

# CHAPTER 1—GENERAL REGULATIONS

## SECTION 1.1—DOGS & HANDLERS IN COMPETITION

USDAA events are open to any and all persons without discrimination who shall exhibit good sportsmanship and uphold the standards as set forth in these rules and regulations. Where charges of noncompliance are filed against a person or persons, such charges shall be handled in accordance with policies and procedures set forth in these regulations for handling of disciplinary actions as provided in Appendix C.

All persons, by enrolling in competition or serving in official capacity at USDAA events, agree to comply with all aspects of these regulations (including appendices) and to recognize and accept the decisions rendered through due process of disciplinary rules of action without recourse. These regulations for due process are intended to facilitate a reasonable and expedient resolution of disputes and governance of the sport and are not intended to violate any law in any geographic jurisdiction. Should it be determined that these regulations not be permissible in the local jurisdiction, these regulations shall be modified to conform to local law.

Competitors may compete with any dog, purebred and mixed breed alike, subject to limitations stated below. The key elements of the sport are to demonstrate the competitor's skill and expertise in training and performance, which in turn highlights the fundamental elements of agility in dogs—strength, suppleness, confidence, speed and all around athleticism. These elements are seen in a dog's strength and balance by scaling ramps, suppleness while weaving through a line of poles, and mobility by racing through tunnels and leaping over hurdles, which when combined on a timed obstacle course, require that the competitor also exercise sound response control while running with speed in order to direct the dog through the course.

A competitor must register a dog with USDAA in order to enter the dog in competition at sanctioned events (see Appendix D). A competitor may only enter a dog in a class for which they are eligible for competition pursuant to these rules & regulations.

### Limitations

To protect the welfare of dogs and quality of an event, dogs having the following conditions shall not be permitted to compete for as long as the condition exists—

- Dogs under eighteen (18) months of age in all programs defined in these regulations other than the Intro Program, which shall be fourteen (14) months of age
- Dogs suffering from any deformity, injury or illness that may put a dog at risk of injury by performance, as may be viewed by a judge, or veterinarian consulted specifically for that purpose; however, a judge's determination to disallow a dog from participation shall be final
- Dogs demonstrating signs of aggression
- Bitches in "heat"

Dogs found to meet any of the foregoing conditions after entry at a test or event shall be immediately dismissed from the test and the competitor reported to USDAA in the event Organizing Committee Report.

To protect the integrity of the sport, competitors may not enter any class held for title listed in section 1.3 under a judge who resides in the same household, or with whom they have formal training instruction in the past ten (10) days. A dog may not be entered in a class in which the judge has a direct or indirect economic or similar interest in the dog.

## SECTION 1.2—USDAA PROGRAMS

USDAA offers the following programs—

- *Championship Program*—a highly competitive program that provides a framework for tests and competitions on an international scale that fosters the development of the sport to the highest level in training and performance, combining the challenge to the competitor for the conditioning and training of the dog for stringent obstacle performance requirements combined with course handling skills and speed. (*Reference: Chapters 3 - 6*)

The Program includes head-to-head competitive tournament series classes, title certification classes that measure performance against a pre-defined set of standards, and other competitive classes. Recognition awards include title certification certificates in a variety of classes, championship honors in annual tournament series, advancement to international team status, and collective recognition of accomplishments through Lifetime Achievement Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> Awards.

- *Performance Program*—highly competitive program with emphasis on course handling skills with speed, with obstacles at lower heights and more time allowed on course. Patterned after the Championship Program, recognition awards include title certification certificates in a variety of classes, championship honors in annual tournament series, and collective recognition of accomplishments through Lifetime Achievement and Performance Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> Awards. (*Reference: Chapter 7*)
- *Junior Handler Program*—a program designed to encourage involvement of school-age children and their pets in the sport of dog agility as a fun, recreational, family sport and to promote responsible pet ownership. Juniors and their dogs are recognized as a team for their accomplishments when measured against a predefined set of standards to foster growth and interest among younger canine sports enthusiasts. Recognition awards include title certification certificates and accomplishment medallions. (*Reference: Chapter 8*)
- *Veterans Program*—a program designed for dogs in their senior years to remain active and physically fit through continued participation under less strenuous standards of performance defined for dogs of advancing age. Recognition awards include title certification certificates in the four classes and collective recognition of accomplishments through a Lifetime Achievement Award. (*Reference: Chapter 9*)
- *Intro Program*—an introductory program established to introduce the newcomer to formal competition, allowing more flexibility in crossing over from training curriculum to the competitive course. Recognition awards include title certification certificates in three class types—standard, jumping and games (i.e., nonstandard classes of gamblers and snooker). (*Reference: Chapter 10*)
- *League Play*—a recreational program established to provide camaraderie and introduction to a variety of games classes in support of training curriculum. (*Reference: Chapter 12*)

### **SECTION 1.3—PROGRAM STRUCTURES**

USDAA's principal competitive programs include the Championship and Performance Programs, which have mirrored structures (but different competition standards) as outlined in this section. Other programs are offered to foster development and promote responsible pet ownership and have structures to facilitate their respective purposes.

#### **Section 1.3(a)—Championship and Performance Programs**

The programs are divided into three basic class types that are offered at three different levels based upon the degree of experience attained in competition.

##### **Class Types**

“*Standard*” classes are the classical form of the sport in which a competitor directs their dog through an obstacle course that requires performance of each of the required obstacles as set forth in Chapter 3 in a course sequence designed by a judge. Competition standards for the Standard “tittling” classes are set forth in Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 7 of these regulations.

“*Nonstandard*” classes encourage an additional depth of training and the exercise of a wider range of competitive skills. These are offered in four basic classes –

- Gamblers—demonstrate proficiency in distance control and competitive strategy
- Jumpers—demonstrate a dog’s jumping ability with a fluid working habit
- Relay—demonstrate cooperative team effort and sportsmanship
- Snooker—demonstrate versatility in assessing competitive strategy

Each of these classes offers different challenges for the competitor, bringing together key elements of the sport—a competitor’s training and competitive skills, together with an exhibition of a dog’s natural agility and working habit. Competition standards for the Nonstandard “titling” classes are set forth in Chapters 6 and 7 of these regulations.

“Tournament” classes feature competitive spirit and promote excellence through head-to-head competition and are open to all competitors in the Championship and Performance Programs regardless of eligibility in titling classes. USDAA conducts three tournament series annually with the final rounds held at the USDAA® Cynosport® World Games, USDAA’s annual flagship event—

- *Grand Prix of Dog Agility®* World Championships and *Performance Grand Prix<sup>SM</sup>* Championships—These tournaments showcase the sport in its standard form and are conducted pursuant to rules established annually by the USDAA Competition Standards Board. Competitors compete in local qualifying events to earn the right to compete in the regional championships and the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals. The winners from each of four height classes in the Championship Program are named *Grand Prix of Dog Agility®* World Champions, and winners from each of four height classes in the Performance Program are named *Performance Grand Prix* Champions. Champions have their names inscribed on the *Cynosport® World Games Champions Cup*.
- *Dog Agility Masters®* Team Championship and *Performance Versatility Pairs<sup>SM</sup>* Championship—The “Team” championship showcases three-dog/three handler teams through five classes of competition—Standard Agility, Gamblers, Jumpers, Snooker and Three-Dog Team Relay. The “Pairs” championship showcases two-dog/two handler teams in the Performance Program. The tournaments challenge the competitor’s versatility within the sport with emphasis on team strategy, consistency and endurance. A team may be comprised of competitors with dogs of different sizes, however a three-dog team may not be comprised of dogs jumping in more than two different height classes. Teams/Pairs compete in local qualifying events pursuant to tournament rules to earn the right to compete in the championship event. The winners at the championship event are named *Dog Agility Masters®* Team Champions and *Performance Versatility Pairs<sup>SM</sup>* Champions. Champions have their names inscribed on the *Cynosport® World Games Champions Cup*.
- *Dog Agility Steeplechase®* and *Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup>* Championships—These tournaments are two-round competitive tournaments that emphasize speed on a fluent, jumpers-style course with at least two spread hurdles and that also includes an A-frame and weave poles, one of which must be performed twice. Top competitors in each height division in each tournament advance to a final round where they compete for placements, including prize money. Those qualifying in local competition pursuant to tournament rules earn the right to enter the championship event. The winners in each of four jump height classes in the Championship Program at the championship event are named *Dog Agility Steeplechase®* Champions, and the winners in each of four jump height classes in the Performance Program are named *Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup>* Champions. Champions have their names inscribed on the *Cynosport® World Games Champions Cup*.

### Competitive Levels

Standard and Nonstandard classes are offered at three competitive “levels” for certification (“titling”) purposes, based upon the degree of training and competitive skills demonstrated in competition. To provide distinction between programs, the following class level nomenclature has been adopted—

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM	PERFORMANCE PROGRAM
Starters	Level I
Advanced	Level II
Masters	Level III

At the Starters level (Level I), a handler must demonstrate their skill in training their dog for basic obstacle performance for the Program in which enrolled, along with the fundamental handling techniques on a simple, abbreviated course.

At the Advanced level (Level II), courses are longer and contain sequences that require competitors to demonstrate a higher degree of expertise, requiring a wider range of competitive handling techniques on a longer, flowing course that encourages speed and is run against a tighter time standard. This is the level at which competitors are introduced to the fuller course and challenges for maintaining flow and direction, among others.

At the Masters level (Level III), course designs offer a variety of handling challenges and tests integrated throughout the course. Time standards are further tightened, requiring competitors to demonstrate the highest degree of proficiency in training and handling expertise seen in international competition. The level requires a heightened degree of confidence in performance overall, with handler and dog working in a highly synchronized fashion, exhibiting quick and reliable responsiveness to the demands of the course.

Course challenges at each level are set forth for each class in USDAA's [Course Design Guidelines](#), which are published on the [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com), a copy of which may also be purchased directly from USDAA.

### **Eligibility for Entry**

Eligibility for entry in the titling classes is determined based upon the performance record of the competitor with a specific dog as set forth within each program. Crossover between programs is not allowed, except as indicated below for the entry to the Performance Program.

A dog may be entered by a competitor in the the Championship Program classes as follows—

- A Starters class is open to a competitor with a dog upon which they have not earned the Starters class title for that class, or earned a qualifying score in the higher level of that class. (There is no previous title required for entry to this class.)
- An Advanced level class is open to a competitor with a dog upon which they have—
  - earned title in the Starters level of that class, or
  - the *Agility Dog*<sup>®</sup> title,and have not—
  - earned the Advanced title in that class, or
  - earned a qualifying score in the corresponding Masters level class.
- A Masters level class is open to a competitor with a dog upon which they have earned the Advanced title in that class, or the Advanced Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title<sup>1.01</sup>.

Eligibility for entry into Performance Program classes is the same as for the corresponding level classes in the Championship program, with the following exceptions: a dog who has no qualifying scores in the Performance Program must enter Level 1 unless they have earned a title in the corresponding class in the Championship program. The competitor is eligible for entry in the Performance Program class level for which they are eligible in the Championship Program. <sup>1.02</sup>.

Eligibility requirements for both programs are more fully set forth for each class in tabular form in Appendix E to these regulations.

### **Class Certification Titles & Awards**

#### Individual Class Certification Titles

In measuring the accomplishments of a competitor, a certificate of achievement or “title” is awarded at each level within each of the five “titling” classes as set forth in this section within a single program. Tables showing the titles and their requirements are presented in Appendix F.

Each of the Starters (Level I) and Advanced (Level II) class titles listed in the following table requires three qualifying scores in a class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges.

<b>STARTERS/LEVEL I CLASS TITLES IN CHAMPIONSHIP &amp; PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS</b>	
<b>Championship</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Starters Standard Agility <sup>SM</sup>	Starters Performance Standard <sup>SM</sup>
Starters Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	Starters Performance Gambler <sup>SM</sup>
Starters Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	Starters Performance Jumpers <sup>SM</sup>
Starters Relay <sup>SM*</sup>	Starters Performance Relay <sup>SM*</sup>
Starters Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	Starters Performance Snooker <sup>SM</sup>
<b>ADVANCED/LEVEL II CLASS TITLES IN CHAMPIONSHIP &amp; PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS</b>	
<b>Championship</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Advanced Standard Agility <sup>SM</sup>	Advanced Performance Standard <sup>SM</sup>
Advanced Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	Advanced Performance Gambler <sup>SM</sup>
Advanced Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	Advanced Performance Jumper <sup>SM</sup>
Advanced Relay <sup>SM*</sup>	Advanced Performance Relay <sup>SM*</sup>
Advanced Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	Advanced Performance Snooker <sup>SM</sup>

*\*Each of the three qualifying scores in the Relay class must be earned with a different partner at each level.*

Each of the Masters (Level III) class titles listed in the following table requires five qualifying scores, with scores being earned from at least two different judges.

<b>MASTERS/LEVEL III CLASS TITLE CLASSES IN CHAMPIONSHIP &amp; PERFORMANCE</b>	
<b>Championship</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Standard Agility Master <sup>SM</sup>	Performance Standard Master <sup>SM</sup>
Gambler Master <sup>SM</sup>	Performance Gambler Master <sup>SM</sup>
Jumper Master <sup>SM</sup>	Performance Jumper Master <sup>SM</sup>
Relay Master <sup>SM*</sup>	Performance Relay Master <sup>SM*</sup>
Snooker Master <sup>SM**</sup>	Performance Snooker Master <sup>SM**</sup>

*\*Each of the five qualifying scores must be earned with a different partner.*

*\*\*Three of the five qualifying scores must be earned with a placement in the top 15% of the class.*

After earning individual class titles in the Masters or Level III classes, a competitor continues to compete in the Masters/Level III classes and receives a “Champion” title upon earning ten (10) qualifications within each titling class. Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum level awards are made in each class upon completing fifteen (15), twenty-five (25), thirty-five (35) and fifty (50) qualifications, respectively.

#### Versatility Certification Titles & Awards

In order to measure the depth of a competitor’s accomplishments or “versatility”, a title certificate is also awarded to recognize a competitor’s collective achievements with a dog in a variety of classes within each level.

The versatility titles listed in the table below are awarded at each level upon earning three qualifying scores in the Standard class, being earned under a minimum of two different judges, and one qualifying score in each nonstandard class—Gamblers, Jumpers, Relay and Snooker—with such nonstandard class qualifying scores being earned under a minimum of two different judges, one of which must be different from two of the judges under which the

Standard class qualifying scores were earned. The following table presents the requirements for the versatility title at each level:

<b>STARTERS / LEVEL I—AGILITY DOG®/PERFORMANCE DOG<sup>SM</sup></b> <b>ADVANCED/LEVEL II—ADVANCED AGILITY DOG®/ADVANCED PERFORMANCE DOG<sup>SM</sup></b> <b>MASTERS/LEVEL III—MASTER AGILITY DOG®/MASTERS PERFORMANCE DOG<sup>SM</sup></b> <b>(REQUIREMENTS AT EACH LEVEL)</b>					
Classes	Standard Class	Nonstandard Classes			
		Gamblers	Jumpers	Relay	Snooker
# Qualifications	3	1	1	1	1
# Judges per Class Type	2	2			
# Judges Overall	3				

After earning all Masters (or Level III in the Performance Program) titles, and upon earning five tournament qualifications in the program, the top versatility title in the program is awarded<sup>1.03</sup>—*Agility Dog Champion® & Performance Dog Champion<sup>SM</sup>*—as shown in the following table:

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM		PERFORMANCE PROGRAM	
Title Classes: Standard Agility Master Gamblers Master Jumpers Master Relay Master Snooker Master	Each Title Earned	Title Classes: Performance Standard Master Performance Gamblers Master Performance Jumpers Master Performance Relay Master Performance Snooker Master	Each Title Earned
Tournaments Overall plus minimum in— Grand Prix Steeplechase Three-Dog Team	5 qualifications 1 qualification 1 qualification 1 qualification	Tournaments Overall plus minimum in— Performance Grand Prix Performance Speed Jumping Performance Versatility Pairs	5 qualifications 1 qualification 1 qualification 1 qualification

The *Agility Dog Champion® & Performance Dog Champion<sup>SM</sup>* titles shall be recognized by additional certificates at a Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels as set forth below:

AGILITY DOG CHAMPION®	PERFORMANCE DOG CHAMPION <sup>SM</sup>
<b>Bronze</b>	
5 Bronze Level Class Titles plus Tournament Master-Bronze title	5 Bronze Level Class Titles plus Performance Tournament Master-Bronze title
<b>Silver</b>	
5 Silver Level Class Titles plus Tournament Master-Silver title	5 Silver Level Class Titles plus Performance Tournament Master-Silver title
<b>Gold</b>	
5 Gold Level Class Titles plus Tournament Master-Gold title	5 Gold Level Class Titles plus Performance Tournament Master-Gold title
<b>Platinum</b>	
5 Platinum Level Class Titles plus Tournament Master-Platinum title	5 Platinum Level Class Titles plus Performance Tournament Master-Platinum title

#### Top Ten Awards

To measure competitiveness within each Masters and Level III individual competitive class (i.e., standard, gamblers, jumpers, snooker and tournaments classes) shall be awarded points based

upon the actual number of dogs competing in the class for the number of placements indicated below:

NO. OF DOGS COMPETING	PLACEMENTS*	POINTS AWARD/PLACE
2 – 3	1	1
4 – 5	1, 2	3, 1
6 – 10	1, 2, 3	5, 3, 1
11 – 20	1, 2, 3, 4	7, 5, 3, 1
21 – 30	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9, 7, 5, 3, 1

*\*For each additional group of ten dogs competing in a height class, one additional placement shall be awarded, with each placement receiving two (2) additional points.*

The top ten competitors in each height division of each class who have met the minimum point requirements established for the award will be ranked each calendar year and awarded honors in the *Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup>* and *Performance Top Ten<sup>SM</sup>* in the Championship and Performance Programs, respectively, for each of the four title classes and collectively for all tournament classes.

#### Tournament Awards

In addition to Championship title placement awards earned in head-to-head competition in each Tournament, USDAA recognizes consistency in performance through the Tournament classes through the issuance of the Tournament Master<sup>SM</sup> and Performance Tournament Master<sup>SM</sup> titles, as well as bronze, silver, gold and platinum level designations below:

	TOURNAMENT MASTER <sup>SM</sup>	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	PERFORMANCE TOURNAMENT MASTER <sup>SM</sup>	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Grand Prix Steeplechase Three-Dog Team	10 2 2 2	Tournament Overall including qualifications in— Performance Grand Prix Performance Speed Jumping Performance Versatility Pairs	10 2 2 2
<b>BRONZE</b>	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Grand Prix Steeplechase Three-Dog Team	15 3 3 3	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Performance Grand Prix Performance Speed Jumping Performance Versatility Pairs	15 3 3 3
<b>SILVER</b>	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Grand Prix Steeplechase Three-Dog Team	25 5 5 5	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Performance Grand Prix Performance Speed Jumping Performance Versatility Pairs	25 5 5 5
<b>GOLD</b>	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Grand Prix Steeplechase Three-Dog Team	35 7 7 7	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Performance Grand Prix Performance Speed Jumping Performance Versatility Pairs	35 7 7 7
<b>PLATINUM</b>	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Grand Prix Steeplechase Three-Dog Team	50 10 10 10	Tournaments Overall including qualifications in— Performance Grand Prix Performance Speed Jumping Performance Versatility Pairs	50 10 10 10

### **Section 1.3(b)—Junior Handler Program**

The Junior Handler Program (JHP) offers three (3) progressive levels of classes—Elementary, Intermediate and Senior to provide recognition for a dog and junior handler’s accomplishments as a team. The Elementary level is further split into one Beginner round and two Elementary rounds, with the Beginner round distinguished by an option to run the dog on leash.

#### **Eligibility for Entry**

Dog and handler must be specially registered with USDAA together as a “Junior Handler Team” in order to enroll in this program. A registration number with a “J” prefix is issued for this purpose. The junior handler must be under 18 years of age and the dog must be 18 months of age as of the event date. No dog or handler substitutions are allowed in competition.

#### **Titling Requirements**

The program offers noncompetitive awards in the standard class at each level, as well as for the Beginner round, with gold, silver and bronze medallions as specified in Chapter 8. Other non-titling classes (e.g., snooker, gamblers, jumpers and relay) may be offered within the JHP framework.

Four title certificates are awarded in the Junior Handler Program as follows—

- Beginner Agility— A junior handler with a dog who has earned one qualifying score shall be awarded the *Junior Handler–Beginner Agility*<sup>SM</sup> certificate.
- Elementary Agility—A junior handler with a dog who has earned two qualifying scores shall be awarded the *Junior Handler–Elementary Agility*<sup>SM</sup> certificate
- Intermediate Agility—A junior handler with a dog who has earned three qualifying scores shall be awarded the *Junior Handler–Intermediate Agility*<sup>SM</sup> certificate.
- Senior Agility—A junior handler with a dog who has earned three qualifying scores shall be awarded the *Junior Handler–Senior Agility*<sup>SM</sup> certificate.

### **Section 1.3(c)—Veterans Program**

The Veterans Program is designed to allow continued participation in the sport for healthy dogs as a means of remaining physically active in their senior years. Performance standards in the Veterans Program are based upon USDAA’s other programs with adjustments to equipment configuration and course times appropriate for a canine athlete of advancing age.

#### **Eligibility for Entry**

A Veterans level class is open to a competitor with any dog that is at least eight (8) years of age. Previous experience in the sport sufficient to establish proficiency and confidence in performance is strongly encouraged. Once a competitor has earned a qualifying score with a dog in a Veterans class, the dog is no longer eligible to enter that class in the Championship or Performance Programs when a Veterans class is offered.

#### **Titling Requirements**

The Veterans Program provides for title certification in a single level of competition in standard, gamblers, jumpers and snooker. Five (5) qualifications in each class will count toward the following individual class Veterans titles and a Veterans versatility title (earning all four individual class titles)—

- Veteran Gamblers Dog<sup>SM</sup>
- Veteran Snooker Dog<sup>SM</sup>
- Veteran Jumper Dog<sup>SM</sup>
- Veteran Versatility Dog<sup>SM</sup>

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum designations shall be awarded in the Veterans classes for earning 15, 25, 35 and 50 qualifications, respectively, in each class and overall. Qualifications shall all count toward non-core Lifetime Achievement Award requirements (see Section 1.4)

### **Section 1.3(d)—Intro Program**

The Intro Program serves to measure development in training as a competitor prepares for competition at higher levels. Standards have been established for standard and jumpers classes as primary classes in the program, with special regulations for other nonstandard classes.

Intro Program events may be held separate from regular events where multiple levels of classes are conducted as part of the Championship and Performance Programs in order to provide a less formal environment for introducing a competitor to USDAA events. Special policies that are less restrictive and are supportive to the training process have been adopted to govern conduct of these events.

#### **Eligibility for Entry**

A dog must be at least 14 months of age to enroll in this program. The dog must be registered and will be issued a restricted registration (when registered prior to 18 months of age) that will be designated by an “A” prefix to the registration number. The dog is eligible to participate in the program until having earned a standard class title in the Championship, Performance or Veterans program.

#### **Titles & Awards**

The Intro program offers noncompetitive awards in three class types to measure the competitor’s performance against the standards of performance in the class type as specified in Chapter 10. Titles are defined as follows—

- Intro Standard Dog<sup>SM</sup>—Awarded to a competitor who has earned three qualifications with a dog in the standard class.
- Intro Jumpers Dog<sup>SM</sup>—Awarded to a competitor who has earned three qualifications with a dog in the jumpers class.
- Intro Gamblers Dog<sup>SM</sup>—Awarded to a competitor who has earned three qualifications with a dog in the gamblers class.
- Intro Snooker Dog<sup>SM</sup>—Awarded to a competitor who has earned three qualifications with a dog in the snooker class.
- Intro Versatility Dog<sup>SM</sup>—Awarded to a competitor who has earned three qualifications in the Standard class and one qualification within each nonstandard class—Jumpers, Gamblers & Snooker.

Bronze, Silver and Gold designations are recognized in each class type for earning 6, 9 and 12 qualifications, respectively.

### **SECTION 1.4—LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Competitors are recognized for accomplishments throughout their careers with a dog as measured through consistency of performance by earning qualifications in the following classes—

- Masters and Level III classes in the Championship and Performance Programs, respectively (the “Core classes”)—
  - Standard
  - Gamblers
  - Jumpers
  - Relay
  - Snooker
- USDAA’s tournament series local and regional events
  - Grand Prix of Dog Agility® & Performance Grand Prix<sup>SM</sup> (local and regional semifinals rounds only)
  - Dog Agility Steeplechase® & Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup> (local and regional semifinals rounds only)
- Each of four individual competition classes and overall qualification in the Dog Agility Masters® & Performance Versatility Pairs<sup>SM</sup> tournaments
- Veterans Program classes (effective March 2011)

Those competitors amassing total points in designated classes and a minimum number of “qualifying scores” in the “Core classes” with a dog, as follows:

AWARD TYPE	QUALIFICATIONS PER CORE CLASS	OVERALL QUALIFICATIONS
Bronze	15	150
Silver	25	250
Gold	35	350
Platinum	50	500

If the Core Class requirements are first earned within a single program (i.e., Championship or Performance), the award shall be designated as earned within that program.

The USDAA Competition Standards Board may at its discretion and without notice modify these point requirements to maintain a measure of “lifetime achievement.” Additionally, the Board in its sole discretion may award special recognition— for those reaching higher standards.

### SECTION 1.5 —HALL OF FAME HONORS

USDAA created the “Dog Agility Hall of Fame” in order to memorialize those whose contributions are deemed to be of lasting significance to the growth and development of dog agility sport and USDAA not otherwise deemed to be adequately acknowledged through other awards afforded through these regulations.

The “Hall of Fame Committee” is to be comprised of current and past Competition Standards Board members, and other individuals who may be appointed at large. They are charged with the acceptance and evaluation of nominations in accordance with policies and procedures established for such purpose.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame fall into one (or more) of five categories—

- *Pioneers of Dog Agility*—Those whose accomplishments in competition or through service have contributed to the sport and USDAA’s development and growth in some exceptional and/or substantive manner. Nominated individuals are evaluated to determine whether their accomplishments have special and lasting historical significance deserving the designation of a “pioneer” in the sport, and whose accomplishments alone are deemed to be inadequately chronicled through other awards.
- *Meritorious Service Award*—Those individuals or “groups” whose contribution through voluntary service to USDAA and the sport has been both noteworthy and fostered measurable, significant development and growth of the organization and the sport, regionally or nationally, and deemed to be of lasting, historical significance.
- *Lifetime Achievement Award*—Those who have been awarded USDAA’s Lifetime Achievement Awards, as set forth in USDAA Rules & Regulations.
- *Tournament Champions*—Champions from USDAA’s sanctioned tournament series and in competition representing USDAA in international competition.
- *Annual Top Ten Awards* - Recipients of Annual Top Ten awards in USDAA’s Championship and Performance Programs, as determined pursuant to USDAA Rules & Regulations.

### SECTION 1.6—HISTORIC VETERANS PROGRAM (DISCONTINUED APRIL 1, 1999)

This program was replaced by the Performance Program and was discontinued April 1, 1999. As a result, provisions of this section have been condensed for reference purposes only, in order to provide descriptions of those titles earned while the program was in effect.

The Veterans Program was for competitors with dogs seven years of age or older. Performance standards were generally equivalent to those in the Performance Program, except that nonstandard classes were open to all competitors under regulations generally equivalent to the Level II performance standards.

The following titles have been awarded—

- *Veteran Agility Dog*<sup>SM</sup>—earned three qualifying three qualifying scores in the Novice Veterans standard class (equivalent to Level I), with scores earned from at least two different judges.
- *Veteran Advanced Agility Dog*<sup>SM</sup> title earned three qualifying scores in the Advanced Veterans standard class (equivalent to Level II), with scores earned from at least two different judges.
- *Veteran Master Agility Dog*<sup>SM</sup> title—earned three qualifying scores in the Masters Veterans standard class (equivalent to Performance Level III), with scores earned from at least two different judges.
- *Veteran Gambler*<sup>SM</sup>, *Veteran Jumper*<sup>SM</sup>, *Veteran Snooker*<sup>SM</sup> titles—upon earning five qualifying scores in the each class.
- *Veteran Performance Dog*<sup>SM</sup> title—earned upon completion of all Veterans Program titles.

## CHAPTER 1 FOOTNOTES:

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*1.01 If prior to January 1, 2004, a Masters level nonstandard class is open to a competitor with a dog upon which they have earned two qualifying scores in the corresponding Advanced level nonstandard class.*

*1.02 For example, a competitor who has earned the Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title with a dog may compete in Level II classes in the Performance Program, though they are not required to do so unless they have earned a qualifying score in that class at Performance Level II. Similarly, a competitor who has earned the Master Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> or Agility Dog Champion<sup>®</sup> title with a dog may enter Level I, Level II or Level III classes at their discretion in the Performance Program; however, if they have earned a qualifying score in Level III Snooker class, they are no longer eligible for entry of that dog at Level I or Level II in that class. Similarly, if they have earned a qualifying score in Level II Snooker, they are no longer eligible to enter the dog in Level I Snooker.*

*1.03 The requirements for the Agility Dog Champion<sup>®</sup> title were adopted effective January 1, 2004, except that competitors who have earned the Master Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title on a dog prior to January 1, 2005, may continue to compete for this title pursuant to the 2003 criteria (i.e., earn seven qualifying scores in Masters Standard Agility, plus earn the title in Masters Gamblers, Masters Jumpers, Masters Snooker and Masters Relay. Additionally, competitors who have earned the Master Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title with a dog prior to January 1, 2000, require no additional qualifying scores in Master Standard Agility.) Also, prior to 2004, note that relay classes and tournament classes were being phased into the Performance program and certain versatility titles prior to 2004 did not include relay class or all tournament class requirements. Only Performance Grand Prix was required.*