



## USDA Policy Statement - Bitches In Season

*Effective March 25, 2015*

*(Revised May 1, 2015)*

Bitches in Season (BIS) will be allowed at the 2015 Cynosport® World Games and all remaining 2015 Regional Championships under the following conditions:

- A Host Group may at their discretion limit the application of this policy to tournament classes only.
- Handlers are required to notify the trial secretary/show committee they will be running a BIS at the event
- A protective mat, which shall be provided by the host group, shall be used at the start line.
- A bright-colored bandana or similar cloth (yellow is recommended) shall be used to identify bitches in season when they are not in the competition ring. The bandana shall be attached to the dog, dog's collar or leash. The bandana is to be provided by the handler. Alternatively, the competitor may have their dog wear sanitary britches when moving about the grounds.
- The host group shall establish the point in the running order at which time BIS shall run. It is recommended that BIS run as a group at the beginning of the class, or as a group at the end of the class. Alternatively, BIS may be scheduled to run in their assigned position in the running order. The host group shall determine the best circumstance for managing the running order given their grounds layout, class schedule and other relevant factors.
- "BIS" shall be notated next to their name on the gate sheet so that other competitors and ring crew are aware
- BIS should be kenneled in a designated area, away from other dogs to the extent possible.
- A handler should minimize exposure of their BIS to other dogs and limit their movements about the grounds.

This is a good faith policy to provide all handlers the opportunity to compete. Handlers choosing to compete with a BIS must be respectful to the show committee and fellow competitors.

Any failure to comply with these provisions or any disturbance arising from BIS are subject to review of the Disciplinary Action Committee as set forth in Appendix C— Rules of Conduct & Disciplinary Actions and are subject to the full range of actions described therein.

The application and limitations provided in this Policy Statement should be disclosed in the Agility Test Schedule for the Event.

Questions regarding this policy statement shall be directed to the USDA office via email at [rules@usdaa.com](mailto:rules@usdaa.com), or if by phone, (972) 487-2200 x102.