 – 4.35 m/sec	3.89. m/sec
EXTRA LARGE DOG DIVISION		
24"	4.25 – 4.75 yds/sec	4.25 yds/sec
60cm	3.89 – 4.35 m/sec	3.89. m/sec

The QCT for Performance Level III Challenge classes shall be determined by adding three (3) seconds to the QCT determined for the related Championship Program Masters Challenge class.

Section 12.5—Titles & Awards

Twenty (20) qualifications (see Section 12.4 above) or 10 qualifications earned with a zero-fault round (super Q) earned in a Masters Challenge class earn a title certificate and designation at the Champion level as set forth in the table on the next page.^{12.01}

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM	PERFORMANCE PROGRAM
MC Standard Agility Champion	MC Performance Standard Champion
MC Jumpers Champion	MC Performance Jumpers Champion

Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Titanium, and Diamond designations may be earned for continued participation in these classes by earning 30, 50, 70, 100, 150, and 200 qualifications, respectively.^{12.01}

Qualifications in the Masters Challenge classes are recognized (combined with any qualifications in the Masters Standard and Jumpers classes) toward Lifetime Achievement Awards.^{12.02}

Placement in the Masters Challenge Standard and Jumpers classes on a Time + Faults basis accumulate points for annual ranking in the Masters Challenge Agility Top TenSM and Masters Challenge Performance Top 10SM.

Section 12.6—Masters Challenge Events

Affiliated Groups have the option of offering the Masters Challenge Classes at regular sanctioned events (i.e., those where other Championship and Performance Program classes are offered) or by holding separate Masters Challenge Only (“MCO”) events. Groups may be licensed to hold MCO events. In this Chapter, reference to “Group” or “Groups” means either an Affiliated Group, Intro Group or Masters Challenge Group.

When held in conjunction with regular sanctioned events, rules and policies relative to those events shall apply.

When held as a separate MCO event, rules and policies for conduct of an event shall be modified as follows:

- Only Masters Challenge standard agility and jumpers may be offered, with a minimum of two and a maximum of three of each class to be offered each day.
- The minimum recommended square footage is 9,600 square feet with recommended dimensions of approximately 80’ x 120’.
- The rule for training within 24 hours of an event is waived.
- “Day of show” entries are allowed at the option of the Group; a signed entry form and fee must be submitted upon entry and the entry listed on the official running order list for each class entered.
- Numeric entry limits may be applied, except when the MCO event is held the day before or following a regular sanctioned event on the show site.
- Masters Challenge classes may be offered the day before or following a regular event; MCO event courses shall not bear significant resemblance of any course from the regular event.
- At the discretion of the host Group, bitches in season may be permitted to compete at MCO events. This shall be disclosed in the agility test schedule.
- Following an obstacle fault, a competitor may immediately repeat that obstacle. The competitor shall perform the obstacle at normal pace and continue through the course. Their score shall be marked “Elimination.” The competitor may only avail themselves of this “fix-and-go” option once during a course.

Chapter 12 Footnotes

^{12.01} Title may also be earned with any combination of Qualifications and Super Qs. Example showing satisfying title requirements:

- 20 Qs
- 19 Qs, one of which is with a Super Q
- 15 Qs, 5 of which are Super Qs
- 13 Qs, 7 of which are Super Qs
- 10 Qs, all of which are Super Qs

The same formula applies to meeting the requirements of the Metallic and Diamond awards. For example, to earn a MC class title - Silver:

- 50 Qs
- 30 Qs, 20 of which are Super Qs
- 25 Qs, all of which are Super Qs.

^{12.02} Super Q does not contribute towards Lifetime Achievement Awards; only Qualification derived from satisfying the QCT are counted.