

Summary of the Rule Changes Announced in 2013

MASTERS CHALLENGE CLASSES

- Any dog, regardless of their competition level, may enter Masters Challenge classes at both local and regional events. (Effective 1/1/2013.)
- Minimum Standard Course Times: (Effective 1/1/2014.)

MASTERS CHALLENGE STANDARD AGILITY CLASS		
Jumping Heights	Standard Course Time Rates	
	Operating Range	Absolute Minimum Rate
12" & 14"	3.25 - 3.75 yps	3.00 yps
16" & 18"	3.50 - 4.00 yps	3.25 yps
22" & 26"	3.75 - 4.25 yps	3.50 yps

MASTERS CHALLENGE JUMPERS CLASS		
Jumping Heights	Standard Course Time Rates	
	Operating Range	Absolute Minimum Rate
12"	3.75 - 4.25 yps	3.50 yps
14" & 16"	4.00 - 4.50 yps	3.75 yps
18", 22" & 26"	4.25 - 4.75 yps	4.00 yps

VETERANS PROGRAM (Effective 1/1/2014)

- The regulation that provides that a competitor may not enter a Performance or Championship Program class when Veterans is offered is rescinded and replaced with a stipulation that a competitor may not enter a dog in the same class of any two programs at the same event. The events Organizing Committee shall have the discretion to place further limitations of this nature (e.g., may only enter classes in one program) provided they are set forth in the Test Schedule for the event.

EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS AMENDMENTS

Jump Bars/Poles/Planks (Effective 1/1/2014)

- Length (for classes other than Starters, Intro and Junior Handler)
 - Minimum length = 54" (4'6")
 - Maximum length = 60" (5'0")
 - 60" is recommended for all jumps
- Weight
 - Must not exceed 0.5 lbs. per foot
 - Maximum bar weight allowed = 2.5 lbs.
- Top bar, pole or plank on a jump
 - Must be parallel to the ground
 - One additional bar may be used on a jump as a "ground-line" pole/bar. The "ground-line" pole shall rest on a jump cup with 4" of the jump height and shall angle to the ground on the other end.
- Two bars on jumps in Starters and Advanced are no longer required.

Jump Wings (Effective 1/1/2015)

- Wings on jumps must be individually free-standing (No attached ground bars between the wings will be allowed)
- Uprights/stanchions must be minimum height of 36"/maximum of 42"

Wall/Viaduct Jump (this is a rule clarification)

- For this jump to be faulted, the blocks or other displaceable bars or poles must be displaced like a bar jump (i.e., the height must be altered).

Tire Jump (Effective 1/1/2014)

- May be manufactured in a manner that the bottom or sides will separate when hit with no less than eighteen pounds (18#) of force. A maximum force of no more than twenty pounds (20#) is being added to the regulations.
- For breakaway tires the frame shall be weighted to allow the breakaway aspect of the tire to perform as designed.
- Regarding the tire mount, the side ties that connect the sides of the tire to the frame shall be constructed of material that will allow no more than a one inch (1") lateral movement in both directions within the

frame. Elastic material (i.e., bungees) may not be used for side ties. Side ties shall be constructed in a manner such that they will not separate when subjected to an eighteen-pound pull force.

- The frame should permit the suspension of the tire from:
 - The center of the top and sides at height corresponding to the approximate center of the tire aperture
 - Four corners
 - The center of the top and bottom corners or
 - At least 8" (203mm) clearance between the tire and vertical frame support on each side with enough tension to prevent the tire from twisting or shaking should a dog hit the tire. Suspension cables or chains shall not form a web in which a dog could get entangled.
- Inside face of a breakaway tire shall be a distinctly different color than the external tire color.
- Other specifications for the tire remain unchanged.

Spread Hurdles are further specified as:

- Must be winged (wing must be 16" minimum width) (effective 1/1/2014)
- 54" (4'6") bars minimum, 60" (5'0") bars are recommended (effective 1/1/2014)
- If ascending, no ground-line poles or bars are required (effective 1/1/2014)
- If parallel, at least one ground-line bar is required on the back element, with one end of the pole or bar within 4" of the jump height and angled to the ground. (effective 1/1/2014)

Weave Poles

- The runout planes of weave poles are to be perpendicular to the left of the first pole and to the right of the second pole. (Effective 9/1/2013)
- 24" spacing (Effective 1/1/2017) (i.e., when measured center of one pole to center of the next).

The Table

- The table shall continue to be performed in the down position and shall be permitted to be used in the Gamblers and other classes. The definition of "down" is being studied and further definition and guidance for judges (including for possible uses of the table in Gamblers and/or Snooker) will be provided by March 1, 2014.

GAMBLERS CLASS REGULATIONS (Effective 1/1/2014)

- The table performed in the down position shall be added as a 5 or 7 point obstacle under the 1-3-5-7 point system and a 3-point or 5-point obstacle under the 1-2-3-5 point system. Consideration is being given for use in the Joker, and guidelines are being drafted for judges on how it may be used.

SNOOKER CLASS REGULATIONS (Effective 1/1/2014)

- Qualifications and placements are determined by individual jump height classes within the programs and divisions with the exception of calculating Super Q's for the Masters Snooker and Performance III Snooker class which makes use of divisions within a program as follows:
 - CHAMPIONSHIP (1.) If a jump height class within a division does not meet the minimum number of dogs competing (five (5) in the, 12" or 14" Small and 16" or 18" Medium divisions and seven (7) in the 22" or 26" Large division) and the other jump height class in the same division does meet the minimum number of dogs competing, then the first place dog in the jump height class that didn't meet the minimum will earn a Super Q **IF** its score (points and time) is equal to or better than the lowest score earning a Super Q in the jump height class that did make the minimum in the same division. (2.) If both jump height classes within a division fail to meet the minimum number of dogs competing, the jump height classes as listed above will be combined and the top 15% of the dogs qualifying scores in the combined jump height classes will earn a Super Q.
 - PERFORMANCE (1.) If a jump height class does not meet the minimum number of dogs competing (five (5) in the 8" Micro and 12" Small divisions and seven (7) in the 16" Medium and 20" Large divisions) and the other jump height class in the pairing (micro/small and medium/large) does meet the minimum number of dogs competing, then the first place dog in the jump height class that didn't meet the minimum will earn a Super Q **IF** its score (points and time) is equal to or better than the lowest score earning a Super Q in the jump height class that did make the minimum in the pairing. (2.) If both jump height classes within a pairing fail to meet the minimum number of dogs competing the jump height classes as listed above will be combined and the top 15% of the dogs qualifying scores in the combined jump height classes will earn a Super Q.
 - The minimum time in the Masters level shall be amended to provide a range of 40 to 50 seconds when only jumps and tunnels are used.

REGULATIONS ON MATCHES WITHIN 24 HOURS OF AN EVENT (Effective 1/1/2014)

- Clubs may offer USDAA-licensed training matches within 24 hours prior to any competition day. These matches must be licensed with USDAA and listed in the premium. Statement of Policy for Facility Use 24 Hours Prior to Event has been issued that addresses other aspects of Section 2.5 of the regulations.

NEW JUMP HEIGHTS (Effective 1/1/2014)

<http://www.usdaa.com/binary/files/2014Spreads-Long%20Jump-Table-Aframe%20clarified.pdf>

NEW STANDARD COURSE TIMES (SCTs) (Effective 1/1/2014)

<http://www.usdaa.com/binary/files/NJH-SCTs-FINAL.pdf>