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**Official  
Rules & Regulations  
of  
United States  
Dog Agility Association, Inc.**

*As amended March 31, 2011*

*with Effective Dates of  
June 1, 2011  
August 1, 2011  
& January 1, 2012*

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**USDAA<sup>®</sup>**

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL FUN. TRUE SPORT.<sup>SM</sup>

# UNITED STATES DOG AGILITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## BACKGROUND

Patterned after equestrian events in Great Britain in the 1970s, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's natural agility and a handler's expertise in training and athletic ability, working together in a test over an obstacle course designed specifically for dogs. It is intended to be a fun, non-regimented sport, with spectator appeal.

Dog agility's growth is a tribute to those whose foresight has helped to conceive and shape USDAA's programs into their current form, as well as those who have toiled in training to achieve and surpass standards established through these programs. USDAA's philosophy is to strive for the betterment of the sport by maintaining the highest performance standards in the international community and providing programs to foster development of the sport at all levels. In that vein, USDAA's goal is to develop the sport first and foremost as an athletic, spectator event, and to promote the sport in the community as a recreational, family sport, promoting responsible pet ownership.

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## USDAA ON THE INTERNET

Copies of this book may be downloaded free online or a hard copy may be purchased through the USDAA Store on the Internet at [usdaa.com](http://usdaa.com). For inquiries, contact:

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Also visit USDAA's video site at [www.cynosport.tv](http://www.cynosport.tv).

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PERFORMANCE TITLE CONVERSION CHART . . . . .	Inside Back Cover
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## ORGANIZATION HISTORY, PURPOSE & GOALS

The United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. (USDAA) was founded in 1986 for the purpose of promoting dog agility in the United States as a spectator sport. Its rules and regulations were derived from rules in practice in Great Britain and have evolved within a framework that offers multiple programs to meet the demands of a growing sport. USDAA's top program seeks to maintain and promote the highest standards for competition internationally demonstrating agility in dogs, while other programs are offered to meet the growing demands of canine sports enthusiasts at different levels. USDAA standards for competition have been proven for more than twenty years as a safe activity for dogs when properly conditioned for the demands of the sport.

In 1991, USDAA began participating in international competition and forging new relationships with other organizations. In 2001 USDAA became a charter member in the International Federation of Cynological Sports (IFCS), whose purpose is to promote camaraderie among nations through canine sports of all types without prejudice and as a competitive sport in pursuit of the Olympic Ideal. USDAA, as a leading authority in dog agility sport around the world, has almost two hundred affiliated groups throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

USDAA's motto—“*Promoting Competitive Excellence in Dog Agility*”<sup>SM</sup>—reflects its commitment to maintain the highest standards for the sport. USDAA programs accomplish these goals through a combination of tournament series and multiple certification programs that present the challenge of head-to-head competition and a test against minimum standards for performance.

A club, private training center or other organization (collectively referred to as organizations) may affiliate with USDAA or internationally through USDAA's affiliate World Cynosport Limited (WCL), through the execution of an “Affiliation Licensing Agreement” for the purpose of promoting USDAA and dog agility in their community as an athletic sporting event and to encourage family involvement in promoting responsible pet ownership. Three separate group licenses are available—Affiliated Group, Junior Handler Group, or Intro Group.

As an “Affiliated Group”, organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL events for all programs covered under these regulations, and must comply with all policies and procedures established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board.

As an “Intro Group”, organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL Intro Program events established through these regulations. An Intro Group must comply with policies and procedures applicable to Intro Program events established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board.

As a “Junior Handler Group”, organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL Junior Handler Program (JHP) events established through these regulations. The JHP Group must comply with policies and procedures applicable to JHP events established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board.

An Affiliated Group, Intro Group or Junior Handler Group may hold itself out as being a USDAA or WCL Affiliated Group, Intro Group or Junior Handler Group, respectively, pursuant to the limited license provisions contained in the Group Affiliation & Licensing agreement. As a part of the USDAA affiliated network, a group can benefit from exposure as being associated with a recognized leading brand in the industry and have ready access to USDAA's vast experience, promotional efforts and other resources.

# 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 “titling” 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)—

- Veterans Standard Dog<sup>SM</sup>
- 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 (i.e., 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 the Intro 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 under this program—

- *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.*

## **CHAPTER 2—AGILITY TESTS, MATCHES & EVENTS**

### **SECTION 2.1—SANCTIONED TESTS, MATCHES & EVENTS**

A USDAA Affiliated Group wishing to hold a sanctioned test, match or competitive event must make application to USDAA for an event license, which shall permit the group to designate a test, match or competitive event as “sanctioned” by USDAA, indicating that the group shall comply with all the requirements set forth in these rules and regulations and other policies and guidelines as may be established by USDAA. The terms “Test”, “Match” or “Event” are used interchangeably in these regulations, and the appropriate term should be substituted when appropriate.

The application along with the appropriate filing fee as set forth in the event application shall be submitted to USDAA in accordance with USDAA policies and procedures in effect at the time. USDAA reserves the right to refuse any application for license for any reason without recourse from the requesting organization. Failure of an affiliated group to fulfill any portion of the requirements stipulated for a sanctioned test or event does so at the risk of loss of sanction of the test, match or event.

A Group shall name an Organizing Committee that shall be the governing body for the agility event. The “Committee” is responsible for and assumes all liability with regard to conduct of the show, including all matters other than those responsibilities specifically empowered to the judge pursuant to these rules and regulations. The Committee’s responsibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to—

- acceptance of entries and registrations
- preparation of the test schedule, entry forms, scoring and reporting forms and running order
- a facility that offers a safe surface and environment for which to conduct the event
- training and providing qualified support personnel for course building, ring operations and scorekeeping in accordance with USDAA policies and procedures.
- providing obstacles that meet USDAA specifications as provided in Appendix A
- providing tools and supplies necessary to conduct a quality test, match or event
- governing and resolving all disciplinary matters that are brought before the Committee pursuant to Appendix C hereof.

Where USDAA Rules & Regulations and Rules for Conduct and Disciplinary Action may differ from local law, it is the Group’s responsibility to determine and comply with local law.

Disciplinary matters arising from conduct exhibited within the course area (or ring) shall be the responsibility of the judge in determining if dismissal from the ring is warranted, though this shall not prohibit others from filing a complaint with the Organizing Committee for competitor misconduct should the judge not do so. The Committee may consult with the judge on matters brought to it involving incidents in the ring and other matters it deems appropriate.

### **SECTION 2.2—TEST SCHEDULE**

An event shall be announced through the publication and distribution of a “Test Schedule” in the form approved by the Board of Directors no less than six (6) weeks prior to the proposed test date. A closing date for acceptance of entries of no less than ten (10) days prior to the first day of a test weekend shall be established. A “secondary” closing date may be established for purposes of accepting changes to an entry in order to move to a higher class level, provided such date is published in the Test Schedule and the date allows sufficient time for accurate preparation of event records required pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures.

The Test Schedule represents the contract between a competitor and the host group and shall be viewed as the final word in setting forth rules for classes, awards offered and conditions for entry to the event, except that no statement in the Test Schedule that is contradictory to USDAA Rules & Regulations shall be held enforceable. No oral representations or changes with respect to terms and conditions set forth in the Test Schedule shall be valid, unless such representations are made in writing and approved by the USDAA office. A competitor, through

submission of their entry form to an event, acknowledges their understanding of all USDAA and event rules, regulations and provisions and agrees to comply with all such regulations and to be governed by them, including but not limited to those rules and regulations incorporated by reference (for example, tournament rules).

The host group shall carefully prepare the Test Schedule pursuant to USDAA Policies and Procedures and shall include at a minimum the following:

- the date, time and location of the test
- a description of the venue and performance surface, whether it will be indoors or outdoors, sod or packed dirt, etc. If other than sod or packed dirt, a more technical description of the surface shall be provided, along with an indication of the performance characteristics that such surface will allow, and an indication to what extent such surface has been utilized or tested for suitability and safety
- the list of classes offered, and if not included in USDAA Rules & Regulations or in published tournament rules, a detailed description of the class
- entry fees, and to whom and where to remit the entry form and fees
- the closing date (and secondary closing date if any will be used) after which entries will no longer be accepted, changed or canceled; a statement that entries must either be “received by” the closing date or “postmarked” by the closing date
- a statement if move-up in level within a program at the event is to be permitted<sup>2.02</sup>
- description of prizes and awards for each class
- an official entry form meeting requirements pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures. The entry form shall include a “General Agreement” in the form approved by USDAA (Appendix H) that shall be executed (i.e., signed and dated) by the dog’s owner, authorized agent, or parent or legal guardian if the competitor is a minor
- names of the judge(s) and supervising judge(s) (if any)
- description of qualifications and/or restrictions for entry in the test or any of its classes
- a statement that fault limits may be imposed
- a statement whether mixed height pairs may be entered (see Chapter 6)<sup>2.02</sup>
- a statement that the event’s Organizing Committee may refuse an entry if there is reason to believe that a competitor will engage in conduct prejudicial to the sport. The Organizing Committee must file their intention to refuse entry prior to the closing date with the USDAA office and the competitor. The Organizing Committee alone shall be responsible for determining cause, except in the case where a competitor has been suspended from USDAA events through due process as set forth in Appendix C of USDAA Rules & Regulations
- a statement that USDAA Rules & Regulations shall apply and that the obstacles to be used meet USDAA specifications
- a statement that the competitor (and/or dog owner) has read and understands USDAA Rules and Regulations, which are incorporated in their entirety by reference
- a statement indicating whether electronic timing will be used at the event.

A group must include in the Test Schedule any other terms, notices or other conditions for entry. The Organizing Committee shall provide through the Test Schedule entry forms to prospective competitors in a form meeting USDAA policies and procedures. Such forms must be complete, signed and dated by the competitor and accompanied by the proper fees to constitute a valid registration and/or entry. Entries for persons under legal age, which may vary from state to state, must also include the signature of their parent or legal guardian.

If any error or omission is noted in the test schedule, the group shall immediately notify the USDAA office, and where the error or omission may potentially have a significant effect on a competitor’s decision to enter the event or a class, the group shall notify all persons to whom the test schedule has been distributed to the extent reasonably possible.

In planning a class schedule for an event, a group must comply with current policies for class offerings. When entries are expected to exceed time and/or space available for a test, a group shall consider in advance the scheduling benefits of applying fault limits to increase the number of rounds per hour that can be managed, the number of classes to be offered, and/or the num-

ber of rounds permitted per competitor. When scheduling difficulties arise, groups are encouraged to consult with the USDAA office for guidance in application of policies. Numeric limits of the number of competitors is not permitted other than in Intro Program and Junior Handler Program Only events.

A match held as a prerequisite to holding a sanctioned test in the first year of membership shall be announced through the publication and distribution of a "Match Schedule" no less than three weeks prior to the proposed match date. A closing date no less than one week prior to the scheduled match shall be stipulated to allow sufficient time for preparation of a match running order and other preparatory procedures.

### **SECTION 2.3—ENTRIES & CHECK-IN PROCEDURES**

The Event Secretary follow all USDAA-approved policies and procedures and shall be responsible for—

- the handling and processing of entries,
- the orderly check-in of competitors prior to start of the event, including validating of a dog's registration number and arranging for a judge's verification of the dog's height, if not previously permanently certified (see Appendix D),
- the collection, recording and reporting of scores to the USDAA office.

The Secretary shall prepare a check-in list of all competitors entered in the event (arranged in alphabetic order), establish the running order for all classes, listing each owner, dog and USDAA registration number in each height class. The secretary shall not accept entries that do not include registration numbers or a completed registration form and fee. Listing a dog or junior handler as "pending" is not permitted.

The running order shall be randomized once all entries have been received in order to eliminate bias in the handling and order of entries. Where the same competitor is found to be running two or more dogs in the same class, and they are listed within ten runs of each other, the secretary may move the first dog up in the running order, or if that is not possible, the secretary may move the last dog down on the list (see Section 3.3 for handling of conflicts in the running order).

Where an entry has been accepted by the host group and a payment rejected by the bank, the competitor shall remit the fees before being allowed to compete. If the host group is not aware of the deficiency as of the event date, the competitor shall deliver fees to the host group, plus any late service charges assessed by the group within 30 days of the bank notice received by the group to avoid revocation of event results. Upon revocation, any awards must be returned to the host group within 30 days of receipt of notice.

Competitors shall present the dog's permanent or temporary registration card at time of check-in to permit the Secretary to verify the dog's registration number has been correctly recorded on the show records and that the height class of entry is correct. A group may accept photocopies of permanent registration cards at time of entry to facilitate the check-in process, provided disclosure is made in the Agility Test Schedule as indicated in Section 2.2; however, temporary registration cards must be presented at the event for inspection and for determination of entry to the appropriate height class.

All dogs jumping in a height class other than the maximum height and who have not been otherwise certified as to their jumping height as set forth in Appendix D shall be "measured in" by a judge using a USDAA-approved measurement device on a smooth, level surface. If a suitable surface is not readily available at the site to assure an accurate measurement, then the committee should arrange for a portable surface. If no such surface or device is provided, then the judge shall measure dogs for the event only and shall not record the height measurements on dogs' registration cards.<sup>2.01</sup> In this case, the judge may sign-off on the competitor's entry confirmation form or other approved sheet to facilitate the check-in process.

The dog's height shall be measured at the withers with the dog standing freely in an upright position, which is naturally held by the dog, in order to determine the dog's minimum jump height class, as shown in Section 3.2 and Section 7.2 - Jumping and Table Height Standards.



No dog shall be permitted to compete at an event whose owner or handler has not—

- presented a permanent registration card, (or official letter of certification that permanent card is approved or pending by the USDAA office)
- presented a “certified” temporary registration card (i.e., one that has been properly completed by three or more judges),
- had the dog measured by a judge of record for the event, or
- otherwise had this dog pre-qualified for entry in a height class at a tournament event.

The measuring judge other than a Certified Measuring Judge (CMJ) must be a judge of record for the event, including a supervising judge of record or a judge engaged solely for that purpose. The measuring judge’s determination shall be final for the event, including any contiguous days conducted by another USDAA group. All judges performing an official function must file a Judges Report following the event, even if engaged solely for measuring.

## SECTION 2.4—OBSTACLES

Only the obstacles listed below and meeting the specifications provided in Appendix A to these regulations may be used at USDAA sanctioned tests or events.

Contact Obstacles	Jumps and Hurdles
Dog Walk	Tire Jump
See-Saw	Viaduct
A-Frame	Long Jump
Weave Poles	Brush Jump
Collapsed Tunnel	Winged Hurdles
Pipe Tunnel	Non-winged Hurdles
Table	Spread Hurdles

Various additional hurdles or specialty obstacles may be offered at an event provided they meet the parameters of other obstacles as set forth in Appendix A or they are approved in advance in writing by the USDAA office. Safety must always be of foremost concern when designing and constructing obstacles. Obstacles not contemplated by these regulations may not be utilized in tournament or title certification classes.

A majority of the jumps and hurdles (including spread hurdles) utilized shall be of the “winged” type, with wings measuring no less than 16”(40cm) in width. Poles or rails on a majority of hurdles and jumps shall be no less than 54” (137cm) and on spread hurdles at 60” (152cm).

Obstacles should be spaced on average 15’ to 22’ (4.5m to 6.5m) distance along the dog’s natural path between obstacles. Successive obstacles shall not be spaced closer than 12’ (3.7m). In events where dogs of all jump height classes are competing against each other in an open class, obstacle spacing should be balanced with all other competitive elements of the course to distribute competitive challenge among all sizes of dogs.

## SECTION 2.5—COURSE LAYOUT

A performance ring should meet the following size requirements:

PROGRAM	MINIMUM AREA *		RECOMMENDED AREA	
	Square Feet Square Meters	Dimension	Square Feet Square Meters	Dimension
Championship/Performance (Masters & Tournament Classes)	8,000 800	80’ 24m	10-12,000 1,000–1,200	100’ 30m
Championship/Performance (Advanced Classes)	7,000 700	60’ 18m	8,000 800	80’ 24m
Championship/Performance (Starters Only Classes)	6,000 600	60’ 18m	8,000 800	80’ 24m
Intro & Junior Handler Only	3,200 320	40’ 12m	4,800 480	60’ 18m

*\*A variance of 10% is permitted on these measurements. Should a facility not allow for these dimensions after allowance for the variance, a group may request a waiver from the USDAA office.*

It is the sole responsibility of the host group to establish whether a facility meets these requirements through gathering of sufficient information and conduct of tests of the material or surface to determine that such facility is suitable pursuant to these regulations. The performance ring surface must permit leveling of the obstacles and provide safe footing for handlers and dogs. Sod and packed dirt as used for equestrian events have been tried and proven throughout the sport's history as the most suitable surfaces that are safe for the sport of dog agility. Hard surfaces such as cement or asphalt shall not be used unless these surfaces are adequately covered with suitable surface material that has been evaluated and tested for impact, sure footing and general safety. Other surfaces may also be considered to be safe, but they must be approached with caution. Should weather deteriorate a surface to the point that the judge and/or Organizing Committee deem that it is no longer safe for competitors and/or their dogs, the event shall be relocated, postponed or cancelled as appropriate for the circumstances. Safety for handler and dog shall be paramount in selecting an event site.

The course layout shall be designed by the judge and reviewed by an independent course reviewer pursuant to guidelines established by the USDAA Board of Directors. The course shall be constructed under the judge's direction utilizing at least the minimum obstacle requirements for a specific class as stated in these rules and regulations. The judge shall post the course design for competitor inspection a reasonable time prior to the start of the class. Competitors shall not under any circumstances be allowed to take their dogs onto the test course prior to competing, except in the Junior handler Program as set forth in Chapter 8 ; however, competitors shall be allowed in the test area without their dogs to "walk the course" under directives by the judge , thereby permitting inspection of the obstacles, course layout and terrain in contemplating their handling strategy.

The course area should be partitioned by rope or fencing to prevent spectators from interfering with the course before, during or following the test. However, it must at all times be remembered that agility is a spectator sport, and accommodations should be made for spectators as with any other public sporting event.

A separate "warm-up" area may be provided near each ring at a show site to allow handlers an opportunity to heel and jump their dogs. Only a single jump of judge's discretion shall be permitted in the "warm-up" area, which shall be under ring personnel supervision. No obstacles or jumps shall be permitted elsewhere at the test site for training, warm-up or other preparatory purposes.

Courses shall have a defined start line and finish line. The start and finish line shall be generally be set within ten feet in front of the first obstacle and beyond the last obstacle and shall not be set in a manner that may make the line an "obstacle" to be performed or a course hazard. A course shall require no more than 20 obstacles be performed by a single dog, including any obstacles to be taken more than once. The start and finish line are intended solely as a means of measuring time on the course. The clock shall start when the dog crosses the start line and stopped when the dog crosses the finish line after performance of the final obstacle on course. Special guidelines are set forth in Appendix G to these regulations for use of electronic timing equipment.

If the judge encounters a specific obstacle that meets obstacle specifications but may vary in appearance or operation such that the judge views a lack of familiarization may create a significant performance or safety problem for dogs, the judge may set the obstacle in the warm-up area for a period of time prior to the class in which it is to be used so that competitors may familiarize themselves with it (e.g., uniquely styled jump, such as a wishing well, see-saw with a different tilting mechanism, etc.) A judge in such circumstances must give careful consideration as to the obstacle's operational safety before permitting it to be used in the test.

Training collars, such as choke chain, pinch or similar collars commonly used in training shall not be permitted in or near the ring or warm-up area (or other spectator areas). "Similar collars" as used above shall be evaluated based upon their intended function and appearance. Shock collars or similar devices not deemed to be in the best interest of the sport shall not be worn or be used on the show grounds.



No training seminars or practice sessions, other than regularly scheduled classes at the facility, shall be held at the event site one day prior to or during the event without written USDAA approval. Sanctioned matches, Junior Handler and Intro Program classes are exempt from this limitation.

## **SECTION 2.6—JUDGES & STEWARDS**

A class shall be conducted by one judge and several stewards under the judge's direction. At a minimum each ring of operation should have a timer, scribe, gate steward, scorekeeper, and two to four ring stewards; course builders can generally service more than one ring at an event.

A judge shall not be allowed to compete in the event on a day that they are scheduled to judge without USDAA approval. Primary stewards (i.e., scribe, timekeeper and scorekeeper) shall not be permitted to compete in a class for which they serve as stewards. For this purpose, a class is defined as a competition for which awards are being offered. (For example, a class would be a jump height grouping in a class if placements are made only by jump height; in Snooker, if two height classes are combined pursuant to rules set forth in Chapter 6, the combined class is considered a single class for this purpose). Only individuals who are listed on the "Approved Judges List" evidencing that they have fulfilled the USDAA requirements for judges (see Appendix B) shall be permitted to judge at a sanctioned test or event pursuant to guidelines established by the USDAA Rules & Regulations Board, except as provided in the Junior Handler or Intro Programs (see Chapters 8 & 10), or otherwise with USDAA written approval.

The judge shall be solely responsible for designing the course, measuring the course distance, establishing the standard course time, measuring dogs and scoring the performance. The judge shall consult with the Event Secretary in determining whether fault limits are to be utilized. When the secretary shall indicate that fault limits have been considered in establishing the class schedule, the judge shall utilize fault limits no less stringent as those assumed in setting the class schedule. Where the secretary indicates that fault limits were not anticipated, the judge may apply (at their discretion) reasonable fault limits in exercising their duties pursuant to Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of these regulations. While the test secretary or Organizing Committee are responsible for scheduling the classes and number of rounds per day, the judge is responsible for maintaining the schedule and maintaining general efficiency of ring operations.

The judge shall be responsible for building of the course to assure that the course is presented as designed and as approved by the course reviewer. In the event of unexpected circumstances at an event, such that approval of a needed change cannot be reviewed and approved by a reviewer (e.g., different ring dimensions or unanticipated obstructions or other hazards within the ring area), the judge is empowered to modify the course to the extent necessary to conduct the class in a safe manner, while retaining the principal elements of the original design. Should an obstacle fail and cannot be repaired promptly, or weather should make an obstacle unsafe or fail, the judge is empowered to substitute an obstacle of similar characteristics if possible to preserve the integrity of the course. The judge must submit a revised course diagram with an explanation for the change with their Event Judge's Report, if any changes are made to the course as previously approved.

The judge shall designate stewards to serve as timekeeper and scribe for a class, but the judge alone shall observe and signal course faults. The judge's decision on scoring shall be final. Use of video or other means of instant replay shall not be utilized for the determination of course faults, except as may be provided in an official USDAA written policy statement. However, should time be lost on a round due to timekeeper error or clock failure, the judge shall first determine if any objective measure of the actual performance time can be determined through video. Absent such objective determination, the judge may call for a re-run of the round for time only. Any course faults incurred on the first run of the course (or partial run, if a run is halted before it is finished) shall be remain as part of the competitor's score, and the competitor shall seek to run the course in a similar style, with the judge adjusting the time for any differences in the performance as deemed necessary to approximate time.

The judge shall hold a competitor's briefing prior to the commencement of each class, unless detailed briefing notes have been set forth in writing and posted along with a copy of the

course plan. When given, the briefing may include as applicable, a review of special scoring and performance requirements for the class to the extent appropriate for each class or class level, announcement of the standard course time and fault limit (if one is to be used), and a review of ring procedure (e.g., entering and exiting the ring, approaching the start line, etc.). The judge shall not advise competitors on handling position or strategy but may at his or her discretion respond to questions on what may be permissible or not within these rules and regulations.

The judge shall provide a written briefing on all special scoring and performance rules for Gamblers and Snooker classes (or other classes that may require special rules), which shall be posted along with the course design.

The judge shall seek to maintain the running order established by the Event Secretary in order that the event may run efficiently. Should the judge determine that adjustment of the running order may be needed, the judge shall consult with the Event Secretary, Gate Steward and other key event personnel and judges to assess whether the change is conducive to efficient show operations and whether such change may impact the competitive strategies of competitors in a particular class.

The class scorekeeper shall be positioned ring-side at the exit gate where they shall receive the scribe sheet, tally and post scores immediately following each round pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures. This practice enables competitors the opportunity to promptly review their scores and make timely inquiry should a discrepancy be noted, as well as to provide the judge with instant access to the scorekeeper to respond to queries and to facilitate ring operations.

## **SECTION 2.7—PRIZES & AWARDS**

A host organization shall recognize each qualifying score in a certification class through the award of a maroon qualifying ribbon or rosette. Placements shall be named and listed in the official event results to the extent of awards to be recognized for the class, including Top Ten awards. Ribbons, rosettes and other prizes may be awarded to a reasonable number of placements at a club's discretion (generally 10–15% of entry), unless otherwise set forth in USDAA tournament rules or official policy statements. Placement ribbons or rosettes shall follow the color chart provided below.

Each ribbon or rosette should have prominently imprinted the USDAA logo, name of the host organization, and the words "Sanctioned Test" or "Sanctioned Event" and for a qualifying ribbon, the words "Qualifying Round" in lieu of the designated placement.

The following primary colors shall be used for placement ribbons and rosettes:

1st Place	Blue	5th Place	Pink	8th Place	Brown
2nd Place	Red	6th Place	Green	9th Place	Gray
3rd Place	Yellow	7th Place	Purple	10th Place	Lt. Blue
4th Place	White				

Additional placements shall be light blue in color.

Trophies may also be awarded for prizes provided they are adequately described and announced in the Test Schedule. Cash awards and prizes must be approved by the USDAA office in advance if in more than nominal amounts as may be set through USDAA policy statements.

Prizes and ribbons for tournament classes and others that are held before public audiences should be awarded immediately following each class so as to provide instant recognition of winners and association of the winner with the designated award.

## **CHAPTER 2 FOOTNOTES**

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*2.01 Under no circumstances should a temporary card be signed for dogs under 18 months of age. Dogs under 18 months are only eligible for entry to Intro Program classes, and measurements are for event only.*

*2.02 This provision is effective for events after June 1, 2011, and must comply with published policy statements.*

## CHAPTER 3—MASTERS STANDARD AGILITY CLASS

The Masters Standard Agility class is designed to demonstrate proficiency in the refined elements of competition measured against the highest standards for the sport. The competitor works in a synchronized teamwork with the dog, while each may work a separate path through the course to complete the course as fast and accurately as possible.

Eligibility standards for entry to this class are set forth in Appendix E. The following titles and awards may be earned in this class (see Chapter 1 and Appendix F for a complete list of titles and awards):

- Masters Standard Agility class title
- Master Agility Dog®
- Standard Agility Champion class title
- Agility Dog Champion®
- Bronze, Silver, Gold & Platinum Award designations on Champion class and Agility Dog Champion® titles

Qualifications in the Masters classes are accumulated for Lifetime Achievement Awards as outlined in Chapter 1.

Competitive placements in the Masters Standard classes accumulate points for annual ranking for Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup>.

### SECTION 3.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

A course shall include seventeen (17) to twenty (20) obstacles to be performed utilizing obstacles listed in the table below and meeting the difficulty level as set forth in USDAA's Policy of Course Design Guidelines. Obstacles may be used more than once in a particular course design, but no more than four (4) contact obstacles, four (4) tunnels, one (1) table, twelve (12) weave poles and three (3) spread hurdles shall be required to be performed.

OBSTACLES	REQUIREMENTS
<b>CONTACT OBSTACLES</b>	
A-Frame	Required
Dog walk	Required
See-Saw	Required
<b>TUNNELS</b>	
Collapsed tunnel	Required
Pipe tunnel	Required
<b>SPECIAL OBSTACLES</b>	
Weave poles	Required (5 to 12 in a line; minimum of 10 in Standard titling classes)
Table	Required
<b>JUMPS &amp; HURDLES</b>	
Tire jump	Required
Winged hurdles	Minimum of three (3) required, at least one of which must be a spread hurdle. A majority of hurdles on course must be of a "winged"-type, with a wing width no less than 16" (40cm)
Non-winged hurdles	Optional.

## SECTION 3.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance and scoring standards for each of the required obstacles are as follows (see construction specifications in Appendix A):

### A-Frame

The dog must ascend the up ramp in the direction designated by the course plan, touching the contact zone<sup>3.01</sup>, traverse the apex and descend the down ramp, touching the contact zone before leaving the obstacle.

- Failure to touch a contact zone shall be scored a standard fault.
- Leaving the obstacle prior to beginning descent<sup>3.03</sup> shall be scored a refusal.

### Dog Walk

The dog must ascend the up ramp in the direction designated by the course plan, touching the contact zone<sup>3.01</sup>, traverse the cross-plank and descend the down ramp, touching the contact zone before leaving the obstacle.

- Failure to touch a contact zone shall be scored a standard fault.
- Leaving the obstacle prior to beginning descent<sup>3.03</sup> shall be scored a refusal.

### See-Saw

The dog must ascend the plank, touching the contact zone<sup>3.01</sup>, traverse the plank and pivoting the plank to the ground on the opposite end, and descend the remainder of the plank, touching the contact zone before leaving the obstacle.

- Failure to touch a contact zone shall be scored a standard fault.
- Leaving the obstacle prior to the plank beginning to tilt shall constitute a refusal.
- A dog leaving the obstacle after crossing the plank's pivot point<sup>3.04</sup> (i.e., the plank begins to tilt) but prior to it touching the ground, or leaving the plank in an uncontrolled manner while the plank is in motion prior to the plank touching the ground, shall constitute a fly-off, which shall be faulted. If also missing the contact zone upon the exit of the ramp, only one fault shall be scored.

### Collapsed Tunnel

The dog must enter the rigid opening to the tunnel and exit through the collapsed portion of the tunnel. There is no standard fault in performance of this obstacle.

- Jumping over any elevated portion of the tunnel or backing out of or exiting the tunnel entrance shall constitute a refusal.

### Pipe Tunnel

The dog must enter the opening to the tunnel in the direction designated by the judge and exit the other end of the tunnel.

- Jumping over any portion of the tunnel or backing out of or exiting the tunnel entrance shall constitute a refusal.
- There is no standard fault in performance of this obstacle.

### Table

A dog must jump onto the table and assume the down position for a period of five (5) seconds. The judge shall count the five-second count aloud, commencing at the moment when the dog has assumed the *down position*.<sup>3.10</sup>

If the dog should leave the table or not remain in the down position for five seconds, the handler must instruct the dog to return to the table and/or resume the down position for the remainder of the five (5) second count, except when the dog breaks its down position and/or leaves the table a split second before the judge has said "GO" (i.e., anticipation of end of count).

- The first occurrence of jumping off of the table any time prior to completion of the five-second count shall constitute a standard fault.
- The dog that leaves the down position a split-second prior to the judge saying "Go" shall constitute a standard fault

- Running under or jumping over the table shall constitute a refusal.

Once the dog has jumped onto the table, a refusal can no longer be charged. The table may not be used as a starting point in the Standard Agility or Jumpers titling classes; however, when used as a finish point, or used as a start or finish point in other nonstandard titling classes, it shall not be judged for performance but shall be used solely as a means of starting and/or stopping the clock.

#### Long Jump

The dog must jump over the planks without touching them, crossing first between the front corner marker poles in the direction designated by the judge, clear the span of the planks and exit between the back corner marker poles.

- Failure to clear the span of the planks as evidenced by touching a plank or stepping on or between the planks shall constitute a standard fault<sup>3.11</sup>
- Jumping the obstacle in the wrong direction shall constitute running the wrong course (i.e., entering the back corner poles and exiting the side or front or entering the side and exiting the front corner poles)
- Jumping from side to side (cross-jumping), exiting the side after proper entry or entering from the side and exiting the back shall constitute a refusal.

#### Weave Poles

The dog must weave down the entire line of poles in a continuous forward motion, crossing in the proper direction between the poles, beginning with the dog passing on the right side of the first pole, crossing the line of poles between pole #1 and pole #2, then moving forward to the left side of the second pole, then crossing the line of poles between pole #2 and pole #3 toward the right side of the third pole, and continuing in sequence until the entire line of poles (i.e., slalom) is completed.

- Failure to correct for missed poles or for improper entry before continuing to the next obstacle shall be ruled as not having completed the obstacle.
- The first occurrence of *missing a pole*<sup>3.05</sup> shall be a standard fault; however, a dog shall not be penalized for hesitating while weaving.
- Weaving in the wrong direction<sup>3.06</sup> (i.e., “backweaving”) shall constitute running the wrong course.
- A refusal is incurred when—
  - a dog enters the poles incorrectly.<sup>3.07</sup>
  - runs out past the proper entry to the line of poles.
  - backs out of the proper entry to the poles.

After a dog has entered the poles correctly, no additional penalty may be incurred for refusal.

#### Tire Jump or Optional Breakaway Tire

The dog must jump through the tire in the direction designated by the judge.

- If a tire of “breakaway” construction is used, displacement or separation of the tire shall be penalized for a standard fault. Banking the tire (without separation) is not penalized.
- Backjumping or otherwise crossing through the frame or tire in the wrong direction shall be scored as running the wrong course.

The following shall be constitute refusals:

- Jumping between the tire and the frame
- Jumping over or running under the tire

#### Hurdles & Jumps

The dog must jump heights as set forth in the following table in the direction designated by the course design, crossing between the hurdle’s two side supports without displacing the top plank, bar or pole<sup>3.07</sup>.

- Running under or jumping the hurdle in the wrong direction (i.e., backjumping) shall constitute running the wrong course.

- Jumping over side supports or running under the hurdle in the proper direction shall constitute a refusal.

<b>JUMPING/HEIGHT STANDARDS (P) - PARALLEL; (A) - ASCENDING</b>					
<b>Height @ Withers</b>	<b>Minimum<sup>3.08</sup> Jump Height</b>	<b>Spread Hurdle Span*</b>	<b>Long Jump Span</b>	<b>Table Height</b>	<b>A-Frame Angle<sup>3.09</sup></b>
Over 21"	26"	(P) 12" - 15" (A) >15" - 24"	60"	24"	98°
21" & under, but over 16"	22"	(P) 12" - 15" (A) >15" - 24"	48"	24"	98°
16" & under, but over 12"	16"	No parallel (A) 10" - 12"	36"	16"	104°
12" & under	12"	No parallel (A) 10" - 12"	20"	12"	104°
<b>JUMPING/HEIGHT STANDARDS (IN METRIC UNITS)</b>					
<b>Height @ Withers</b>	<b>Minimum<sup>3.08</sup> Jump Height</b>	<b>Spread Hurdle Span*</b>	<b>Long Jump Span</b>	<b>Table Height</b>	<b>A-Frame Angle<sup>3.09</sup></b>
Over 53cm	65cm	(P) 30cm-38cm (A) >38cm-60cm	1525mm	60cm	98°
53cm & under, but over 40cm	55cm	(P) 30cm-38cm (A) >38cm-60cm	1220mm	60cm	98°
40cm & under, but over 30cm	40cm	No parallel (A) 25cm-30cm	915mm	40cm	104°
30cm & under	30cm	No parallel (A) 25cm-30cm	508mm	30cm	104°

*\*Extended spread hurdles are those spread hurdles that span 20" (50cm) or more for dogs jumping 22" (55cm) or higher, and span 12" (30cm) for dogs jumping 12" (30cm) and 16" (40cm).*

#### Spread Hurdles & Extended Spread Hurdles

A spread hurdle must be performed under the same standards as the single hurdle.

A refusal shall be penalized for:

- entering or exiting the side of a spread hurdle
- failure to jump the span of elements together as a single hurdle in the proper direction

### **SECTION 3.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS**

A handler and dog should work as a team in a natural manner, with the dog demonstrating a willingness to work throughout the course under the handler's voice commands, hand signals or both, as they race against the clock to complete the course in the time permitted by the judge and in accordance with these regulations.

A handler is permitted to talk, cheer, command and encourage his dog through the course without limitation.

He may direct his dog through the course from any point in the course area unless specifically excluded in these regulations, and move freely about the ring in synchronized movements with their dog (oftened referred to as "freestyle handling").

A handler is required to be available at posted or announced times for briefings, walk-throughs and during the class, and when called for running the course (including any runoffs, if any are required).

Where a handler has multiple dogs or is entered in multiple classes with one or more dogs, the handler is solely responsible for—

- foreseeing and immediately notifying the gate steward or judge of a potential running order conflict (considering the regulations related to running order set forth in Chapter 2)



- being able to walk multiple courses prior to running in any classes on the same day, or subsequent day should a class not be completed the same day.

The following competitor actions shall be penalized as handler assistance as determined by the judge:<sup>3.12</sup>

- Touching the dog or obstacles
- Using the aid of any outside person or device

Additionally, a handler who causes a delay at the start line or in the process of entering or exiting the ring without sufficient cause<sup>3.13</sup> may be penalized at a judge's discretion. A judge shall announce in a briefing circumstances for which this penalty shall be invoked.

The following occurrences shall result in elimination and immediate dismissal from the ring:

- Use of language and antics construed to be detrimental to the spirit of good sportsmanship or that threatens to reduce spectator appeal shall not be tolerated. (The judge shall issue a formal reprimand and file a written complaint with the event's Organizing Committee pursuant to disciplinary rules specified in Appendix C to these rules and regulations.)
- The handler shall not jump, run through or under any obstacle, or squeeze between obstacles placed side by side where a handlers path is obviously unintended by design.
- Use of food, performance aids or devices
- A dog aggressively nips or bites at the handler or shows any other sign of aggression that demonstrates a loss of control or abuse to the handler (or others).
- Smoking in the ring at any time.
- A dog wearing any type of collar or leash while running the course, except as specified in these regulations.<sup>3.15</sup>
- A dog has ceased to work, is out of control beyond the point of completing the round in a reasonable time or with a meaningful score, or is performing in an unsafe manner.<sup>3.16</sup>
- A dog leaving the ring<sup>3.17</sup>
- A dog urinating, defecating or vomiting in the ring.
- Running the wrong course.

The handler is solely responsible for their conduct at an event, and may have their scores canceled and/or be dismissed from an event based upon the severity of the misconduct.

### SECTION 3.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS

The judge shall carefully evaluate the expected dog's path, measure the course distance and set a Standard Course Time (SCT) based on the relative difficulty of the course design to ensure reasonable speed to test control while exercising a free-style handling technique. The SCT shall give due consideration to course flow and environmental factors and should be set within the ranges shown in the table in this section.

The following rates shall be used for calculating the SCT:

STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS & METERS PER SECOND)		
Jumping Height	Standard Course Time Rates	
	Operating Range	Absolute Minimum
12"	2.75 - 2.85 yds/sec	2.75 yds/sec
30cm	2.52 - 2.61 m/sec	2.52 m/sec
16"	2.85 - 3.05 yds/sec	2.85 yds/sec
40cm	2.61 - 2.80 m/sec	2.61 m/sec
22" & 26"	3.00 - 3.30 yds/sec	3.00 yds/sec
55cm & 65cm	2.75 - 3.02 m/sec	2.75 m/sec

*\*The "operating range" is the general rate range within which a judge should evaluate course factors in establishing a standard course time. The actual rate may be above the range but never below the minimum.*



Time faults shall be assessed on a 1:1 ratio for each second or fraction thereof to the nearest 100<sup>th</sup> of a second that a dog's course time exceeds the standard course time. The actual course time of each dog shall be measured in units of 1/100th of a second, even if timing equipment may permit more accurate degrees of measurement.

A judge shall not change the SCT after the first dog in a class has run except for arithmetic error or error in the measurement of distance<sup>3.25</sup>.

In order to permit the greatest possible number of dogs and handlers a reasonable chance to succeed in qualifying towards certification titles and tournaments, or earning competitive placement awards, an Organizing Committee and/or judge may set a fault limit at which point a dog would be eliminated from competition and dismissed from the ring. Fault limits may be set differently for each class or class level.<sup>3.20</sup> Any fault limit shall be applied equally to all competitors in the class after combining time and course faults.<sup>3.24</sup>

### **SECTION 3.5—STANDARD SCORING**

Standard scoring on a standard course shall determine the winner on the basis of fewest total fault penalties for violation of standard course time, course handling provisions and obstacle performance standards as may be assessed in accordance with these rules and regulations. No distinction shall be made between types of faults in determining a dog's score. A zero fault round is a qualifying score for titling purposes.

In the event of a tie in fewest total faults, the tying performance with the fastest time shall be declared the winner, unless it is announced in the Test Schedule that a tie will be settled by run-off. In the event of a fault and time tie, a run-off must be held, unless duplicate awards will be made. The course used for the run-off shall be determined by the judge, and may be the same course or a course of new design unless specific provisions have been included in the Test Schedule to the contrary.

The following definitions shall apply in the assessment of faults:

*A refusal* is defined as—

- “significant hesitation”<sup>3.21</sup> in front of an obstacle,
- “turning back”<sup>3.22</sup> on an obstacle after beginning an approach in the normal flow of the course, or
- improperly performing an obstacle as specified in Section 3.2, or
- “running out”<sup>3.27</sup> past an obstacle to be performed in sequence (referred to as a “runout”)

Running the wrong course shall be defined as—

- the dog in any way touches an obstacle out of sequence as defined by the course design;
- the dog begins to take an obstacle in the wrong direction; or,
- the dog jumps or crosses any part of a hurdle, jump, table, line of weave poles or other obstacle out of sequence as defined by the course design; however, a dog that crosses the flat portion of the collapsed tunnel chute or runs beneath a contact obstacle shall not be penalized.

A summary of the types of infractions or “faults” that may be incurred are listed in the tables in this section.

<b>SCHEDULE OF OBSTACLE FAULTS AND PENALTIES</b>	
Missed contact zones on contact obstacle ramps	5 faults
Fly-off on see-saw	5 faults*
First occurrence of jumping off of table prior to end of count	5 faults
Anticipation of end of count on table	5 faults
First occurrence of a missed weave pole	5 faults
Failure to clear span of long jump	5 faults
Separating a breakaway tire	5 faults
Displacing top poles or planks from hurdles and jumps	5 faults**
<b>COURSE HANDLING AND PERFORMANCE FAULTS</b>	
Each refusal (including runouts)	5 faults
Handler assistance or outside assistance	5 faults
Excessive delay at start line or upon entering/exiting the ring	Faults or Elimination***
Running wrong course	Elimination
Three refusals on course (including runouts)	Elimination
Food or devices on course	Elimination****
Excessive handler or outside assistance	Elimination****
Poor sportsmanship	Elimination****
Signs of aggression	Elimination****
Leaving the course area	Elimination
Dog being out of control or ceasing to work	Elimination
Fouling the course	Elimination
Exceeding fault limits	Elimination

*\*Maximum of five standard faults on exit from see-saw if the contact zone shall also be missed.*

*\*\*Maximum of five standard faults for improper performance of a single jump.*

*\*\*\*Charged when failure to comply with judge's instructions.*

*\*\*\*\*A judge must file notice of reprimand or a written complaint with the test's Organizing Committee for disciplinary action if these rules are violated as set forth in Appendix C to these regulations.*

## CHAPTER 3 FOOTNOTES:

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- 3.01 Contact zones are the lower 42" of each ramp on the A-frame and 36" on the dog walk and see-saw. The zones were added to assure a controlled entry and exit of the ramps for safety to the dog (i.e., to assure sound footing before rising too high on the ramp and to assure descent to a low point to minimize risk of should injury from jumping off).
- 3.02 For future use.
- 3.03 A dog shall be viewed as "beginning descent" if the dog has achieved a distribution of its weight forward onto the down ramp. In other words, when the dog's center of mass has passed onto the descent ramp. Touching with one paw while the balance of the dog's weight remains on its rear feet on the ascent ramp or cross ramp (dog walk) does not demonstrate the commitment necessary to indicate the dog has willingly begun descent.
- 3.04 The pivot point is the point on the ramp near the mid-point where the plank begins to tip while being performed. This point is different for each dog, based upon the dog's weight, size and speed.
- 3.05 Missing a pole occurs when a dog has to shift backwards or otherwise make a corrective move, no matter how slight, so that the dog can weave in the proper direction between the poles in the correct sequence. Hesitation in the poles, no matter how significant, does not constitute refusal.
- 3.06 Improper entry occurs when a dog initially enters the line of poles other than between the first two poles passing the first pole on the dog's left.
- 3.07 Weaving in the wrong direction occurs when the dog performs a portion of the line of poles in the wrong direction. "Portion" is subject to judge's interpretation, but generally means that something more than the dog crossing the line of poles once or twice in order to return to its handler. It presumes a focused effort by the dog to weave.
- 3.08 The system of measure (i.e., English versus metric system of measurement) shall be that which is customarily followed in the country in which the event is being held. See policy statements that may otherwise restrict entry for an event.
- 3.09 The angle of the apex is used to establish the angle of ascent and descent on the A-frame, as it establishes a consistent incline for the dog to engage the ramp. This is necessary due to the variety of designs of the a-frame that render the height of the obstacle inconsistent as a means of measurement. For safety reasons, a consistent incline of the ramp is used. The angle of the ramps is measured on the outer surface of the ramps at the obstacle's theoretical apex, as determined by the relative position of the ramps. When all measurements meet the stated specifications as set forth in Appendix A to the regulations, the distance from the top of the (theoretical) apex to the ground is approximately 5'11" or 180cm.
- 3.10 The "down position" shall generally be viewed by the judge as a dog with four primary points of contact with the table surface indicating a position of rest.
- 3.11 It is intended that the dog clear the span of the long jump without stepping down onto or between the planks. Should the judge be unable to confidently determine that the dog touched a plank, the judge shall apply a fault only if there is visible movement of the plank.
- 3.12 A judge's determination shall be based upon the degree of benefit that may be gained by the action or behavior. Considerations include whether the aid resulted in fault avoidance, removed the opportunity to judge performance, saved time, or otherwise benefited the performance. Some examples might include—
- a handler bumps a dog that begins to run around the wing of a jump, preventing a refusal; the judge calls a fault for refusal, though the refusal did not occur; since time was also saved, the judge must consider whether time plays a major role in the outcome of the class. If a time-plus-faults scoring method is used, it could have more far-reaching ramifications, and the judge may consider elimination, for handler assistance as a result, since there is no measure of the degree of time saved as a result of the assistance. A final decision shall consider the impact on the class and competitors as a whole, in establishing a fair judgment.
  - a handler knocks a wing on a jump as the dog is in flight over the jump or prior to jumping, and the pole falls; the judge signals a course fault for a fallen pole, as the handler has removed the opportunity to be judged on that jump; by contrast, the handler knocks a wing on the jump after the dog has cleared the jump, there is no penalty as there is no potential benefit gained or fault avoided in the performance. Such contact shall be considered "incidental" for which no penalty should be assessed.
  - a handler bumps a dog while weaving down the lines of weave poles; the judge may call a course fault for possibly missing a pole while weaving, saving time in the performance, or not being able to complete

*the poles without such contact, thus penalizing 5, adding seconds to the performance, or penalties, including possible elimination, for not performing the obstacle before continuing on the course.*

- *one or more spectators call out the sequence of the course to a competitor who has stopped momentarily on course; the judge must make a determination whether the competitor resumed their performance on their own or through the use of outside information.*

*In any case, the determination can be extremely difficult, and the nature of a penalty, if any, must weigh and balance the merits of fairness to all competitors in the class as a whole.*

*3.13 Sufficient cause may be a delay arising from an unexpected and unavoidable ring conflict due to a change in scheduling.*

*3.14 For future use.*

*3.15 This shall not preclude a handler at his or her option from leading the dog to the start line with a leash and collar or using a stop watch during a walk-through, unless otherwise prohibited by class rules. The judge or event organizer should provide for positioning of the leash and collar near the finish line or exist gate in order to expedite the competitor's exit of the ring.*

*3.16 Judges are cautioned to try to anticipate potentially unsafe or out of control conditions to terminate a round prior to the occurrence of a mishap. In some cases, the judge may instruct the handler to bypass an obstacle where the condition may be isolated to that obstacle. The expectation in a round is that the competitor is seeking to perform the course in a fluid style that will achieve success in the round. Success need not be defined necessarily by a qualifying score or placement, but in working the course from start to finish to gain a measure of their performance. By contrast, a handler who exercises caution and control casually and routinely at individual obstacles with no apparent attempt to complete the course in the allotted time may be viewed as using the round for training purposes and be immediately dismissed from the ring unless otherwise permitted in these regulations.*

*3.17 Leaving the ring is defined as a dog that has physically left the course area with his attention distracted away from its handler. This does not include a dog that has passed beneath ring ropes used to define the course area as long as the dog is continuously demonstrating attentiveness and responsiveness to its handler, or a dog that jumps the ring barriers in an effort to avoid the barrier as a result of his momentum in performance. This is contrast with the dog who jumps a ring barrier by choice or a handler works his dog out of the ring when sufficient space is available in the ring to avoid the ring barrier or to work the dog.*

*3.18 A competitor must realize that the timeliness of a query often has direct bearing on the ability of the judge to effect a proper resolution. A competitor should check their score immediately upon exiting the ring, and if not possible, as soon thereafter as possible, but not to exceed a period of 20 minutes following the round. After this time, only mathematical errors may be corrected.*

*3.19 Should timing equipment be provided that measures time to the 1/1000th of a second, the 1000th's shall not be considered in recording the score. For example, a time of 34.386 seconds shall be recorded as 34.38 seconds. It is accepted that due to the variations in types and sizes of dogs and the reliance on sensor beams that do not fill the vertical plane at the start and finish line, it cannot be determined precisely what part of the dog's body trips the beams. , that electronic timing is not so precise, and 1/100th of a second is the smallest unit of measure permitted.*

*3.20 Reasonable fault limits have been and are a necessary tool to manage entries when circumstances warrant (e.g., the day's activities are anticipated to exceed eight hours of ring time). This presumes that all other efforts to maintain efficiency are also being employed. Fault limits may be set differently for each class or class level. Examples of reasonable faults limits might include –*

- *In a masters level class, twenty fault points on course, twenty seconds over standard course time, second occurrence of a wrong course or first occurrence of a wrong course.*
- *In an Advanced level class, a fourth infraction regardless of value, or twenty fault points on course, twenty seconds over standard course time, or two wrong course penalties.*
- *In a Starters level class, four infractions of any value, twenty seconds over standard course time, thirty seconds over standard course time, or omitting two obstacles.*

*3.21 Significant hesitation as it relates to a refusal is a period of time in which doubt has been cast on the whether a dog will perform an obstacle in the continual flow of the course, indicating the dog has momentarily decided not to perform the obstacle. Practically speaking, this will be more than one second, and possibly two. The judge must consider that a dog may be visually sizing up the obstacle in preparing to perform, such as the time necessary to transition from a run to a more static position to gather and jump or begin to scale a ramp. Further, the necessity of handler commands to continue the performance may aid in the determination by the judge, though the judge may view this factor a lesser consideration than other factors. The judge's determination shall be final.*

**3.22** Turning back shall be generally defined as a reversal of flow along the course path (i.e., turning away from the correct obstacle) after the dog has begun a focused approach to the obstacle, however, it is important to note that an approach in the normal flow of the course can take on many appearances. A refusal would be called when the dog has indicated through his position and/or movement that he has considered taking the next obstacle to be performed but has not continued by virtue of significant hesitation, meaning a halt of forward progress by more than two seconds before beginning performance of the obstacle, or turning away from the obstacle in a manner indicating intent to avoid the performance of the obstacle. The judge shall be careful not to fault a dog glancing back to the handler for direction".

**3.23** Fault limits are justified on the premise that an Agility Test and Tournament Qualifier are being offered as an opportunity to earn qualification. Obviously, many things can go wrong and faults occur as a result. Beyond a certain point, however, a run can become counterproductive both for the competitor and others. So once a competitor has had an opportunity to qualify and have a reasonable effort measured by a score. For those efforts that prove problematic, fault limits provides a means to excuse them from the ring and make more time for other competitors.

Reasonable fault limits are a necessary tool to manage entries and ring operation under a variety of circumstances (e.g., the day's activities are anticipated to exceed eight hours of ring time). This presumes that all other efforts to maintain efficiency are also being employed. Fault limits may be set differently for each class or class level. Examples of reasonable faults limits might include—

- In a masters level class, twenty fault points on course, twenty seconds over standard course time, second occurrence of a wrong course or first occurrence of a wrong course.
- In an Advanced level class, a fourth infraction regardless of value, or twenty fault points on course, twenty seconds over standard course time, or two wrong course penalties.
- In a Starters level class, four infractions of any value, twenty seconds over standard course time, thirty seconds over standard course time, or omitting two obstacles.

Fault limits, along with class scheduling, allow more competitors to have an opportunity to compete and eliminates the need for entry limits, which can lead to prejudicial conduct.

**3.24** For example, a competitor dismissed from the ring for incurring twenty (20) faults would receive an "Elimination" on the score sheet. Similarly, a dog that finishes the course with ten (10) obstacle faults and ten (10) time penalties would also receive an "Elimination" because total faults are twenty (20).

**3.25** Any other cause to adjust the SCT after the first dog has run shall be submitted by the judge to the USDAA office for approval prior recalculation of scores. The submission must include a copy of the course diagram as constructed, and an explanation of the circumstances.

**3.26** This presumes that all other efforts to maintain efficiency are also being employed. There shall be no distinction as to type of faults in use of fault limits (or for determining score). For example, a competitor dismissed from the ring for incurring twenty (20) faults would receive an "Elimination" on the score sheet. Similarly, a dog that finishes the course with ten (10) obstacle faults and ten (10) time penalties would also receive an "Elimination" because total faults are twenty (20).

**3.27** Running out past an obstacle (i.e., a runout) shall be generally defined as crossing the line defined by the front plane of the next obstacle in sequence as defined by the course design, except—

- the runout line for the table shall be defined by its back edge.
- the second pole of the weave poles shall be the start of the runout line to the right side of the weave poles and the first pole shall define the start of the runout line to the left side of the weave poles. The runout lines at the weave poles shall generally be perpendicular to the course line as it approaches the weave poles.
- no runout shall be faulted at a contact obstacle where the dog runs out past the front plane of the obstacle and directly ascends the ramp without turning back or hesitating significantly (i.e., jumps on from the side of the ramp).
- the dog need not be in vicinity of the obstacle to incur the runout, as might occur when a dog is out of control on course. For more information on runouts, see the USDAA Official Course Design Guidelines.

## CHAPTER 4—ADVANCED STANDARD AGILITY CLASS

The Advanced level standard agility class presents a course design that demonstrates confidence on the obstacles and a variety of handling techniques in working the dog through a longer flowing course with more challenges and faster speed than required in the Starters class. The course will emphasize variety of patterns conducive to flow and increasing speed, while challenging response control, but have fewer technical maneuvers as may be seen in the Masters class.

Eligibility standards for entry to this class are set forth in Appendix E to these regulations. Through competition in these classes, the competitor may earn the Advanced Agility Dog® and the Advanced Standard Agility title.

### SECTION 4.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

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

### SECTION 4.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

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

### SECTION 4.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS

Course handling standards shall be the same as in the Masters class, except that a dog must commit to an obstacle with all four paws before being charged with “touching an obstacle out of sequence” or “taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.”

### SECTION 4.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS

The standard course time (SCT) and fault limits shall be established as in the Masters class, except that the SCT shall be as follows:

STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS & METERS PER SECOND)		
Jumping Height	Standard Course Time Rates	
	Operating Range	Absolute Minimum
12”	2.50 - 2.60 yds/sec	2.50 yds/sec
30cm	2.29 - 2.38 m/sec	2.29 m/sec
16”	2.60 - 2.80 yds/sec	2.60 yds/sec
40cm	2.38 - 2.56 m/sec	2.38 m/sec
22” & 26”	2.75 - 2.95 yds/sec	2.75 yds/sec
55cm & 65cm	2.52 - 2.70 m/sec	2.52 m/sec

### SECTION 4.5—STANDARD SCORING

The same standard scoring rules shall be followed as in the Masters class, except for the following:

- Running the wrong course shall be penalized twenty (20) fault points for any occurrence rather than “elimination” as in the Masters class. A judge shall cease judging until the dog is back on course. In the event an obstacle is omitted without correction, whether intentional or not, the judge shall cease judging and the dog’s score marked “elimination”.
- Refusals shall be faulted only on contact obstacles (e.g., Dog Walk, A-Frame or See-Saw);
- Three refusals shall not result in elimination unless three refusals occur on the same obstacle.



## CHAPTER 5—STARTERS STANDARD AGILITY CLASS

The Starters level standard agility class presents the basic form of the sport and is designed to assess training of the obstacles for successful performance and an understanding of basic course handling techniques that will enable a competitor to achieve higher levels.

Eligibility standards for entry to this class are set forth in Appendix E to these regulations. Through competition in these classes, the competitor may earn the Agility Dog® and the Starters Standard Agility title.

### SECTION 5.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

The same minimum obstacle standards shall be followed as in the Masters class, except that the course shall include a minimum of fourteen (14) and a maximum of sixteen (16) obstacles to be performed.

### SECTION 5.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The obstacle performance standards shall be the same as in the Masters class, except that the table shall be performed in the down position for five consecutive seconds rather than cumulative.

### SECTION 5.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS

Course handling standards shall be the same as in the Masters class, except as follows:

- A refusal on a contact obstacle after the dog has committed to an obstacle with all four paws shall not be permitted to reattempt the obstacle; the handler and dog must omit the obstacle and proceed on to the remainder of the course. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in immediate dismissal from the ring. *This rule is replaced by the following rule June 1, 2011—*
- If a dog has three unsuccessful attempts at completing a contact obstacle, the judge shall direct the handler to go to the next obstacle. Failure to comply with the directive shall result in dismissal from the ring. If a fault is incurred for a missed up contact zone during any attempt, the first occurrence of the fault is retained without regard to any subsequent successful attempt.<sup>5.01</sup>
- A dog shall be charged with running the wrong course as in the Masters class, except that a dog must commit to an obstacle with all four paws before being charged with “touching an obstacle out of sequence” or “taking an obstacle in the wrong direction” or “beginning descent”.

### SECTION 5.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS

The standard course time (SCT) and fault limits (if any) shall be established as in the Masters class except that the SCT shall be at a rate no less than 2.00 yards per second (1.83 m/sec) and shall generally be between 2.00 and 2.25 yards per second (1.83 and 2.05 m/sec). In no event shall the SCT be greater than 75 seconds.

### SECTION 5.5—STANDARD SCORING

The same standard scoring rules shall be followed as in the Masters class, except for the following:

- Running the wrong course shall be penalized five (5) fault points for any such occurrence rather than elimination as in the Masters class. A judge shall cease judging until the dog is back on course, except in the case where a single obstacle is omitted in the course sequence as a result of error, handler choice or judge’s directive (see Section 5.3). When an obstacle is omitted in the course sequence, whether intentional or not, a twenty (20) point penalty shall be assessed for the wrong course penalty rather than five (5) points, and the judge shall continue judging. In the event a second obstacle is omitted without correction, the judge shall cease judging and the dog’s score marked “elimination”.
- The weave poles shall not be penalized for faults incurred; however, failure to correct for missed poles shall be treated as an omitted obstacle.
- Refusals shall not be faulted, except as outlined in Section 5.3.

## CHAPTER 5 FOOTNOTES

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<sup>5.01</sup>An attempt shall be defined as the dog engaging the ramp as evidenced by one or more paws on the ramp, the dog jumping over the ramp, or other indication that the dog is not willing to perform under the handler’s directive. Note that “completing a contact obstacle” may be with faults. (See Section 3.2, Chapter 3.)



## CHAPTER 6—NONSTANDARD CLASSES

The nonstandard classes present a range of competitive opportunities that utilize different strategies and require a wide range of training skills to achieve a successful performance.

Eligibility standards for entry to these classes are set forth in Appendix E to these regulations. Through competition in these classes, the competitor may earn the following awards as more fully set forth in Chapter 1 (and Appendix F) of these regulations:

- Master Agility Dog®
- Masters class titles (i.e., Gamblers Master<sup>SM</sup>, Jumpers Master<sup>SM</sup>, Relay Master<sup>SM</sup> and Snooker Master<sup>SM</sup>)
- Champion class titles (i.e., Gamblers Champion<sup>SM</sup>, Jumpers Champion<sup>SM</sup>, Relay Champion<sup>SM</sup> and Snooker Champion<sup>SM</sup>)
- Agility Dog Champion®
- Bronze, Silver, Gold & Platinum Award designations on Champion class and Agility Dog Champion® titles

Qualifications in the Masters classes are accumulated for Lifetime Achievement Awards as outlined in Chapter 1.

Competitive placements in the Masters Standard classes accumulate points for annual ranking for Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup>.

### SECTION 6.1—MASTERS GAMBLERS CLASS

The purpose of the Masters Gamblers class is to demonstrate course handling strategy and a handler's distance and response control. Masters Agility Class rules as provided in Chapter 3 shall be applied for evaluation of faults and refusals, except that refusals/runouts shall apply only in performance of the Joker.

#### Rules of Play

The class shall include an opening period for point accumulation to test handler strategy immediately followed by a special challenge period called a "Joker" (or "Gamble") to demonstrate distance control, for which bonus points may be awarded.

The handler seeks to accumulate points by performing the obstacles of handler's choice in the time allotted, and the dog with the most points is the winner. In the case of a tie in points, the competitor with the fastest time shall be the winner.

#### Minimum Obstacle Requirements

A course shall meet the same minimum obstacle requirements as the Standard Agility classes, except that—

- a spread hurdle is not required.
- the table when used as a finish point shall not be counted as an obstacle in meeting the minimum obstacle requirement for the "Joker".
- when the table is used as a finish point, a refusal (including runout) of the table shall be penalized.

The standards for handling and obstacle performance shall apply as provided in Chapter 3 except as otherwise stated in this section.

#### Course Design, Point Assignments and Scoring

A course shall be designed by the judge without any overall pattern to create risk/reward alternatives for a handler in competition. In doing so, the judge may set additional performance or handling restrictions.

The judge shall assign points to the obstacles on the basis of relative difficulty as to nature and placement, giving consideration to the relative time to perform each obstacle under a variety of likely patterns that a competitor may perform. A judge may (at his discretion) add no more than

four points under the 1-3-5-7 point system or two points under the 1-2-3-5 point system to the value of any one obstacle if it is placed in a position of relative difficulty.

For certification tests, one of two point systems must be utilized for assigning points to the obstacles, as shown in the following table:

OBSTACLE GROUP	1-3-5-7 POINT SYSTEM	1-2-3-5 POINT SYSTEM
Hurdles and jumps	1 Point	1 Point
Tunnels, tire jump & less than 10 weave poles	3 Points	2 Points
Contact obstacles or 10 - 12 weave poles	5 Points	3 Points
10 - 12 weave poles or dog walk	7 Points	5 Points

The point assignments will provide a balance of risk/reward challenges on the course; however, under the 1-3-5-7 point system, in no event shall there be—

- an obstacle valued at more than seven points,
- more than one obstacle valued at more than five points,
- more than four five-point obstacles, or
- an alignment in sequence on the course of any five or seven point obstacles.

Under the 1-2-3-5 point system, in no event shall there be—

- an obstacle valued at more than five points,
- more than one obstacle valued at more than three points,
- more than four three-point obstacles, or
- an alignment in sequence on the course of any three or five point obstacles.

The starting line and Joker obstacles shall be positioned away from the five and seven point value obstacles under the 1-3-5-7 point system and away from the three and five point value obstacles under the 1-2-3-5 point system to the extent possible.

#### Point Accumulation Period

The following rules of play apply to the opening period:

- Obstacles and hurdles may be attempted any number of times in seeking to accumulate points; however, points can only be earned twice on a specific obstacle or hurdle during the “point accumulation period” (i.e., opening period).
- Any obstacle not “successfully” completed<sup>6.01</sup> prior to the end of the course time shall not be counted for point accumulation, and no points shall be awarded if an obstacle is faulted.
- Any hurdle or other obstacle that shall be displaced by the dog or handler during the performance shall be “retired” (i.e., no longer be available for points) and shall not be replaced until conclusion of the round.
- The dog may not perform any part of the Joker sequence (including the table) in either direction during the opening period, though this shall not prohibit the dog from performing the individual obstacles in the Joker for purposes of accumulating points. If an obstacle that is part of the Joker is to be performed in the opening period, an obstacle not part of the Joker must be performed immediately following performance of an obstacle that is a part of the Joker. This rule shall not preclude a handler from performing the same obstacle twice (“back to back”) unless this action is part of the Joker. Performance of any two “Joker” obstacles, one following the other, prior to the end of the initial point accumulation period shall result in disqualification<sup>6.02</sup>.
- A competitor shall be disqualified for standing idle or performing obstacles repeatedly with no potential for point accumulation in the vicinity of the approach to the Joker for purposes of awaiting the conclusion of the opening time period.

### The “Joker” (or “Gamble”) Period

A “Joker” (or “Gamble”) representing a special challenge requiring distance control by the handler shall be outlined by the judge. The design of the Joker shall include at least one, but no more than two of the three basic types listed below:

- obstacle discrimination
- contact obstacle or weave pole performance
- directional control<sup>6.03</sup>

The Joker shall consist of three or more obstacles (excluding the table when used as a finish point) across and/or through which the dog must perform without any fault in working his way to the finish line or table. A handler’s area shall be clearly defined by the judge, requiring the dog to work key elements of the Joker at a minimum distance from the handler of fifteen (15) feet and a maximum distance of twenty-four (24) feet.

Additional time shall be allotted for completion of the Joker based on the performance time that would be reasonably expected for performance of the obstacle sequence as in the Masters Agility Class. The time set for the Joker shall be a continuance of the normal course time, with minimal additional time being permitted for handler positioning for performance of the Joker.<sup>6.04</sup>

The time shall be no less than twelve (12) seconds<sup>6.05</sup> and no more than twenty (20) seconds.

The judge shall not change the time allotted for the Joker after the first dog in a class has run, unless justified as provided with respect to adjusting the SCT in Section 3.4 of these regulations.

The following rules of play apply to the Joker period:

- Judging of the Joker shall commence with the dog’s approach to the first obstacle of the defined “Joker” sequence and shall conclude upon the dog crossing the finish line (or jumping upon the table) to stop the clock.
- The timekeeper shall signal end of the opening period with an audible device while time continues to run. The timekeeper shall stop the clock when the dog crosses the finish line (or alights upon the table) to record the total course time, thus enabling the judge to determine whether the Joker was completed in the allotted time. The time measured by the timekeeper shall be the sole factor used to determine whether the “Joker” was completed in the allotted time.

### Scoring Basis and Qualification

To receive a qualifying score, the handler must successfully complete the Joker within the additional time allotment for the Joker, as well as accumulate the following number of points on the course prior to the “Joker” for the time allotted:

COURSE TIME	MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED	
	1-3-5-7 Point System	1-2-3-5 Point System
25 Seconds	18 Points	13 Points
30 Seconds	21 Points	15 Points
35 Seconds	25 Points	18 Points
40 Seconds	28 Points	20 Points
45 Seconds	32 Points	23 Points
50 Seconds	35 Points	25 Points

## SECTION 6.2—MASTERS RELAY CLASS

The Masters Relay class is to demonstrate team strategy in the performance of a course. Two or more competitors shall join together to perform a course as a team (“pair” when comprised of only two competitors, that is, two handlers and two dogs).

A team shall be comprised of two or more different competitors, *except that dogs jumping 12” or 16” may not be paired or teamed with dogs jumping 22” or 26”*. This requirement shall be replaced June 1, 2011 with “A team or pair may be comprised of dogs of same or different heights, with a limit of two heights per team, as specified in the Test Schedule. Any team with a dog in the 22” or 26” (55cm or 65cm) height divisions shall be scored using the qualification standards of the 22” and 26” (55 and 65cm) class.<sup>6.06</sup>

A relay course shall have a minimum of fifteen obstacles and shall generally follow course design guidelines as in the Masters Agility class. Each dog in a pair or team must perform at least nine obstacles in sequence as defined by the course design; however, the course shall not include the table as an obstacle to be performed, and it need not include all of the contact obstacles, but the course must include at least one contact obstacle to be performed by each competitor on a team. If the event’s Organizing Committee has restricted entry so that all dogs in a team are the same height, then the judge may design the course such that both dogs run the same course, in which case less than fifteen obstacles may be used.

A handler may hold their dog in a manner to control but not to be considered harsh or abusive while the other dog or dogs on a team are running. Team members should remain in the ring in support of their teammates, except when the judge determines that remaining in the ring during the round would significantly impede ring efficiency.

The judge shall define the area within which the baton must be passed between handlers, and the area within which the dogs must be located when the baton is passed. The baton must be handed from one handler to the next without throwing, tossing or otherwise relinquishing control of the baton until the next handler has possession.

### Scoring Basis and Qualification

A relay class shall be scored on the basis of “time plus faults”, with faults marked as in the Masters Agility class. Faults incurred are added to the team’s performance time to arrive at a time plus faults score. The handlers shall carry a baton throughout the course, passing it from one handler to the next in the designated passing area as each dog runs the course in turn. Special faults shall be assessed as follows:

- Throwing the baton or being outside the exchange area 20 faults
- Dropping the baton during the performance 10 faults

The judge shall set a “qualifying course time” for certification purposes in a manner consistent with determining the standard course time in the Masters Standard Agility class for the distance to be run by the team, considering the effect on time of the nature and number of obstacles that may have been omitted from a “regular” course or that may be performed twice. A judge shall not modify the qualifying course time after the first team in a class has run unless justified as set forth in Section 3.4 of these regulations.

The team’s score (time with faults added) must be equal to or less than the “qualifying course time” in order to qualify for titling purposes.<sup>6.07</sup> The team with the lowest score is the winner.

## SECTION 6.3—MASTERS JUMPERS CLASS

The purpose of the Jumpers class shall be the demonstration of a competitor’s training and competitive skills on a jumping course, which demonstrates a dog’s jumping ability.

### Minimum Obstacle Requirements

The course shall offer between seventeen (17) and twenty (20) obstacles, which shall be comprised predominantly of displaceable jumps, hurdles and a minimum of three spread hurdles, of which at least one is classified as an extended spread. A limited number of tunnels and non-displaceable hurdles (not to exceed 20% of the course or such lesser limit as may be imposed

through policy statements on course design) and decoy jumps may also be utilized. The course design will feature maneuverability in a fluid working habit.

Standard Course Time and Faults

The jumpers class shall be scored with faults as in the Masters Standard Agility class and be run against a standard course time, which shall be calculated based upon an evaluation of distance, surface conditions, course design and other environmental factors utilizing rates as set forth in the following table:

STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS & METERS PER SECOND)		
Jumping Height	Standard Course Time Rates	
	Operating Range	Absolute Minimum
12"	3.50 – 3.75 yds/sec	3.50 yds/sec
30cm	3.20 - 3.43 /sec	3.20 m/sec
16"	3.75 - 4.00 yds/sec	3.75 yds/sec
40cm	3.43 – 3.65 m/sec	3.43 m/sec
22" & 26"	4.00 – 4.25 yds/sec	4.00 yds/sec
55cm & 65cm	3.65 – 3.88 m/sec	3.65 m/sec

The judge shall not change the SCT after the first dog in a class has run, unless justified as set forth in Section 3.4 of these regulations.

A zero fault round is a qualifying score for titling purposes. The competitor with the least number of faults or if a tie, the fastest time, is the winner.

**SECTION 6.4—MASTERS SNOOKER CLASS**

The purpose of the Snooker class is to further demonstrate a competitor’s versatility in assessing and applying strategy in competition. The course and class rules are derived from the billiard game of snooker.

Course Construction

The course shall include a minimum of nine (9) obstacles that are assigned color and point values, as follows:

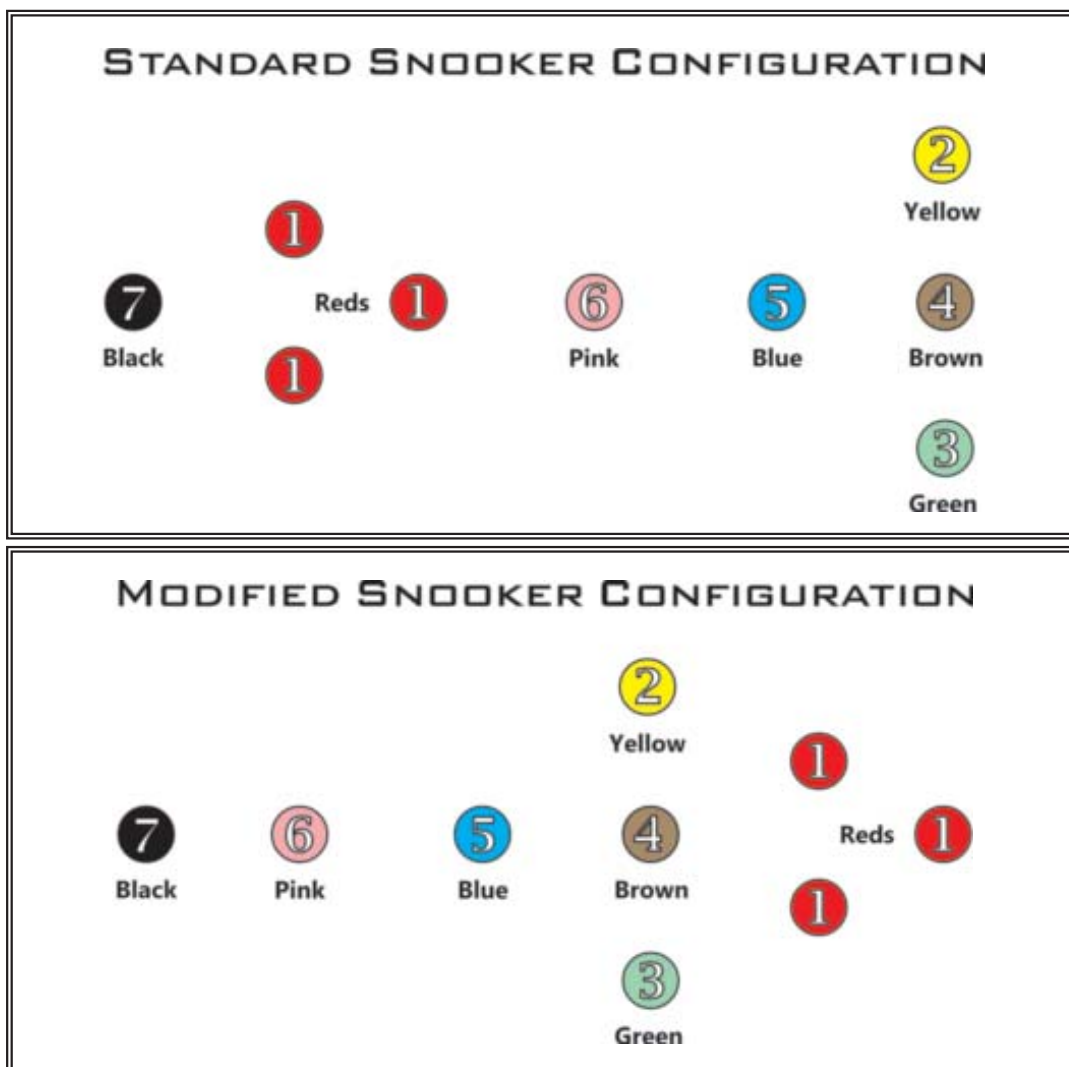
COLOR	VALUE
Red	1 point
Yellow	2 points
Green	3 points
Brown	4 points
Blue	5 points
Pink	6 points
Black	7 points

The “Red” obstacles shall be displaceable hurdles.

The course shall be constructed with the obstacles placed in one of six different general configurations, carrying time parameters as set forth in the following table:

45 TO 55 SECONDS	50 TO 60 SECONDS
Standard snooker configuration (“reds” in snooker position)	Modified snooker configuration (“reds” positioned away from “pink” and “black”)
Only three of four or more “reds” are required	Course with four+ “reds”
Only jumps and tunnels are used	Two or more “color” combinations involving contact obstacles and/or weave poles

The following diagrams show the theoretical position of the obstacles for the “Standard” and “Modified” Snooker Configurations.



A “combination” is a series of two or more obstacles (including hurdles) that are to be performed and scored as a single obstacle. Each element (i.e., obstacle) in the combination shall be scored individually, except that refusals shall not be penalized in the opening period. The sequence and direction of performance of each element shall be specified by the judge. If a standard fault occurs (including taking obstacles out of sequence or in the wrong direction), no points shall be awarded for performance of the combination; however, performance of the com-



ination shall not be considered complete until each element has been performed in the direction prescribed.

The course time used will be determined by the judge based on an evaluation of the course's degree of difficulty given the specific obstacle placement and point assignments and recognizing the additional time that may be required for competitors to employ different strategies on the course.

The judge shall not change the time allotted for scoring points after the first dog in a class has run, unless justified as set forth with respect to SCT in Section 3.4 of these regulations.

### The Snooker Sequence

The obstacles must be performed in snooker order, which permits a maximum of 51 points to be accumulated when three "red" obstacles are used. The handler and dog team shall perform the obstacles as set forth in an opening and closing sequence during the course time allotted. An obstacle has been selected for performance in the opening sequence if the dog has touched or crossed the obstacle (e.g., placing a paw on a ramp, jumping over a ramp of the dog walk, passing through the tire frame or crossing the line of weave poles).

The "opening sequence" consists of a minimum of six (6) obstacles (permitting a maximum of 24 points when three "Red" obstacles are used) that must be taken in the following order:

Red - Color - Red - Color - Red - Color<sup>6.08</sup>

In performance of this opening sequence, the following rules must be observed:

- A "red" must be performed successfully before a color may be taken.
- A "red" may be taken only once whether faulted or successfully performed.
- No points are awarded if an obstacle or hurdle is faulted.
- The same or different "color" may be taken each time a color is to be taken.

Scoring ceases during the opening sequence if any one of the following occurs:

- Red faulted - color
- Red not faulted - another or same red
- Red - color - color
- Red - color - same red
- Time expires

A Color obstacle must be completed as defined for performance in Chapter 3 to have been performed.

Once the opening sequence has been completed, the dog and handler move directly into the "closing sequence" that consists of six (6) color obstacles with a maximum of value of 27 points. These obstacles must be taken in the following order:



**Yellow**



**Green**



**Brown**



**Blue**



**Pink**



**Black**

Scoring ceases during the closing sequence if any one of the following occurs:

- an obstacle is faulted
- the sequence is broken
- time expires

Refusals shall be assessed only during the closing sequence. The table may be used as a start and/or finish line.

### Qualification

A minimum of thirty-seven (37) points is required in order to earn a qualifying score. In addition, for purposes of qualification towards the Snooker Master<sup>SM</sup> title, three of the five qualifying scores must place in the top 15% of the class ("Super Q") based on the number of dogs actual-

ly competing in each jump height class; that is, 12", 16", 22" or 26" (30cm, 40cm, 55cm or 65 cm). Any fractional number shall be rounded up to the next whole number.<sup>6.09</sup>

In the event there are less than seven dogs competing in the 22" or 26" (55cm or 65cm) class or less than five dogs competing in the 12" or 16" (30cm or 40cm) class, the class shall be combined with another height class for determination of placement qualification (i.e., dogs jumping 12" combine with dogs jumping 16", or dogs jumping 22" combine with dogs jumping 26"). If a combined class has fewer than seven dogs jumping 22" and 26" (55cm and 65cm), or fewer than five (5) dogs jumping 12" and 16" (30cm and 40cm) in competition, the first place dog in each combined division shall receive placement qualification provided at least two dogs competed in the class and the first place dog received at least thirty-seven 37 points.

The Class Running Order

It is presumed that all entries have been randomly drawn and ordered within each height class (see Section 2.3). In the event that entries require that two jump heights must be combined, a random draw shall be made to determine what height class shall run first (i.e., 12" or 16" (30cm or 40cm) and 22" or 26" (55cm or 65cm). The running order shall be strictly adhered to except when a handler is running more than one dog with a potential conflict as defined in Section 3.3. In anticipation of such conflict, the handler may request moving their first dog listed in the running order up or when not possible, their last dog back in the running order such that the dogs may be separated by no more than ten (10) dogs.

**SECTION 6.5—ADVANCED NONSTANDARD CLASSES**

Advanced rules as set forth in Chapter 4 shall be applied in determination of performance and scoring of obstacles as applicable. Otherwise, all non-standard class criteria shall conform to the description of the Masters level as set forth in this chapter for each class, except for special rules set forth in this section.

Eligibility standards for entry to these classes are set forth in Appendix E to these regulations. Through competition in these classes, the competitor may earn the following awards as more fully set forth in Chapter 1 of these regulations:

- Advanced Agility Dog®
- Advanced class title (i.e., Advanced Gamblers, Advanced Jumper, Advanced Relay and Advanced Snooker titles)

Advanced Gamblers Class

- The distance between the handler and key elements of the Joker shall be no less than nine (9) feet (or 2.743 meters) instead of fifteen (15) feet (or 4.572 meters).
- The design of the Joker shall include no more than one of the three basic types.

Advanced Relay Class

- No additional or special rules.

Advanced Jumpers Class

- The SCT shall be determined utilizing the following rates:

<b>JUMPERS STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b>		
<b>Jumping Height</b>	<b>Standard Course Time Rates</b>	
	<b>Operating Range</b>	<b>Absolute Minimum</b>
<b>12"</b>	<b>3.00 – 3.50 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.00 yds/sec</b>
30cm	2.75 - 3.20 m/sec	2.75 m/sec
<b>16"</b>	<b>3.25 - 3.75 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.00 yds/sec</b>
40cm	2.95 – 3.40 m/sec	2.75 m/sec
<b>22" &amp; 26"</b>	<b>3.75 – 4.00 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.50 yds/sec</b>
55cm & 65cm	3.40 – 3.65 m/sec	3.20 m/sec

### Advanced Snooker Class

A dog shall not be required to place in the top 15% but must accumulate a minimum of 37 points to earn a qualifying score.<sup>6.10</sup>

## **SECTION 6.6—STARTERS NONSTANDARD CLASSES**

Starters rules as set forth in Chapter 5 shall be applied in determination of performance and scoring of obstacles as applicable. Otherwise, all non-standard class criteria shall conform to the description of the Masters level as set forth in this chapter for each class, except for special rules set forth in this section.

Eligibility standards for entry to these classes are set forth in Appendix E to these regulations. Through competition in these classes, the competitor may earn the following awards as more fully set forth in Appendix F to the regulations:

- Agility Dog®
- Starters class title (i.e., Starters Gamblers, Starters Jumper, Starters Relay and Starters Snooker titles)

### Starters Gamblers Class

- The design of the Joker shall require either obstacle discrimination or directional control.
- The distance between the handler and key elements of the Joker shall be no less than nine (9) feet (2.743 meters) instead of fifteen (15) feet (4.572 meters)
- To receive a qualifying score, the handler must successfully complete the Joker within the time allotment as well as accumulate the following number of points in the opening period for point accumulation, which is three (3) points less than shown in Section 6.1 for the Masters level under the 1-3-5-7 point system and two (2) points less under the 1-2-3-5 point system. (See Chapter 10, Section 10.6 for chart.) This exception expires effective January 1, 2012, after which the point requirement in the Starters Gamblers class shall meet the requirements as set forth in section 6.1.

### Starters Relay Class

- The number of obstacles to be performed by each competitor shall be a minimum of seven (7) instead of nine (9).
- An omission of an obstacle shall result in elimination instead of being scored 20 fault points.

### Starters Jumpers Class

- The course shall include a minimum of fourteen (14) obstacles and a maximum of sixteen (16) obstacles to be performed, including only two spread hurdles, one of which is classified as an extended spread.
- The SCT shall be determined utilizing the following rates:

<b>JUMPERS STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b>		
<b>Jumping Height</b>	<b>Standard Course Time Rates</b>	
	<b>Operating Range</b>	<b>Absolute Minimum</b>
<b>12"</b>	<b>3.00 – 3.25 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.00 yds/sec</b>
30cm	2.75 - 2.97 m/sec	2.75 m/sec
<b>16"</b>	<b>3.25 - 3.50 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.25 yds/sec</b>
40cm	2.95 – 3.20 m/sec	2.95 m/sec
<b>22" &amp; 26"</b>	<b>3.50 – 3.75 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.50 yds/sec</b>
55cm & 65cm	3.20 – 3.65 m/sec	3.20 m/sec

### Starters Snooker Class

- A dog shall not be required to place in the top 15% but must accumulate a minimum of 37 points to earn a qualifying score.<sup>6.10</sup>

- The course shall be constructed with the obstacles placed in one of four (4) different general configurations instead of six (6), as shown below:

<b>STARTERS SNOOKER COURSE CONFIGURATIONS<sup>6.11</sup></b>
Standard snooker configuration (3 “reds” positioned near the “black” and “pink”)
Modified snooker configuration (3 “reds” positioned near “yellow”, “green” and brown”)
A single “color” combination involving contact obstacles and/or weave poles
Only jumps and tunnels are used

- The minimum course time shall be 50 seconds and a maximum of 60 seconds.

### **SECTION 6.7—OTHER CLASSES**

Events may include nonstandard classes other than those described in this Chapter, provided such classes are listed and described on the event application and test schedule. The description should define entry eligibility rules, scoring method, description of the course and its objectives, as well as any awards associated with the class. Also, the description must clearly state that the class is not being held for certification purposes and that judge’s discretion shall be applied to the extent applicable in establishing performance rules for the class where specific rules for the class are not otherwise stipulated. Such classes are subject to USDAA approval.<sup>6.12</sup>

Gamblers, Snooker, Jumpers and Pairs or Team Relay may be held for other than for certification purposes under rules other than those specified in this chapter. In such cases, the classes shall be listed on the event application along with a complete description<sup>6.12</sup> of the class and designated as “Non-titling” in the Test Schedule.

## CHAPTER 6 FOOTNOTES

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6.01 *Successfully completed means that an obstacle has been performed past the point at which a penalty may occur and that the dog has for all intents and purposes completed the obstacle. Examples include—*

- *A dog is on the a-frame and has touched the contact zone on the down ramp, but has not left the ramp.*
- *A dog is on the see-saw and has tilted the plank to the ground and touched the contact, but has not left the ramp.*
- *A dog is passing through the tire as time expires, and the majority of the dog's body has exited the tire such that completion without fault is assured.*
- *A dog is passing through a tunnel as time expires, and the majority of the dog's body has exited the tunnel such that a refusal is no longer possible and completion without fault is assured. A judge may employ the one-paw or four-paw criteria specified in Chapters 3, 4 or 5 for determining that the tunnel has been completed.*

6.02 *A distinction should be made between "disqualification" and "elimination". In this case, competitor may continue to accumulate points in the opening period as defined for competitive purposes. The judge in setting the discretionary rules for the class may specify whether points will be awarded for disqualifying acts.*

6.03 *Directional control may mean either to work a dog through a sequence with change of direction, or in the case of the Starters or Performance Level 1 course, simply maintaining a direction of flow through a sequence, evidencing the dog's confidence to work away from its handler.*

6.04 *This presents the handler with an additional stratagem, requiring that the handler reasonably estimate the end of the course time so that they may be in close proximity to the Joker obstacles.*

6.05 *Regulation changed from ten (10) seconds to twelve (12) seconds on March 30, 2007.*

6.06 *In titling classes, it is customary, though not required, that competitors run in pairs (two-dog/handler teams). An event's Organizing Committee or Event Secretary may determine whether relay classes will be presented awards based upon jump height, jumping division (small versus large), or overall (i.e., all heights competing against each other). This shall be set forth in the Test Schedule.*

*"Draw" entries are permissible, meaning that an individual competitor may enter a relay class with their dog without a teammate.*

*Reassignment of draw competitors may be made pursuant to policy prior to or at the event in order to accommodate "incomplete teams" (i.e., a partial team where one team mate is unable to run or insufficient number of entries were received to accommodate assignment of complete teams). In cases where draw entries and/or reassignments need to be managed, the Event Secretary shall have full discretion to resolve issues within the scope of current policy to serve the best interest of the sport. Draw entrants, and entrants whose teammate(s) is(are) unable or unwilling to compete are eligible to compete at the pleasure of the Event Secretary and Event Organizing Committee without recourse.*

6.07 *A competitor running a second time in a class for accommodation purposes (see footnote 6.06) may not receive a qualifying score for their accommodating performance.*

6.08 *Anytime a "Color" obstacle is referenced in Snooker, it means a color other than Red.*

6.09 *For example, a class of fifteen dogs shall result in a calculation of three dogs eligible for placement qualification ( $15\% \times 15 = 2.25$  rounded up to 3.00).*

6.10 *With the elimination of the placement requirement, less emphasis is placed on the randomization of the running order. The requirement to randomized is removed, but is encouraged.*

6.11 *Snooker configurations for Starters are limited to enable the competitor to become proficient at basic layouts before undertaking the more strategic elements of the game. As an example, "3 of 4 Reds" is different from "3 Reds" in that more course strategies become available through an optional fourth position of a Red. So the configurations for Starters are limited to three Reds on course.*

6.12 *Examples of such classes are knockout, boxed pairs, time gamble, pairs pursuit, etc. Other nonstandard classes are encouraged to be divided by performance level (i.e., Starters, Advanced and Masters) when possible to provide a competitive class commensurate with the experience level of competitors.*

6.13 *A complete description for Other Classes may include a stipulation that certain provisions are at the discretion of the judge. The judge would then provide these stipulations in their course briefing on event day.*

## CHAPTER 7—PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

The Performance Program provides the opportunity for dogs and handlers to compete through three progressive competition levels at performance standards set forth in this Chapter. Classes include Performance Standard, Performance Gamblers, Performance Jumpers and Performance Snooker. Each class shall be offered at three levels—Level I, Level II and Level III—and are run on Championship courses meeting Starters, Advanced and Masters level criteria, respectively, as set forth in Chapter 2 through 6, with performance standards modified as set forth in this Chapter.

Eligibility standards for entry to these classes are set forth in Appendix E to these regulations. Through competition in these classes, the competitor may earn the following awards as more fully set forth in Appendix F of these regulations:

- Performance Dog<sup>SM</sup>
- Performance Dog<sup>SM</sup>
- Performance Dog<sup>SM</sup>
- Performance class titles in Standard, Gamblers, Jumpers, and Snooker
- Performance Champion titles in Standard, Gamblers, Jumpers, Snooker and tournament competition
- Performance Dog Champion<sup>SM</sup>
- Lifetime Achievement Awards (non-core classes)
- Performance Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> Awards (Performance III classes)
- Bronze, Silver, Gold & Platinum Award designations on Performance Champion titles

### SECTION 7.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

The same minimum obstacle requirements shall be followed as established in Chapters 2 through 6, except that a spread hurdle of any type shall not be used.

### SECTION 7.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The obstacle performance standards shall be followed as established in Chapters 2 through 6, except that the A-frame shall measure 104 degrees at the apex, and the jumping heights of dogs shall be as follows:

JUMPING/HEIGHT STANDARDS			
Dog's Height @ Withers	Jump Height	Table Height	Long Jump Span
Over 21" (53cm)	22" (55cm)	16" (40cm)	48" (122cm)
21" (53cm) & under, but over 16" (40cm)	16" (40cm)	16" (40cm)	36" (92cm)
16" (40cm) & under, but over 12" (30cm)	12" (30cm)	12" (30cm)	24" (61cm) <sup>7.03</sup>
12" (30cm) & under	8" (20cm)	12" (30cm)	12" (30cm)

### SECTION 7.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS

Course handling standards shall be the same as established in Chapters 3 through 5 in the Standard Agility classes for each level and in Chapter 6 in the Nonstandard Agility classes for each level.



#### **SECTION 7.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS**

The standard course times (SCT) and fault limits (if any) as set forth in Chapters 3 – 6 for the Starters, Advanced and Masters level in the Championship Program shall be established for Level I, Level II and Level III, respectively, in the Performance Program, except that the SCT shall be increased by three (3) seconds for the Standard and Jumpers classes and the Qualifying Course Time in the Relay class. In no event shall the SCT be greater than 75 seconds.

The course time allocated in Levels I, II and III in the Gamblers and Snooker Performance classes shall be the same as determined pursuant to Chapter 6 for the Starters, Advanced and Masters levels in the Championship Program, except that the judge may allow up to an additional (3) seconds for the gamble (or Joker) performance time and for the Snooker course time; however, the time allocated to the gamble shall not exceed twenty-two (22) seconds and the Snooker performance course time shall not exceed sixty-two (62) seconds.

#### **SECTION 7.5—STANDARD SCORING**

The same standard scoring rules as set forth in Chapters 3 through 6 for the Starters, Advanced and Masters levels in the Championship Program shall be followed in the Performance Program for Level I, Level II and Level III, respectively.

#### **SECTION 7.6—SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

A dog may not be entered in a combination of Championship Program, Performance and Veterans classes at the same event, unless a group has specified in the Agility Test Schedule that this practice will be permitted for the event and that the group has made provisions to assure proper program and class height entry.<sup>7.01</sup>

In any case, a dog may not be entered in the same class in the Championship Program, Performance Program and/or Veterans Program at the same event. For example, a dog may not be entered in both Level I Standard and Starters Standard, or in tournament competition, Grand Prix and Performance Grand Prix).<sup>7.02</sup>

Other restrictions on entry in multiple programs may be established through tournament regulations or official USDAA policy statements.

### **CHAPTER 7 FOOTNOTES**

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*7.01 Such provisions should include an entry form designed to ensure that the dog is only entered in only one program for a single class, or alternatively a group may require that a separate entry form be utilized for each Program and that they be submitted together at time of entry. Other restrictions on entry, if any, shall be set forth in the Test Schedule pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures.*

*7.02 A separate entry form should be utilized to assure entry to the proper height class when also entering Championship Program classes (including tournaments when possible) if the entry form does not provide for designating different heights for each class.*

*7.03 Span effective June 1, 2011. Span prior to June 1 is 20" or 50.8cm. See Appendix A for obstacle construction notes.*

## **CHAPTER 8—JUNIOR HANDLER PROGRAM**

The USDAA Junior Handler Program is for children eighteen years of age and younger. It was designed to encourage youth involvement in the sport of dog agility as a fun, recreational family sport and to promote responsible pet ownership. Four progressive levels of competition are offered to foster advancement in training and to provide recognition for junior handler accomplishments in dog agility – the Beginners, Elementary, Intermediate and Senior levels.

### **SECTION 8.1—PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

USDAA sanctioned junior handler agility tests may be held by USDAA® member groups or by approved children's dog training organizations upon filing of application for license of an Agility Test under the Junior Handler Program. These tests may be judged by a USDAA® approved judge; however, due to the more simplistic nature of the junior handler program, these classes may be judged by a USDAA "approved" person who has sufficient experience to enable them to competently perform judging responsibilities in this program, but who is not listed on the USDAA Approved Judges List. Such persons should –

- be active in USDAA events for a period of three years or more
- have titled in the regular agility program at one or more levels
- have attended a USDAA judge's clinic, or
- have such other experience that would indicate a working knowledge and ability to fulfill judging responsibilities.

Dogs and junior handler may compete in the Junior Handler Program without regard to their accomplishments in other agility classes. A junior handler need not be the owner of the dog; however, a dog and junior handler must be registered as a team in order to participate in the Junior Handler Program. A dog may be registered with more than one handler, but only the handler who has entered the dog under their team registration number may handle the dog, since accomplishments are measured and awarded to the dog and handler as a team. A dog shall not be permitted to be entered on the same day in the same class with two different handlers.

Scoring in the Junior Handler Program follows the schedule of faults as approved for the Starters class in Chapter 5 of these rules and regulations, which include faults for displacing poles from hurdles, failure to touch yellow zones on contact obstacles, jumping on and off of the table and failure to clear the span of the long jump. A description of course handling rules is included in Section 3.3 and 5.3 of the rules. In addition, the following rules will apply:

- Dogs may compete on leash, using a "buckle" collar in the Beginners class. The election to use a leash must be designated on the entry form for the test. In the Elementary class, the dog is required to be shown off leash, but may wear a buckle collar. Dogs must be shown off-leash and without a collar in the Intermediate and Senior classes.
- Five fault points are assessed in the Beginners class for each occurrence of pulling, tugging or otherwise aiding or hindering the dog's performance with the leash. Excessive use of the leash shall result in elimination and immediate dismissal from the ring.
- Jumping heights are the same as set forth for the Performance Program in Chapter 7 (i.e., 8", 12", 16" and 22" or in metrics, 20cm, 30cm, 40cm and 55cm). Beginners competing on leash shall jump a maximum height of 16" (40cm). All jumps shall have poles or planks that shall be fully displaceable. The handler shall not be permitted to jump over the jumps with the dog.
- In the event there are three (3) refusals at any obstacle, the judge shall direct the handler to go on to the next obstacle.
- To assure that junior handlers have a clear understanding of the rules, the USDAA® Junior Handler Representative shall give a detailed briefing regarding performance, scoring practices and ring sportsmanship.

Official USDAA junior handler entry forms are required to be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian. Junior handlers entered in the Beginners class must complete an eight to ten

question examination, and items missed on the examination must be reviewed prior to or during the judge's briefing. The examination may be included with the entry form, or alternatively, the examination may be given the morning of the agility test.

Performance awards shall be awarded at three levels –

- the gold level, for performances yielding five or fewer faults
- the silver level, for those with fifteen or less, but more than five faults
- the bronze level, for those with more than fifteen faults

Zero fault rounds shall be awarded the maroon qualifying ribbon or rosette as provided in Section 2.7 of these rules and regulations. Competitive placement awards shall not be made.

## **SECTION 8.2—CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

### Beginners Class

Dog and handler teams that have not previously earned the JH Beginners Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate are eligible for entry into this class. Completion of one round in this class within the stipulated time without fault shall earn the USDAA's JH Beginners Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate of accomplishment.

The obstacle course shall be comprised of ten (10) obstacles set in a simple horse shoe or "M" design. The following Standard Agility obstacles and related modifications shall be used as follows:

- A-Frame (apex at 120 degrees or approximately 4'6" or 137cm)
- Table at 12" (30cm) for all dogs (to be performed in the down position for five cumulative seconds)
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Six Hurdles (wings, if any, should be no more than 18" or 46cm in width)

The standard course time shall be 60 seconds.

### Elementary Class

Dog and handler teams having earned the JH Beginners Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate but not having earned the JH Elementary<sup>SM</sup> certificate are eligible for entry to this class. Completion of two rounds in this class in the stipulated time without fault shall earn the JH Elementary Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate of accomplishment.

The obstacle course shall be comprised of ten obstacles set in a simple horse shoe or simple "M" design. The same agility obstacles and related modifications shall be used as in the Beginners class, except that the A-frame shall measure 112.5 degrees or approximately five (5) feet (155cm) at the apex.

The standard course time shall be the same as in the Beginners class, set at 60 seconds.

### Intermediate Class

Dog and handler teams having earned the JH Elementary Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate but not having earned the JH Intermediate<sup>SM</sup> certificate are eligible for entry to this class. Completion of three rounds in this class in the stipulated time without fault shall earn the JH Intermediate Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate of accomplishment.

Intermediate class courses shall be of simple design, being slightly more challenging than a figure of "8", and shall include twelve (12) to fourteen (14) obstacles as follows:

- A-Frame (apex at 104 degrees or approximately 5'6" or 170cm)
- Dog Walk (a standard dog walk as described in Appendix A, or alternatively, a dog walk with elevation of no less than 3'0" (92cm) and planks of no less than 7'0" (214cm) in length)
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Short set of weave poles (five or six)

- Table at 12" for dogs jumping 8" and 12", and at 16" for dogs jumping 16" and 22" (or in metrics, 30cm for dogs jumping 30cm and 40cm, and at 40cm for dogs jumping 40cm and 55cm); the table to be performed in the down position for five consecutive seconds
- Long Jump (see Appendix A for presentation using Performance Program standards)
- Tire Jump
- Four to six hurdles

The standard course time shall be 75 seconds.

### Senior Class

Dog and handler teams having earned the JH Intermediate Agility<sup>SM</sup> are eligible for entry to this class. Completion of three rounds in this class in the stipulated time without fault shall earn the JH Senior Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate of accomplishment.

The courses shall be of simple design, being slightly more challenging than a figure of "8", and shall include thirteen (13) to fifteen (15) obstacles with modifications as follows:

- A-Frame (apex at 104 degrees or approximately 5'6" or 170cm)
- Dog Walk (a standard dog walk as described in Appendix A, or alternatively, a dog walk with elevation of no less than 3'0" (92cm) and planks of no less than 7'0" (214cm) in length)
- See-saw
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Short set of weave poles (five or six)
- Table at 12" for dogs jumping 8" and 12", and at 16" for dogs jumping 16" and 22" (and in metrics, at 30cm for dogs jumping 20cm and 30cm, and at 40cm for dogs jumping 40cm and 55cm); the table to be performed in the down position for five consecutive seconds
- Long Jump
- Tire Jump
- Four to six hurdles

The standard course time shall be computed at the rate of two yards per second not to exceed 75 seconds

### **SECTION 8.3—SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

When desired, the obstacles may be set up in a sequential pattern at the test site prior to the time needed to construct the test course to permit dogs entered only in the beginners and elementary junior handler classes to become familiar with obstacles to be used in the test. This familiarization period must be under supervision of ring personnel. In no circumstance shall more than eight obstacles be permitted.

During familiarization the handlers and dogs shall be admitted to the obstacles one at a time to maintain an orderly progression. Handlers shall progress through the sequence, being permitted to take no obstacle more than twice. No training shall be permitted by competitors during this period. The obstacles shall not be set up in the agility test course sequence or such sequence that may resemble the test course attributes. Such period shall conclude a reasonable time prior to the announced starting time of the first scheduled class in the ring in which the familiarization is conducted to enable the ring to be set for competition and to remain on schedule.

When Junior Handler Program classes are offered on more than one day of an event, entrants who complete a level by earning a qualifying score on one day should be permitted, though not required, to move up to the next level of the class on the following day.

## CHAPTER 9—VETERANS PROGRAM (EFFECTIVE 3/1/2011)

**Purpose:** 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 those in USDAA's other programs with adjustments to equipment configuration and course times appropriate for a canine athlete of advancing age.

**Eligibility:** A Veterans level class is open to a competitor with any dog that is at least eight (8) years of age.<sup>9.01</sup> 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.

**Titles & Awards:** The Veterans Program provides for title certification in a single level of competition in standard, gamblers, jumpers and snooker. Five (5) qualifications<sup>9.02</sup> in each class will count toward the following individual class Veterans titles and a Veterans versatility title (earning all four individual class titles):

TITLE	QUALIFYING SCORES REQUIRED	REQUIRED NO. OF JUDGES
Veteran Standard Dog	5	1
Veteran Jumpers Dog	5	1
Veteran Gamblers Dog	5	1
Veteran Snooker Dog	5	1
Veteran Versatility Dog	Each individual class title earned	1

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.

Qualifications shall all count toward non-core Lifetime Achievement Award requirements (i.e., total number of qualifications only).

### SECTION 9.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS:

The Veterans class, when offered, shall be conducted on a Masters level course with the following modifications:

- Obstacles shall be set according to the following levels:

DOG'S HEIGHT @ WITHERS	JUMPS/HURDLES*	LONG JUMP**	A-FRAME	TABLE
12" (30.48cm) or less	4" (10cm)	6"(15cm)**	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)
16" (40.64cm) or less	8" (20cm)	12" (30cm)	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)
21" (53.34cm) or less	12" (30cm)	24" (60cm)	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)
Over 21" (53.34cm)	16" (40cm)	36" (91cm)	112.5° (app. 5'0" or 152cm)	12" (30cm)

*\*If a jump or hurdle does not accommodate setting of a 4" (10cm) bar, then the bars may be set with one end of each pole at 8" (20cm) and the other end resting on the ground, to form crossing bars wherein the mid-point of the bars is approximately 4" (10cm); the tire jump should be set at the lowest height possible or may be replaced with a single hurdle (or removed) at the discretion of the judge.*

*\*\*The presentation of the Long Jump shall follow the standards set forth in Appendix A.*

- Spread hurdles shall be set as if a single hurdle, or may be replaced with a single hurdle at the discretion of the judge.
- Dogs must jump the height designated for their classification in this program.

### SECTION 9.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The obstacle performance standards shall be the same as in the Masters classes (see Chapter 3).

### SECTION 9.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS

Course handling standards shall be the same as in the Masters classes (see Chapter 3).

### SECTION 9.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME AND NON-STANDARD CLASS TIME STANDARDS

- The Standard Course Time (SCT) in Standard and Jumpers classes shall be set at six (6) seconds more than the SCT set for the corresponding height class in the Championship Program (see Chapter 3).
- In Gamblers, the number of qualifying points shall be reduced by three (3) points in the 1-3-5-7 point system and two (2) points in the 1-2-3-5 point system, as follows:

COURSE TIME	MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED	
	1-3-5-7 Point System	1-2-3-5 Point System
25 Seconds	15 Points	11 Points
30 Seconds	18 Points	13 Points
35 Seconds	22 Points	16 Points
40 Seconds	25 Points	18 Points
45 Seconds	29 Points	21 Points
50 Seconds	32 Points	23 Points

Up to six (6) seconds may added to the joker time period as allowed in the Championship program for the corresponding height class; the maximum allowable time for the joker/gamble is twenty-five (25) seconds.

- In Snooker, the total time allowed shall be six (6) seconds more than time allowed in the Championship Program for the corresponding height class; the maximum course time allowable is sixty-five (65) seconds.

### SECTION 9.5—STANDARD SCORING

The Veterans classes shall be scored pursuant to Masters class rules (see Chapter 3).

## CHAPTER 9 FOOTNOTES

9.01 *Previous experience in the sport sufficient to establish proficiency and confidence in performance is strongly encouraged, as the Program is based upon the Masters level.*

9.02 *There is no multiple judge requirement for these titles.*



## CHAPTER 10—INTRO PROGRAM (EFFECTIVE 8/1/2011)

**Purpose:** The Intro program is designed to help new competitors and dogs get started in dog agility by measuring accomplishments in the early stages of training. Performance standards in the Intro program are based upon those in USDAA's other classes with adjustments to equipment configuration and course times provided in this chapter.

**Eligibility:** Competitors with dogs that are at least fourteen (14) months of age and upon which have not earned titles in the Championship, Performance or Veterans Program are eligible to earn titles under this program.<sup>10.01</sup>

**Titles & Awards:** The Intro program provides title qualifications in a single level of competition in Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, and Snooker, and will count toward the following individual Intro class titles:

TITLE	QUALIFYING SCORES REQUIRED	REQUIRED NO. OF JUDGES
Intro Standard Dog*	3	1
Intro Jumpers Dog*	3	1
Intro Gamblers Dog*	3	1
Intro Snooker Dog*	3	1
Intro Versatility Dog	3 Standard, 1 Jumpers, 1 Gamblers, 1 Snooker	1

*\*Bronze, Silver and Gold designations may be earned on each of the class titles above by earning a total of 6, 9 and 12 qualifications in each class, respectively.*

**Events:** Affiliated Groups have the option of offering the Intro Program at regular sanctioned events (i.e., those where Championship and Performance Program classes are offered) or by holding separate Intro Program Only ("IPO") events. Intro Groups may be licensed to hold IPO events.<sup>10.02</sup> (In this Chapter, reference to "Group" or "Groups" means either an Affiliated Group or Intro Group, or both).

When held in conjunction with regular sanctioned events, rules and policies relative to those events shall apply *except that competitors may enter the Intro Program classes "For Exhibition Only" (FEO) provided they are not entered in the same class in another program on the same day.* Any toys used must not be a potential distraction to other rings either audibly or by throwing or tossing it in vicinity of other rings.

When held as a separate IPO event, rules and policies for conduct of an event may be relaxed as follows:

- The minimum square footage for an Intro Program performance ring is 3,200 square feet with no side of the ring less than approximately 40 feet.<sup>10.03</sup>
- The rule for training within 24 hours of an event is waived.<sup>10.04</sup>
- "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 IPO event is held the day before a sanctioned event on the show site.
- Competitors with dogs that have earned one or more titles in the Championship, Performance and/or Veterans Programs may enter the Intro classes FEO and are ineligible for qualification, prizes and awards. Competitors running FEO dogs may use toys in the ring (no food or treats of any kind are allowed).
- The event may be judged by a USDAA® approved judge or alternatively by a USDAA "approved" person who has sufficient experience to enable them to competently perform judging responsibilities. Such a person should –
  - be active in USDAA events for a period of three years or more,
  - have titled in the regular agility program at one or more levels,
  - have attended a USDAA judge's clinic, or

- have such other experience that would indicate a working knowledge and ability to fulfill judging responsibilities
- *Intro Program classes may be offered the day before or during a regular sanctioned event on the event grounds and equipment provided:*
  - *the judge for the Intro Program classes is not judging in the Championship or Performance classes (inc. tournaments)*
  - the Intro Program class courses are not derived from any courses from other programs
- No official height measurements shall be recorded for dogs under the age of 18 months.<sup>10.01</sup> Measurements made at an IPO event shall not be recorded and are for that event only.
- Groups must apply for an IPO event at least thirty (30) days prior to the event date. The IPO event test schedule shall be published at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the event date, though earlier filing and publication is strongly encouraged.
- The event is exempt from USDAA Policies on Establishing Event Dates, Establishing a Slate of Classes, and Engagement of Judges, unless otherwise provided in this Chapter or as may be published in these USDAA Official Policy Statements for the Intro Program.

### SECTION 10.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS:

The Intro program shall be conducted on a Starters level course with the following modifications:

- The obstacle standards shall be the same as in the Starters class, except that the course shall include a minimum of eleven (11) and a maximum of fourteen (14) obstacles to be performed.
- Three contacts are required to be performed, with a minimum of two different contacts obstacles required. The host group may designate what contact obstacle may be omitted, if any.
- Obstacles shall be set according to the following levels:

DOG'S HEIGHT @ WITHERS <sup>10.07</sup>	MINIMUM JUMP HEIGHTS <sup>10.07</sup>	A-FRAME SETTING <sup>10.06</sup>		TABLE HEIGHT
		TITLING CLASS	OPTIONAL FOR FEO	
12" (30.58cm) or less	4" (10cm)*	112.5 degrees (approx. 5'0" or 152cm)	104 degrees (approx. 5'6" or 170cm)	12" (30cm)
16" (40.64cm) or less but more than 12" (30cm)	8" (20cm)			12" (30cm)
21" (53.34cm) or less but more than 16" (40cm)	12" (30cm)			12" (30cm)
Over 21" (53.34cm)	16" (40cm)			16" (40cm)

*\*If a jump or hurdle does not accommodate setting of a 4" (10cm) bar, then the bars may be set with one end of each pole at 8" (20cm) and the other end resting on the ground, to form crossing bars wherein the mid-point of the bars is approximately 4" (10cm); the tire jump should be set at the lowest height possible or may be replaced with a single hurdle (or removed) at the discretion of the judge.*

The following additional heights shall be offered unless otherwise disclosed in the test schedule for the event:

OPTIONAL JUMP HEIGHTS	AVAILABLE A-FRAME SETTINGS <sup>10.06</sup>		TABLE HEIGHT
	TITLING CLASS	OPTIONAL FOR FEO	
22" (55cm)	104 degrees (approx. 5'6" or 170cm)	98 degrees (approx. 5'11" or 180cm)	24" (60cm)
26" (65cm)			

- Spread hurdles shall be set as a single hurdle, or may be replaced with a single hurdle at the discretion of the judge.
- One set of 5 or 6 weave poles.
- Jump wings are optional.
- Long Jump (see Appendix A for presentation standards)

### SECTION 10.2—OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The obstacle performance standards shall be the same as in the Starters classes in Chapter 5.

### SECTION 10.3—COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS & “FEO”

The course handling standards shall be the same as in the Starters classes in Chapter 5.

A competitor who has entered to run for title who engages in training activity in the ring shall be eliminated and may continue their round for the remainder of the Standard Course Time as an entry For Exhibition Only (FEO), unless otherwise instructed by the judge. In FEO runs, the competitor is allowed a maximum of three attempts at any one obstacle and the competitor must be making an effort to follow the numbered sequence of the course or the judge may elect to dismiss the competitor from the ring.<sup>10.08</sup>

### SECTION 10.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS

The standard course time (SCT) and fault limits (if any) shall be established as in the Starters classes in Chapter 5, except that rates in determining SCT for all heights shall be as follows:

STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS & METERS PER SECOND)	
Operating Range	Absolute Minimum
1.60–2.10 yds/sec	1.60 yds/sec
1.46–1.92 m/sec	1.46 m/sec

In any case, the maximum SCT shall be 75 seconds.

### SECTION 10.5—STANDARD SCORING

The same standard scoring rules shall be followed as in the Starters class (see Chapter 5), except as may be set forth in this Chapter.

### SECTION 10.6—NON-STANDARD CLASSES

Non-standard classes offered shall conform to the description of the Starters level as set forth in Chapter 6 for each class, except for special rules set forth in this section.

#### Intro Gamblers Class

- To receive a qualifying score, the handler must successfully complete the gamble/joker within the time allotment as well as accumulate the number of points in the opening period for point accumulation as shown in the following table:

COURSE TIME	MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED	
	1-3-5-7 Point System	1-2-3-5 Point System
25 Seconds	15 Points	11 Points
30 Seconds	18 Points	13 Points
35 Seconds	22 Points	16 Points
40 Seconds	25 Points	18 Points
45 Seconds	29 Points	21 Points
50 Seconds	32 Points	23 Points

- The distance between the handler and key elements of the gamble/joker shall be no less than five (5) feet and no greater than ten (10) feet.
- The weave poles shall not be utilized in the Joker.

### Intro Jumpers Class

- The course shall include a minimum of eleven (11) and a maximum of fourteen (14) obstacles to be performed.
- The SCT shall be determined utilizing the following rates:

<b>JUMPERS STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b>		
<b>Jumping Height</b>	<b>Standard Course Time Rates</b>	
	<b>Operating Range</b>	<b>Absolute Minimum</b>
<b>4"</b>	<b>2.50–3.00 yds/sec</b>	<b>2.50 yds/sec</b>
10cm	2.29–2.74 m/sec	2.29 m/sec
<b>8"</b>	<b>2.75–3.25 yds/sec</b>	<b>2.75 yds/sec</b>
20cm	2.51–2.97 m/sec	2.51 m/sec
<b>12" &amp; 16"</b>	<b>3.00–3.50 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.00 yds/sec</b>
30cm & 40cm	2.74–3.20 m/sec	2.74 m/sec

The following additional heights shall be offered unless otherwise disclosed in the test schedule for the event:

<b>JUMPERS STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b>		
<b>Jumping Height</b>	<b>Standard Course Time Rates</b>	
	<b>Operating Range</b>	<b>Absolute Minimum</b>
<b>22" &amp; 26"</b>	<b>3.25–3.75 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.25 yds/sec</b>
55cm & 65cm	2.97–3.43 m/sec	2.97 m/sec

- Spread hurdles shall be set as a single hurdle, or may be replaced with a single hurdle at the discretion of the judge.

### Intro Snooker Class

- The weave poles shall not be utilized.
- The course shall be constructed with obstacles placed in one of three (3) different general configurations as shown below:

<b>STARTERS SNOOKER COURSE CONFIGURATIONS</b>
Standard snooker configuration (3 "reds" positioned near the "black" and "pink")
Modified snooker configuration (3 "reds" positioned near "yellow", "green" and brown")
Only jumps and tunnels are used

## SECTION 10.7 – INTRO PROGRAM HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH REGULAR EVENTS

A dog may not be entered in both the Intro Program level of a class and the Championship, Performance or Veterans level of that class when the Intro Program is offered at a regular sanctioned event.<sup>10.05</sup>

## CHAPTER 10 FOOTNOTES:

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**10.01** Dog registrations under 18 months of age are issued with an age restriction designated by an “A” prefix to the number. Under age dogs may still be measured for the event, but these measurements are valid for that event only. Dogs 18 months of age or older may be officially measured and recorded by a Certified Measuring Judge. Also, dogs under 18 months of age are not eligible to compete in Championship, or Performance classes, including tournaments.

**10.02** A club, private training center or other organization (collectively referred to as organizations) may affiliate with USDAA or internationally through USDAA’s affiliate World Cynosport Limited (WCL), through the execution of an “Affiliation Licensing Agreement” for the purpose of promoting USDAA and dog agility in their community as an athletic sporting event and to encourage family involvement in promoting responsible pet ownership. Three separate group licenses are available—Affiliated Group, Junior Handler Group, or Intro Group.

As an “Affiliated Group”, organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL events for all programs covered under these regulations, and must comply with all policies and procedures established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board.

As an “Intro Group”, organizations may apply for sanction of USDAA/WCL Intro Program events established through these regulations. An Intro Group must comply with policies and procedures applicable to Intro Program events established by the USDAA Competition Standards Board. An IPO Group may affiliate with USDAA without first conducting a sanctioned match. The Group may upgrade their status to Affiliated Group in order to offer Championship and Performance Program classes after conduct of one or more IPO events where each of the Program classes – Standard, Jumpers, Snookers and Gamblers – have been conducted with at least ten (10) dogs entered in each class.

**10.03** The provisions for course areas have been modified in this rule book addition, with this provision added. A variance of 10% is generally viewed as reasonable. Other exceptions should receive USDAA office approval before announcement.

**10.04** To provide optimum objectivity, it is advised that a judge of the IPO event not be a trainer that will be likely to offer training to students who may be entered in the event.

**10.05** This does not preclude competitors with dogs at least 18 months of age from entering a Championship, Performance or Veterans level class at a regular sanctioned event and entering a different class in the Intro Program. Also, it does not preclude the dog from being entered in Intro classes at an IPO event offered the day before a sanctioned event held at the event facility and then entering the same classes at the regular sanctioned event.

**10.06** The group may designate that A-frame may be set at one height higher when offered For Exhibition Only. Competitors would select the appropriate height on the entry form based upon the options available..

**10.07** Competitors may enter a dog at their minimum height or higher, by designating the height on the entry form.

**10.08** Defined sequences are provided in Standard and Jumpers classes.

## **CHAPTER 11—LEAGUE PLAY**

In order to foster responsible pet ownership and recreational and educational-based competition within the community, dog training groups, whether they be USDAA “Member Groups” or otherwise nonaffiliated groups, may apply for participation in USDAA League Play.

### **SECTION 11.1- DEFINITION & ENROLLMENT**

Typically, League rules will stipulate—

- the dates each week that league competition will be held;
- the types and definitions of classes to be held;
- that individual dogs may be only on one team during the term of the league;
- a handler may have more than one dog entered in the league so long as each dog is on a separate team.
- a team may be comprised of two or more individuals, and such team shall be static for the duration of league play.
- team alternates may be named as temporary substitutions, a list of which shall be maintained by the league secretary from the start of the league.
- rules shall be set for accumulation of points from week to week to determine an overall league team winner
- rules related to scoring, such that all scores on a team shall be counted or that the best three of four scores of a team shall be counted, etc.
- list of awards that may be made for weekly results
- the manner in which points shall be awarded from week to week and the manner in which ties shall be resolved -- runoff or other methodology
- criteria may be set to name an overall “MVP” (Most Valuable Player)
- that the results of the overall league play winning teams and MVP shall be submitted to for recognition through award of official League certificate. A league shall be defined for a period of four (4) to no more than thirteen (13) weeks and can have rules with variations from those contained within these Rules & Regulations. A separate competition shall be conducted each week in which league players must compete. Standard and nonstandard classes may be held, with scoring according to any rules basis stipulated by the designer of the game. Any class or game may be used as long as rules and basis for determinations of placement winners are clearly defined in the league rules.

Such rules must be well-defined in the League Announcement Bulletin or other official announcement of League Play. Guidelines for League Play may be obtained directly from the USDAA office and League Registration Forms and Fees must be paid at least 30 days prior to commencement of play in accordance with instructions provided on the registration forms.

### **SECTION 11.2 - RESULTS REPORTING & AWARDS**

The League Secretary shall maintain a list of scores throughout the term of the League and shall report the winning teams and name of Most Valuable Player to USDAA for issuance of a recognition award.



## CHAPTER 12—MASTERS CHALLENGE CLASSES (Effective 1/1/2012)

*The following are preliminary regulations for the new Masters Challenge Classes, which are based in part upon the International Handlers Challenge classes conducted for IFCS World Team qualification trials. These are to be part of the Championship and Performance Titling Programs effective January 1, 2012.*

*The upcoming Program has been announced for comment through July 1, 2011. Final regulations will be published on or before December 31, 2011.*

**Purpose:** The Challenge classes are designed to provide different challenges in the Masters level for competitors working toward their Champion titles in Standard and Jumping in the Performance or Championship Programs. Challenges in these classes are more technical in nature, placing more emphasis on control while having to work at a high rate of speed. Courses may include a sequence of varied technical challenges along with shifts in speed to effect an efficient course performance run against a demanding standard course time, as compared with the more fluid style course seen in the regular classes at the Masters level and Performance Level III.

**Eligibility:** Competitors who have completed the Masters titles in Standard or Jumpers are eligible for entry to the Masters Challenge class. They may also continue to enter the regular classes in Masters and Level III classes, unless stipulated otherwise in the Agility Test Schedule.

**Titles & Awards:** Qualifications in the Masters Challenge classes are equivalent to other Masters qualifications for Champion title purposes and are accumulated for Lifetime Achievement Awards as outlined in Chapter 1.

The Challenge classes provide opportunity to earn additional title designations at the Champion level and above in Standard and Jumpers.

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

Competitive placements in the Masters Challenge Standard and Jumpers classes accumulate points for annual ranking for Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> and Performance Top Ten<sup>SM</sup>.

### SECTION 12.1—MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

The same minimum obstacle standards in the Standard and Jumpers classes shall be followed as in the Masters (Level III) classes, except that the Table shall not be required. The Long Jump and viaduct as optional obstacles are strongly encouraged.

A course shall contain eighteen (18) to twenty (20) obstacle elements, with combinations<sup>11.01</sup> permitted, and each combination considered as one element. A course shall be limited to a total of twenty-five (25) total obstacles when combinations are used (i.e., when counting each obstacle on course, including the individual components of any combinations). The Jumpers class shall include a minimum of ten (10) weave poles.

The course design for the Masters Challenge classes will have greater variance in spacing and more challenges than seen in the Master (Level III) program class. For more details, see USDAA Official Course Design Guidelines.

### 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, except that a handler may encounter restrictions in flow along the handler path that might place varied distances between handler and dog.

### SECTION 12.4—STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS

The standard course time (SCT) and fault limits shall be established as in the Masters Standard and Jumpers classes, except that the SCT shall be set utilizing the rates as provided in the following tables:

<b>MASTERS CHALLENGE STANDARD CLASS – SCT RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b>		
<b>Jumping Height</b>	<b>Standard Course Time Rates</b>	
	<b>Operating Range</b>	<b>Absolute Minimum</b>
<b>12”</b>	<b>4.00–4.50 yds/sec</b>	<b>3.75 yds/sec</b>
30cm	3.65–4.11 m/sec	3.43 m/sec
<b>16”</b>	<b>4.25–4.75 yds/sec</b>	<b>4.00 yds/sec</b>
40cm	3.89 - 4.34 m/sec	3.65 m/sec
<b>22” &amp; 26”</b>	<b>4.50–5.00 yds/sec</b>	<b>4.25 yds/sec</b>
55cm & 65cm	4.11–4.57 m/sec	3.89 m/sec

<b>MASTERS CHALLENGE JUMPERS CLASS – SCT RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b>		
<b>Jumping Height</b>	<b>Standard Course Time Rates</b>	
	<b>Operating Range</b>	<b>Absolute Minimum</b>
<b>12”</b>	<b>4.25–4.75 yds/sec</b>	<b>4.00 yds/sec</b>
30cm	3.89 - 4.34 m/sec	3.65 m/sec
<b>16”</b>	<b>4.50–5.00 yds/sec</b>	<b>4.25 yds/sec</b>
40cm	4.11–4.57 m/sec	3.89 m/sec
<b>22” &amp; 26”</b>	<b>4.75–5.25 yds/sec</b>	<b>4.50 yds/sec</b>
55cm & 65cm	4.34–4.80 m/sec	4.11 m/sec

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

**Send comments on the foregoing proposed provisions to USDAA at [rules@usdaa.com](mailto:rules@usdaa.com).**

### CHAPTER 12 FOOTNOTES

12.01A “combination” is a series of two or three obstacles that are to be performed and scored as a single obstacle. Each element (i.e., obstacle) in the combination shall be scored individually. In the Challenge classes, combinations are permitted in Standard and Jumpers, which is different from course design standards for the Masters (and Level III) classes where combinations are only permitted in Snooker and Gamblers. See USDAA Course Design Guidelines for more information on use of Combinations in both the regular Masters and Masters Challenge classes.

# **APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX A—OBSTACLE CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

All obstacles and jumps must be of sound construction and meet the following specifications to be approved for USDAA sanctioned agility tests or events. All obstacle and jump construction specifications shall meet the following tolerances:

STATED MEASUREMENT		PERMITTED TOLERANCE	
U.S. System	Metric	U.S. System	Metric
10' or more	305cm or more	6"	15cm
2' to 10'	60cm-305cm	3"	8cm
1' to 2'	30cm-60cm	1"	2.54cm
6" to 12"	15cm-30cm	1/2"	1.27cm
1" to 6"	2.54cm-15cm	1/4"	.635cm
1/2" to 1"	12.7mm-25.4mm	1/8"	3.175mm
<1/2"	<12.7mm	1/16"	1.5875mm

Tolerance is permitted only where a measurement in the regulations is stipulated as being approximate. [Note that metric conversions are based upon 2.54cm or 25.4mm per inch and 30.48cm per foot and are included for quick reference purposes for persons residing outside the United States.]

### CONTACT OBSTACLES

The contact obstacles shall be built of sturdy construction to provide stability and reliability while being performed by dogs of all sizes and weights. Ramps shall have strong supports provided stability in all directions where elevated and where coupled with other planks. Planks shall be of sufficient thickness and structural integrity that they will not flex or torque when performed with speed.

Plank surfaces shall be roughened for adequate traction under wet conditions but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Non-gloss paint is strongly recommended so that traction is not compromised. Alternatively, durable, granulated rubber affixed with strong adhesive may be used to cover the ramps on contact obstacles to provide sound footing; however matting and carpeting are not permitted.

Contact obstacles shall meet the following construction specifications:

OBSTACLE	RAMP LENGTH	RAMP WIDTH	TOP ELEVATION	CONTACT ZONE LENGTH***
A-Frame	108" / 275cm*	36" / 91.44cm**	See A-Frame Table	42" / 106.68cm
Dog Walk	144" / 365cm	12" / 30.48cm	Between 48"–54" (121cm-137cm)	36" / 91.44cm
See-Saw	144" / 365cm	12" / 30.48cm	Between 24"–27" (61cm–68.5cm)	36" / 91.44cm

\*Assumes planks come to a point where joined.

\*\*It is recommended that the wall width be up to 4' (122cm) at the base to provide lateral stability.

\*\*\*The bottom of each sidewall shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be yellow in color and must be a significant contrast to the primary obstacle color to form a distinct top line. The edge of the zone shall be on the top of the sidewall, extend a reasonable depth onto the sides and have no other banding, insignia or other markings within 12" (305mm) of the top line. White is not a permissible color, as it can create glare in certain lighting conditions.

Additional specifications for each obstacle follow.

**A-Frame**

Chains or other support devices shall be fastened to the A-Frame ramps on each side between 2' and 3' (app. 610mm - 915mm) above ground level to provide stability. The A-Frame ramps shall be securely hinged or anchored together on one end to form the apex of the A-frame when standing upright. The angle of the two ramps at the apex shall be adjustable as shown in the table below in order to provide a consistent angle of ascent:

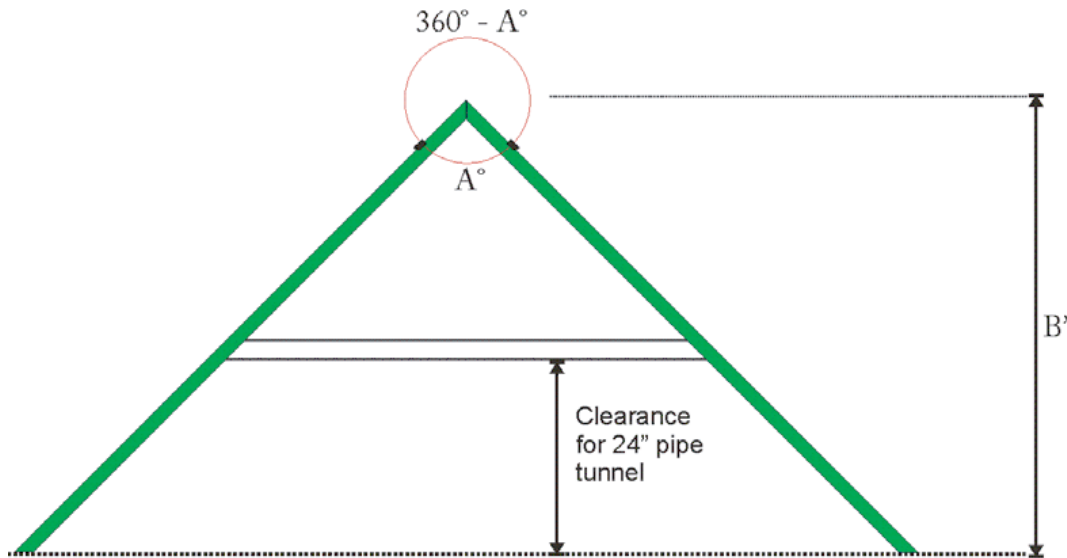
PROGRAM	HEIGHT DIVISIONS	APEX ANGLE*	APPROXIMATE HEIGHT
Championship	22" / 26" (55cm / 65cm)	98°	70.875" / 180cm
Championship	12" / 16" (30cm / 40cm)	104°	66.5" / 170cm
Performance	All Heights	104°	66.5" / 170cm
Veterans	All Heights	112.5°	60" / 153cm

\*Tolerance of plus or minus one degree (1°).

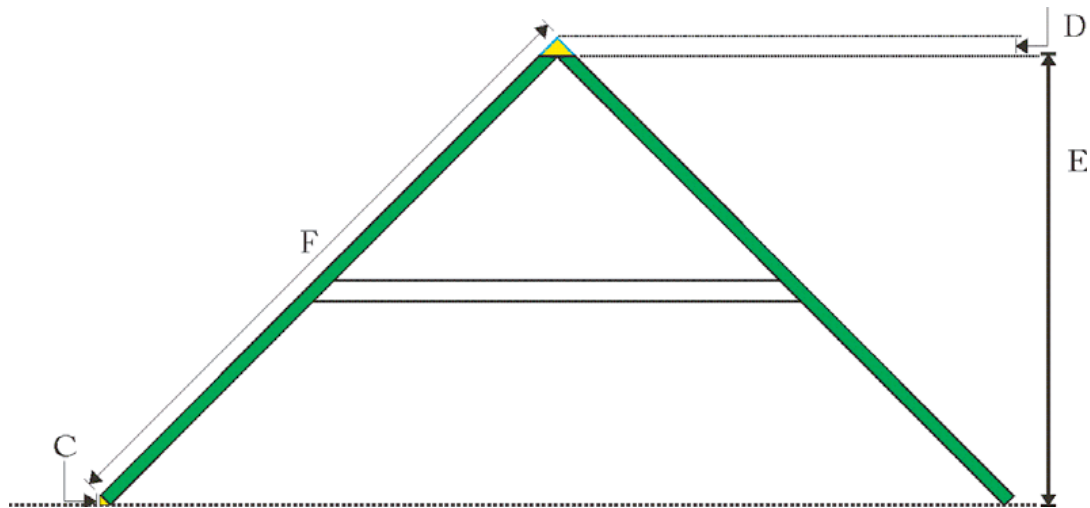
Each wall section shall have non-slip slats securely fastened to the sidewalls at intervals of approximately 12" or 305mm. Scaling slats shall be fastened such that slats are approximately 6" (152.5mm) and no less than 4" (101.6mm) from the top line of the contact zone. Slats shall measure between 3/8" and 1/2" in thickness (9.5mm and 12.7mm) and between 3/4" and 1-1/2" in width (19mm and 38mm), with no rounding of top edges.

**Construction Notes**

The diagram below shows a properly constructed A-frame, with a surface ramp extending 9' from the ground line to the apex, and hinged at the top for a proper point. When angle "A" is set to 98°, the height "B" measures 5' 10 7/8", or approximately 5'11".



While angle determines the slope and degree of force upon the dog when engaging the ramps, other factors related to other specifications and the style of construction can impact the height when the angle is accurately set. Distances "C", "D" & "F" the following diagram all impact the height (Distance "E") in addition to the angle of the ramps. Depending on the length of these measures, the height could vary as much as 5" or more ("C" and/or "D" below). Care should be taken in construction to allow for these variances.



### Dog Walk

The obstacle shall consist of one cross-plank and two ramp-planks of equal length and width. The cross-plank shall be supported above ground by two rigid supports on each end of the plank, to which the cross-plank and ramp-planks shall be securely fastened at an approximate 69° angle.

The ramp-planks shall have anti-slip slats fastened securely at approximately 12" (305mm) to 15" (380mm) intervals. Slats shall be fastened such that slats are approximately 6" (15cm) and no less than 4" (10cm) from the top line of the contact zone. Slats shall measure no less than 3/8" and no more than 1/2" in thickness (9.5mm and 12.7mm) on the top edge to provide and between 3/4" and 1- 1/2" in width (19mm and 38mm), with no rounding of the top edge.

### See-Saw

The See-Saw plank shall be supported in the middle by a sturdy base that may be capable of being securely anchored or weighted to the ground and that shall be visible to the dog when approaching the ramp from the front on a straight line. The See-Saw shall not have anti-slip slats.

The plank shall tilt to the ground within 3 seconds under a three-pound weight (approximate) placed 12" (30cm) from the end of the plank.

### Tire Jump

The Tire Jump shall consist of a tire suspended within a sturdy frame. The tire shall have an aperture diameter of 20" (51cm) and a sidewall width of no less than 4" (10cm). The tire shall be wrapped or filled such that a dog's paw may not be caught on the inside of the tire while jumping through, and shall be banded or striped in contrasting colors to aid visibility. If a substitute object is used for a tire, the object (e.g., molded venting pipe or life preserver) must offer similar pliability as a tire. The tire shall be adjustable to jumping heights listed in Chapters 3–10 when measured at the lowest point of the aperture equal.

The tire may be manufactured in a manner that the bottom or sides will separate when hit with no less than eighteen pounds (18#) of force, but such pieces must remain suspended in the frame and shall be easily reset in its original circular form with minimal effort. This optional "breakaway" tire must be constructed such that the dog cannot be injured or distracted by the operation of the tire. Breakaway tire jumps must be both functional and safe.

The supporting frame shall be of rigid construction and shall be designed such that it may not topple under the pressure of a large dog hitting the tire at high speed. The frame should permit the suspension of the tire from four corners, the center of the top and bottom corners, or top



corners and center of the bottom, leaving 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. Bungee cords or similar highly pliable tethers shall not be used for supporting tires (*required for "Breakaway" tires, and effective January 1, 2012 for non-breakaway tires*).

The frame shall not be constructed in a manner that would not permit a side entry of the frame in approaching the tire. The perimeter of the frame when viewed from the side shall not extend more than 9" (23cm) either side of the tire, except for footing supports to hold the frame safely erect. The bottom cross-piece of the frame shall not be more than 4" (10cm) above ground level.

#### Table

The table shall be a sturdy surface of 36" (915mm) square with a roughened or other nonslip surface supported on a stable base that shall be capable of being securely anchored or weighted to the ground. The side view of the table top edge shall be a minimum depth of 3" (75mm). The elevation of the table shall be as provided in Sections 3.2 and 7.2. Granulated rubber, rubber or similar matting may be used on the table surface to improve traction. Non-gloss paint is strongly encouraged to be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces when a roughened surface is provided. Construction of the table legs should be in such a manner that the table is stable at all heights when jumped on from any direction.

#### Collapsed Tunnel

The collapsed tunnel is comprised of two parts - the rigid opening and the tunnel chute. The rigid opening shall be constructed with a frame of rigid construction that may be securely anchored or weighted to the ground. The rigid opening shall be no more than 30" (762mm) in length and shall be between 20" (508mm) and 24" (610mm) in height. When the floor of the entrance is made of a hard material, a non-slip covering must be applied to provide safe footing. The edge of the tunnel entrance must be padded. It is strongly encouraged that the tunnel entrance be elongated or half-moon design with a flat floor with non-slip surface. The top surface of the base shall not exceed 4" (105mm) above ground level.

The tunnel chute shall be of non-rigid material construction, such as durable fabric or similar material not to exceed 420 denier or 6.00 ounces (170 grams) per square yard of fabric. The chute shall be between 10' (305cm) and 12' (365cm) in length when measured from the exit end of the chute entrance to the closed end of the fabric. The chute fabric shall have a circumference sufficient to snugly fit the rigid opening (no less than . The chute should flare out over the twelve-foot (365cm) distance to a circumference of approximately 96" (245cm).

#### Weave Poles

The weave poles shall consist of poles approximately 1" (2.54cm) in diameter and between three (915mm) and four feet (122mm) in length. They shall be spaced approximately 22" (55cm) when measured center to center, with a tolerance of plus or minus 2" (5cm). *Weave poles shall be no less than 21.65" (55cm) after 2012.* A minimum of 5 and maximum of 12 poles shall be used, with a minimum of 10 poles in sequence required for the Standard titling class in the Championship, Performance and Veterans Programs. A set of 5 or 6 weave poles shall be utilized in the Intro and Junior Handler Programs.

The poles shall be held upright by rigid or near-rigid supports permitting the poles to stay upright if bumped by the dog while weaving through the line of poles rapidly. If the weave poles are to be supported with a continuous base extending the full length of the line of poles, the base support should be no more than 1" (25.4mm) in height and no more than 3 1/2" (88.9mm) wide. This base should be supported and constructed in a manner that stabilizers or footings shall not interfere with a dog's performance.

#### Pipe Tunnel

The pipe tunnel shall be a rigid tunnel being fully enclosed except for the openings on each end, capable of being curved such that it is not possible to see through the tunnel from one

end to the other. There shall be no obstructions or other hazards within the tunnel. The tunnel shall be approximately 24" (610mm) in diameter and the length shall be no less than 12' (3650mm) and no more than 20' (508mm). The spacing of wire (called pitch) or other material that holds the tunnel material open throughout the length of the tunnel shall be no more than 4" (10cm). Metal or other rigid holders (or supports) used to anchor the tunnel must be padded and shall be constructed in a manner to prevent protruding into the side of the tunnel.

#### Hurdles and Jumps

Hurdles and similar jumps shall be of sturdy construction with displaceable planks, rails or poles of no less than 48" (1219mm) and no more than 60" (1524mm) in length. Construction shall provide for performance standards as listed in Chapter 3.

The side standards holding the planks, rails or poles shall be constructed so as to not topple if bumped by a dog while running and should include "wings" similar to those used in equestrian events.

Planks, rails & poles shall be positioned parallel to the ground at the proper jump height. For pole-style hurdles, a minimum of two poles are required in the Starters and Advanced level classes in the Championship Program and in Levels I & II of the Performance Program. A pole may be used to indicate a ground line by positioning it at an angle to the ground. All poles, rails and planks must be displaceable. Poles and rails shall be no less than 1-1/4" (31.75mm) and no more than 1-3/4" (44.45mm) in outside diameter or width. If PVC pipe is used, only Schedule 40 - 1" (25.4mm) or 1-1/4" i.d. (31.75mm) pipe may be used.

- All poles and rails shall be marked with contrasting colors through striping or banding. Pole supports may not exceed the width of the poles, must generally follow the contour of the pole and shall not be more than 1/8" (3.175mm) in depth. When pegs are used for pole supports, the peg and pole "stop" on the peg must conform to these requirements. When a flat rail support is used, the support shall not exceed 1-1/2" (38.10mm) width.
- Side wings or other support standards should be free of sharp or other hazardous edges and be a minimum of 6" (153mm) higher, with 12" (305mm) encouraged, than the hurdle height at the point where the wing joins with the cross plank, rail or pole, so that a safe and clear indication of the jumping path is visible to the dog.
- A majority of jumps and hurdles shall be "winged" and clear of supports beneath the bars. A "wing" must measure no less than 16" (405mm) in order to be considered a winged jump.
- Pole and rail supports shall not protrude into the jumping space by more than 2" (5cm).

#### Spread Hurdles

Spread Hurdles shall follow the same construction standards of Hurdles (above), and consist of hurdles aligned to form "spreads", being either two or three like-kind hurdles placed closely together to be jumped as a single hurdle, or a single obstacle that simulates a spread. Construction shall provide for performance standards as listed in Chapter 3. Poles or rails used on spread hurdles shall be approximately 5' (1525 mm) in length.

A spread that has the front and back hurdles set at full jumping height shall be termed a "parallel spread". A spread that has the height of the front hurdle set at least 4" (10cm) lower than the jumping height of the back hurdle shall be termed an "ascending spread".

All measurements of span shall be determined when measuring the line on the ground from the center of the front pole to the center of the back pole. With a maximum pole width of 1-3/4" (44.5mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 25-3/4" (654mm), if measuring the line on the ground from the front of the first pole to the back side of the back pole. A spread must be set "parallel" when the spread is 15" (381mm) or less when measured on center. A spread of greater than 15" (381mm) when measured on center must be "ascending". A spread of 20" (508mm) or more when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

Similarly, for dogs jumping 16" (40cm) or less, a spread shall not exceed 12" (305mm) or be less than 10" (254mm) in span when measuring the line on the ground from the center of the first pole to the center of the back pole. With a maximum pole width of 1-3/4" (44.5mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 13-3/4" (350mm). All spreads must be "ascending". A spread set at 12" (305mm) when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

## Long Jump

The Long Jump shall consist of between one and five planks, and shall meet the following specifications based upon the Program utilized:

### Championship Program

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Plank Height at Back Edge	Overall Span
12" 30cm	2	7½", 6" 19cm, 15cm	20"* 50cm
16" 40cm	3	9", 7½", 6" 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	36" 91cm
22" 55cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	48" 122cm
26" 65cm	5	12", 10½", 9", 7½", 6" 30cm, 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	60" 152cm

\*The Overall Span for the 12" class is 20" to accommodate the wide range of small dogs that may compete in that class.

### Performance Program & Junior Handler Program (Effective June 1, 2011\*\*)

PERFORMANCE PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Plank Height at Back Edge	Overall Span
8" 20cm	1	7½" 19cm	6"-8"* 15-20cm*
12" 30cm	2	9", 7½" 23cm, 19cm	24"*** 61cm
16" 40cm	3	10½", 9", 7½" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm	36" 91cm
22" 55cm	4	12", 10½", 9", 7½" 30cm, 27cm, 23cm, 19cm	48" 122cm

\*Note that only four boards are used in Performance, with the smallest being 7½" in height. The span for 8" class will vary slightly between 6" and 8", depending on the actual dimension of the single plank.

\*\*Span is 20" until June 1, 2011.

### Veterans Program

VETERANS PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of planks	Height at Back Edge of Planks	Span of All Planks
4" 10cm	1	6" (15cm)	6"-8"* 15-20cm*
8" 20cm	2	7½", 6" 19cm, 15cm	12" 30cm
12" 30cm	3	9", 7½", 6" 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	24" 61cm
16" 40cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	36" 91cm

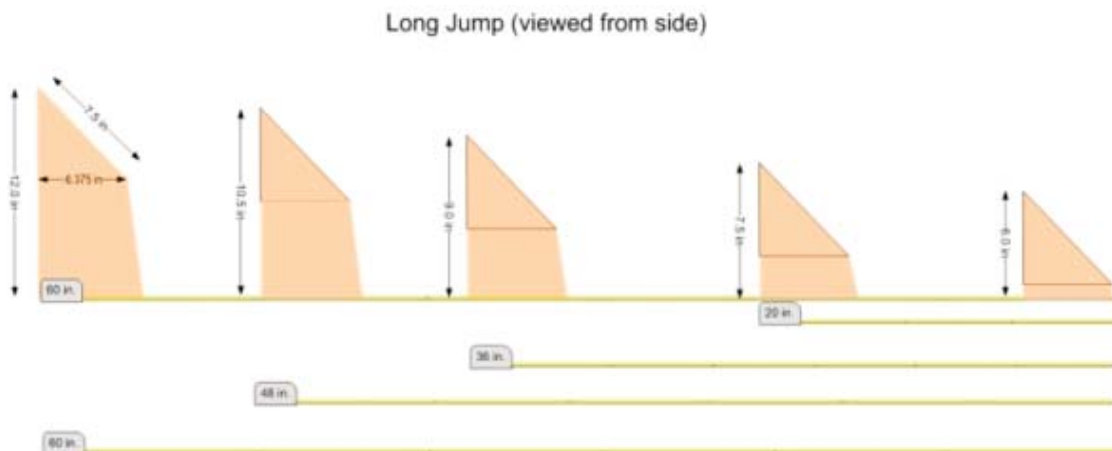
\*The overall span for 4" class will vary slightly between 6" and 8", depending on the actual dimension of the single plank.

## Intro Program

INTRO PROGRAM LONG JUMP PRESENTATION			
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Plank Height at Back Edge	Overall Span
4" 10cm	1	6" 15cm	6"-8"* 15-20cm*
8" 20cm	2	7½", 6" 19cm, 15cm	12" 30cm
12" 30cm	3	9", 7½", 6" 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	24" 50cm
16" 40cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	36" 91cm
22" 55cm	4	10½", 9", 7½", 6" 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	48" 122cm
26" 65cm	5	12", 10½", 9", 7½", 6" 30cm, 27cm, 23cm, 19cm, 15cm	60" 152cm

\*The overall span for 4" class will vary slightly between 6" and 8", depending on the actual dimension of the single plank.

- All planks shall be 7¼" (185mm) wide and measure in equal lengths between 48" (122cm) and 60" (152cm) and have a pitch measuring no less than 33 degrees nor more than 45 degrees from the plane parallel to the ground, resulting in a 4" (10cm) drop in height on each plank from back to front. The planks shall be equally spaced over the span for each jump height class.



Bases are shown here slightly flared for support. Note also that boards are normally set equally spaced from the first board to the last.

- Planks may be in increasing lengths from front to back in increments in order that they may be nested; when this is done, a 45" (115cm) minimum length is permitted, provided the back two planks are no less than 48" (120cm) in width. A minimum width of 48" is strongly encouraged for all planks.
- Corner marker poles measuring no less in height than 48" (app. 120cm) and between ¾" (19mm) and 1½" (38mm) in diameter (or width) shall be placed at the four corners of the jump even with the front and back planes.

- The poles shall not be attached to the planks. The space between poles and edge of the planks shall be no more than 4" (10cm) from the side edge of the front plank and no more than 2" (5cm) at the back plank. A minimum distance of 48" (122cm) between the front poles is required.

#### Viaduct/Wall Jump

The Viaduct jump shall meet the height requirements of winged hurdles and consist of a "wall" cut with archways below the top of the base and have two columnar supports.

- The base shall be topped with blocks or other displaceable bars or poles.
- The base unit shall be no less than 48" (122cm) in width between the columns.
- The archways shall be at least 4" (11cm) below the jumping height. The depth of the base shall be no more than 6" (15cm) at the top.
- The blocks or pole shall rest on the top of the wall base and shall be easily displaced when bumped by a dog.

A Wall Jump shall meet these specifications except that there are no archways.

#### Other Hurdles and Jumps

Any of a number of hurdles of varying design may be used provided they meet the basic standards and specifications of hurdles and jumps included in these regulations. Hurdles and spreads of any design shall have displaceable poles or planks. No unnecessary hazards shall be permitted to be used in connection with hurdles; however, this shall not prevent decoration of wings with trees or shrubs. In no circumstances shall fire or similar hazards be tolerated.

#### Discontinued Obstacles

The Wishing Well has been removed from the principal list of obstacles described in Chapter 3, as it has not been used for more than ten years due to design and function issues for different heights of dogs. In the origins of the sport only one jump height existed, but its adaptability to a variety of heights made it impractical. The jump could still be utilized under the regulations of "Other Jumps and Hurdles", but must clearly conform to the following provisions:

- The wishing well shall consist of a base, pole support and pole, and roof top. The base unit shall be no less than 32" (81cm) in width between the roof supports.
- The base shall stand at a height and be no greater in jumping span than would be reasonable for a dog to jump considering the principles of spread hurdles. A pole shall be positioned at the stipulated jump heights and shall be displaceable when contacted by a dog.
- A roof top cover an area not substantially more than the base unit shall be fastened securely to the pole supports at an elevation of no less than 30" (75cm) above the pole. The roof top shall be engineered or supported such that it will not fall over in gusts of wind when used outdoors. The obstacle must be balanced such that a dog cannot knock it over if hitting the base or side supports with force when jumping.

The performance standards for the wishing well as removed from Chapter 3 are included for reference.

#### Wishing Well

*The dog must jump in the direction designated by the judge beneath the rooftop and over the pole without displacing it and shall not touch the well base when passing over the well. A maximum of 5 faults may be assessed for improper performance (i.e., displacing the pole and/or banking the base). Jumping the obstacle in the wrong direction (i.e., backjumping) shall constitute running the wrong course.*

## APPENDIX B—JUDGES' GENERAL GUIDELINES

Judges are the backbone of the sport and their actions and opinions influence conduct beyond the performance ring. Because of that influence, the United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. has established stringent education and testing procedures for approving judges in the sport.

Persons meeting these qualifications may be added to the "Approved Judges List". In connection with such qualification, the list shall be divided into class levels, based on the extent of knowledge and training demonstrated through examination and experience. Further delineation may be made by class type, should circumstances warrant.

### Standards for Judges

Qualified individuals must meet the following requirements before being placed on the Approved Judges List. A person must—

- have sufficient experience to competently perform the judge's responsibility as may be evidenced by active participation in the sport, indicated by earning a title, being an active member of an agility club, training group or school that has routinely followed or taught USDAA rules and regulations for a significant period of time, or other significant experience to demonstrate a person's ability,
- have satisfactory attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic & examination, demonstrating sufficient knowledge, self-confidence, creativity, physical mobility and effectiveness while judging, and
- be of good character and in good standing, setting forth a professional image for the sport and USDAA.

The judging clinic requirement may be satisfied prior to other requirements; however, an individual must be retested if all requirements are not fulfilled within one year from the date of satisfactory completion of the judging examination.

In order to maintain a position on the Approved Judges List, each judge must—

- have satisfactory attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic & examination once every three years at the Advanced and Starters levels,
- attend a rules & course design clinic once in a five (5) year period in order to stay abreast of current rules, issues and course design techniques,
- periodically pass the short form examination dealing with rule changes,
- maintain an active role in the sport,
- comply with all policies, and
- be of good character, setting forth a professional image for the sport and USDAA.

### Code of Conduct

Persons on the Approved Judges List—

- are expected to uphold an image of integrity and as a competent professional, both on and off the course. An integral part of this image is to wear appropriate attire consisting of slacks with a coordinating shirt bearing the USDAA logo. Wear weather or extreme climate conditions may warrant, a suitable departure from this attire is permitted while retaining a professional appearance in the ring. A judge shall not wear any apparel bearing business, sponsor or other organization insignia without the express written consent of USDAA.
- shall recognize their role as a judge is a privilege and not a right.
- shall diligently fulfill all responsibilities with regard to judging assignments including, but not limited to, timely filing of course plans and judge's reports as required by USDAA policy.
- shall not become an activist in disputes, make public criticisms, or otherwise engage in behavior that may be generally viewed by the USDAA Board in their sole discretion as inappropriate conduct or that may create a conflict of interest as a representative of USDAA. Any criticisms should be discussed internally while maintaining a public position of organizational support. Public statements in any media casting contrary position to official policy



may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to removal from the Approved Judges List.

- should give of themselves freely as a representative of the sport to USDAA, its affiliated groups and the community in the promotion of dog agility as a sport for dogs without regard to pedigree.
- shall not at any time promote themselves as an authority in the sport on the principal basis of their standing as a USDAA judge or otherwise hold themselves out in personal endeavors as a USDAA judge.
- shall seek to assist fellow judges when needed in fulfillment of judging responsibilities when viewed in the best interest of the sport.
- shall judge a minimum of three sanctioned events in a two year period or judge a minimum of one sanctioned event per year combined with attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic and examination within a three-year period. This provision applies to all levels of judges.

In accepting engagements, a judge shall refrain from—

- conduct a training class or seminar or judge a match or Intro Program Only event in the region of the event during a period of 10 days or less prior to the start of an event at which they may officiate as judge.

Judges shall comply with any USDAA policy statements that may be published from time to time that may supercede any part of these Guidelines.

#### Disciplinary Actions

A person on the Approved Judges List who shall violate or otherwise fail to uphold these standards in fact or in spirit shall be subject to disciplinary action in the form of reprimand, probation, suspension or removal from the Approved Judges List. All disciplinary action proceedings shall be conducted by the USDAA Regulations Advisory Board in “closed session” and shall remain confidential, except that the decision to suspend or remove a person from the Approved Judges List may, at the Board’s sole discretion, be published on the USDAA Web site or other official publication (if any).

The Board shall conduct inquiries into formal written complaints filed with USDAA. The Board shall review the results of such inquiries and statements of the parties to the complaint, along with any other information readily available regarding a complaint, in making its decision pursuant to guidelines established in Appendix C to these rules and regulations.

Upon rendering of its decision to suspend or remove a judge from the Approved Judges List, the judge (subject of the complaint) may request an appeal by providing any additional evidence in writing to the board pursuant to procedures for appeal as established in Appendix C. No additional judging assignments shall be accepted following the Board’s notification of its initial decision regarding suspension or removal until a person has been reinstated.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a violation of standards of conduct that is objectively determinable may result in immediate removal from the Approved Judges List. In this case, the judge shall be notified within ten (10) business days of the removal.

In the event of suspension or removal of a judge’s name from the Approved Judges List, the Board shall—

- establish whether or not the judge shall be permitted to fulfill previous judging assignments for events already approved
- establish provision for reinstatement, if reinstatement will be allowed; the decision for reinstatement may be postponed pending a future hearing.

The Board shall establish on a case by case basis, except in the case of administrative grounds, consider the manner and timing of announcing the suspension or removal of a name from the Approved Judges List.

## **APPENDIX C—RULES OF CONDUCT & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

### **SECTION C-1. RULES OF CONDUCT**

The United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. (USDAA) promotes dog agility pursuant to regulations consistent with international standards as a competitive, spectator sport through the conduct and license of events. Its programs have been developed to foster the sport's growth and also to promote the sport in the community as an activity for family enjoyment, while at the same time conveying a sense of responsible pet ownership.

All competitors, officials and event personnel shall conduct themselves in a professional manner consistent with the foregoing statement of purpose and seek to uphold, and enhance where possible, the image of the sport and USDAA through such conduct and actions.

### **SECTION C-2. INHERENT RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY**

USDAA holds and has reserved unto itself certain inherent rights, privileges and powers in connection with its conduct of business and license of events. Among those rights, privileges and powers are the determination of the manner in which its events shall be conducted. Along with these are the judgment and discretion to take actions, impose penalties and sanctions on an individual, group of individuals, organization or organizations who demonstrate conduct that is deemed contrary to the best interests of USDAA or the sport of agility.

Each competitor and official at an event, including judges, members of the Organizing Committee and other key personnel have the responsibility to read and understand USDAA's rules and regulations, before entering, conducting or officiating an event. Further, each competitor acknowledges through their entry to a USDAA event that their participation in the event is a privilege and not a right. By virtue of their entry in the event, a competitor acknowledges and agrees to comply with all USDAA rules and regulations, and agrees to accept any sanctions or penalties, as defined herein, that may be imposed or assessed for failure to comply herewith.

The host group(s), as represented by the event's Organizing Committee, and the event's judge(s) share in the responsibility for maintaining these standards of conduct. The Organizing Committee may delegate their authority and responsibility by appointing a Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC). The DAC must consist of the Agility Test Chairman, Agility Test Secretary, and at least three but no more than five other responsible individuals. Preferably, these should be members of the Organizing Committee or elected officials of the host group(s). All members of the DAC must be capable of carrying out the provisions of these rules and procedures.

The judge has sole responsibility for determining when it is appropriate to excuse a dog and competitor from the ring, based on the rules of performance or for matters related to competitor misconduct. The judge shall file a written complaint with the Organizing Committee in situations where a competitor may be guilty of an abusive, subversive act or other willful disregard for the rules as defined in Section C-3, or where the appearance of abuse or "aggression" as defined exists. The judge may issue the competitor either a reprimand or a courtesy warning, where an incident was questionable as to its nature, in appearance or in fact, but where no abusive conduct or willful disregard for the rules was displayed, and competitor misconduct was not readily apparent to others.

The Organizing Committee, or Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC) when used, has the responsibility to determine if misconduct should result in expulsion of a competitor and/or dogs from the event. The Organizing Committee or DAC, shall have full authority to hold hearings and execute sanctions as it deems appropriate based upon evidence brought before it. The Committee shall prepare a written report on any actions brought before it and include that report as an attachment to the Organizing Committee Report to be filed with USDAA following the event. Prior to the event, the members of the Committee should review the provisions of the Rules of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, so that hearings, if needed, may be carried out as expeditiously as possible. Each Committee member shall be responsible for maintaining confidentiality of all proceedings.

The Chairman of the Committee shall have the authority and responsibility to issue reprimands for minor incidents of misconduct as defined in Section C-3. These are incidents that have no “appearance” of being abusive nor indicate a willful disregard for the rules. They include, but are not limited to, smoking in the ring, displaying a training collar in or about the ring or warm-up area, or similar infractions. The Chairman shall retain all notices of reprimand, whether they were issued by the Chairman or by one or more of the event’s judges, until the conclusion of the event. If two notices for reprimand of similar incidents by the same participant(s) are accumulated, then a Committee hearing shall be called to consider the charge and the failure to respect the judge or Chairman’s authority regarding the initial notice of reprimand.

It should be noted that matters of misconduct extend beyond the ring. Any person may file a written complaint with the Organizing Committee (or DAC) whether the incident occurred inside or outside the performance ring, and whether or not witnessed by the judge.

### **SECTION C-3. INFRACTIONS, SANCTIONS & APPLICATION**

#### Infractions

The following is a partial list of the more common infractions on which the USDAA and its member groups may take action:

- Abuse of a dog on the grounds
- Actions that may have the appearance of abuse of a dog
- Intimidation and/or impolite confrontation of judges, officials or other competitors
- Willful misconduct or interference with a competitor’s right to show
- Any acts of poor sportsmanship
- Violation of procedural rules (for example: smoking in the ring, display of training collars, etc.)
- Compulsive, correctional training on the grounds
- Creating excessive delays as a failure to respect the authority of event officials
- Willful misrepresentation on entry forms
- Willful misrepresentation of animals at a USDAA sponsored event
- Dog aggression
- Failure to exercise diligence in the control of the behavior of their dog.

#### Sanctions

The following is a list of possible sanctions:

- *Courtesy Warning* — a verbal warning issued by the judge, Organizing Committee Chairman (or DAC chairman). The decision to reprimand versus issue a courtesy warning shall be based on the perception by the judge or chairman of the situation as it might appear to spectators pursuant to guidelines established herein. Determining factors in favor of issuing a reprimand shall be whether the incident warranted immediate dismissal from the ring and whether the incident is one that would be deemed unacceptable (not in the best interest of the sport) if it recurred. When an incident may be questionable as to its acceptability, or otherwise might escalate to a point of not being acceptable, the judge may excuse the competitor from the ring and issue a courtesy warning. This situation generally relates to an incident where —
  - The incident is not readily visible to others and the competitor is not excused from the ring
  - The incident is marginal, such as when a competitor’s tolerance level is eroding as a result of a performance on the decline. In this case, typically the competitor should be excused from the ring in anticipation of a possible abusive act that could result from a “temporary” loss of control” (see Section 3.3, paragraph 6).
- *Reprimand* — a written warning issued by the judge or Chairman, and held by the Chairman. A second reprimand of a similar nature shall be treated as a “Written Complaint”, thus resulting in a disciplinary hearing.

- *Written Complaint* — a written complaint filed by anyone. This shall result in a disciplinary hearing.
- *Warning* — a formal warning is issued by the Organizing Committee or DAC following a disciplinary hearing, stating that an incident is in violation of the rules of conduct, and a second occurrence of a like incident shall result in expulsion from the event. A second occurrence would be treated as a willful disregard for the rules and authority of the Committee, resulting in immediate expulsion from the show of the competitor and any dogs owned and/or handled by the competitor.
- *Dismissal from the Ring* — determined by the judge based on the rules of performance, and or for matters related to competitor misconduct. This may be accompanied by a courtesy warning, reprimand, or written complaint.
- *Expulsion from the Event* — determined by the Organizing Committee or DAC. This results from a disciplinary hearing held in response to a written complaint or two reprimands. Expulsion shall be for all days of the event, including prior and future days when a multi-day event is being held. All scores earned shall be canceled and all awards forfeited (including any earned on preceding days).
- *Suspension, Fines, and Other Sanctions* — issued by the USDAA Regulations Advisory Board.

#### Application of Sanctions

The application of sanctions will be for one of two categories of infractions:

##### *1. Abusive, subversive act, or other willful disregard for the rules —*

Guidelines: This shall include any and all acts demonstrating harshness or abuse toward a dog; a lack of respect for a judge, other official or competitor; publicly exhibiting poor sportsmanship; or undermining the intent of the rules or authority of an official. These include but are not limited to:

- Shouting or screaming harshly at a dog
- Behavior that displays intent to intimidate, threaten, or harm a dog
- Making harsh corrections to a dog in or out of the ring
- Blatant training in the ring, including physically placing the dog on an obstacle or forcing the dog down on the table
- A subversive and ostentatious exit from the ring during or following a performance
- Being argumentative with a judge
- Inciting others to act or otherwise exhibit poor sportsmanship outside the ring
- Any act of dog aggression that indicates a possible risk of injury to a person, another dog or damage to property

Event Sanction: Immediate expulsion from the event. Upon expulsion from an event, all scores earned in that event shall be canceled and all awards forfeited, including those earned on preceding days.

If a dog is found to be aggressive, meaning that there exists a realistic risk of injury to a person, other dog or property, the dog must be removed from the show grounds immediately. Where immediate removal is not possible, the dog must be isolated away from other dogs and people until it can be removed from the show grounds.

##### *2. Other Acts of Misconduct Not Categorized Above —*

Guidelines: In many cases, the classification of an infraction may not be well defined. In such cases, the Committee shall look to the intent behind the situation, as well as the act itself in making their evaluation. In seeking to determine intent, a person's sole admission that they were unaware, or that an act was unintended, is insufficient evidence in making a determination of intent. The Committee must collectively weigh the evidence presented, including representations of all parties and witnesses, to determine intent. Based upon their complete evalua-

tion, the Committee shall issue a ruling and order sanctions commensurate with the act in seeking to uphold these Rules of Conduct.

**Event Sanction:** A formal warning that the incident is in violation of the rules of conduct by the Committee followed by a second occurrence of a like incident shall result in expulsion from the event. (A second occurrence would be treated as a willful disregard for the rules and authority of the Committee, resulting in immediate expulsion of the competitor and any dogs owned and/or handled by the competitor.)

#### USDAA Sanctions

When a competitor or dog has accumulated two incidents that have resulted in expulsion from an event, the USDAA Board shall automatically impose a suspension of the competitor and/or dog for a period of not less than three (3) months and not more than two (2) years. Upon a recurrence of acts by the competitor and/or dog following the suspension period, the Board shall convene to determine and impose additional sanctions. Those sanctions shall carry a suspension of not less than one additional year to life, depending on the nature of the misconduct.

#### **SECTION C-4. EVENT PROCEDURES**

*Courtesy Warning:* When an incident may be questionable as to its acceptability, or otherwise might escalate to a point of not being acceptable, the judge may excuse the competitor from the ring and verbally issue a courtesy warning.

*Reprimand:* When an infraction so warranting occurs, the judge or Chairman shall issue a reprimand, filed with the Committee Chairman. Report of the reprimand shall be in writing and must include:

- The name(s) of the competitor(s) and/or dog(s) involved in the incident
- The time and place of the incident
- A description of the incident
- Any known circumstances or actions leading to the incident
- The names of any witnesses to the incident
- The date, name and signature of the complainant

The reprimand shall be filed with the Committee immediately following the incident, or as soon as practical thereafter, so that the matter can be promptly recorded and/or resolved.

*Written Complaint:* When an infraction occurs at an event, the witnessing party to the incident may file a written complaint with the event's Organizing Committee (or DAC). Report of the infraction shall be in writing and must include:

- The name(s) of the competitor(s) and/or dog(s) involved in the incident
- The time and place of the incident
- A complete description of the incident
- Any known circumstances or actions leading to the incident
- The names of witnesses to the incident
- The date, name and signature of the complainant

The complaint shall be filed with the Chairman immediately following the incident, or as soon as practical thereafter, so that the matter can promptly be recorded and resolved.

#### Notice of Hearing or Waiver Thereof

The Committee Chairman must immediately notify the Accused of the complaint and schedule a disciplinary hearing to take place as soon as possible. The hearing ideally will take place within two hours following report of the incident and absolutely must take place prior to the close of the day.

When a dog is accused of being aggressive, the dog must be confined or otherwise observed, kept under control and non-accessible for safety reasons until a ruling can be made. Where an actual bite of a person is involved, the incident shall be reported to local authorities in compliance with state and local laws.



If the Accused is willing to sign a statement acknowledging that they are guilty of the act, the infraction must still be evaluated by the Committee. In that case the Committee may forego the investigation phase of the deliberations. The Committee still must determine what sanction is appropriate pursuant to these guidelines.

#### Disciplinary Hearing

The Committee shall convene a hearing for written complaints or upon receipt of two reprimand notices for similar incidents by the same participants. The following order of process shall be followed as appropriate to the circumstances:

- 1) The Chairman shall appoint a Committee member to take detailed notes of the proceedings.
- 2) The Chairman shall instruct all involved parties that may appear before the Committee that all matters discussed are confidential.
- 3) The Committee shall have the complaint read in the presence of the person against whom the complaint has been brought (hereinafter referred to as the "Accused").
- 4) The Accused shall in turn be provided the opportunity to respond to the complaint and to provide any suitable evidence in support of their position.
- 5) The Committee shall then ask for further comment or clarification from the complainant, if deemed necessary. If further comment is made, the Accused shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to the extent deemed appropriate.
- 6) The Committee shall then call for testimony of witness(es) to the incident to provide an objective account of the incident. The Committee, Complainant and the Accused shall be afforded an opportunity to question the witness(es) to the extent deemed appropriate in order that all relevant facts to the complaint are understood.
- 7) The Committee shall then excuse the Complainant, the Accused and all witnesses. The Committee must then evaluate the evidence and make a determination regarding the incident. If the complaint is not to be upheld, then the Complainant and the Accused shall be notified accordingly, and the hearing closed. If, however, the complaint is to be upheld, then the Committee must determine and issue sanctions pursuant to the guidelines set out in Section C-3.
- 8) The Committee should consider inviting to the hearing a USDAA Board member, if present, and/or an impartial judge to serve as an observer and/or consultant. This person shall not have a vote and shall serve only to provide objective input regarding procedure and/or rules' interpretations as they may apply.

#### Hearing Documentation

The Committee proceedings shall be documented in detail, noting:

- The names of all Committee members in attendance
- The date, time and description of the incident
- The names of the Complainant and the Accused and their statements and representations
- The names of all witnesses called and their statements and representations

A statement of findings of the Committee including:

- The findings of the Committee
- The rationale in support of such findings
- The manner in which the sanctions were carried out

The record of the proceedings must be signed by the "Secretary" and the Committee Chairman.

#### Rulings

All Committee warnings must be made by the Chairman to the Accused in the presence of the Committee. Said warnings must include:

- A statement of the nature of the infraction(s)
- The findings of the Committee
- Any sanctions imposed



- The consequences if the infraction(s) persist(s)

#### Report findings

Within five days of the completion of the event, the Organizing Committee or DAC, and the judge if involved, shall file a written notice with USDAA regarding the incident. The report shall include all documentation collected and recorded regarding the incident as stated above.

#### USDAA Actions

Once a notice of expulsion is received by USDAA, a letter of reprimand shall be issued to the offending party, with a copy to the Committee. Said letter shall include the nature of the offense as well as the consequences if the offensive conduct continues. The letter shall be sent to the offender by registered mail.

USDAA reserves the right to convene a Board hearing to determine if more severe sanctions are warranted. If a hearing is to be held, the Board shall issue the written notice of further deliberations no later than 10 days after receipt of the Organizing Committee Report. This letter shall include a request for a written response to the charges, and notify the offender that their response must be received at USDAA's office within 10 days of receipt of official notice. Failure to respond as required will be accepted by the Board as acknowledgment of the charges and a plea of no contest to the Board's decision. The Board may also perform its own investigation and query witnesses in arriving at its decision. The Board, upon arriving at a decision, shall notify the offender of their decision. This notification shall be within 10 days of receipt of offender's response or the date upon which the response was due, whichever is earlier. The notices sent by the Board shall be sent to the offender at their address as registered on USDAA official records, or at the address provided on the event entry form, if different. Any actions related to this matter shall be conducted in the State of Texas, unless otherwise approved by the USDAA Board.

When a suspension is imposed, USDAA shall send a letter to the individual(s) or organization, via registered mail, regarding the pending suspension. The individual(s) or organization has a period of 10 days from receipt of notification to appeal the decision of the Board; this notice of appeal must be received in writing at the USDAA office as specified in Section C-6 of these regulations. When the appeals period has passed, the offender's name, address and list of all owned dogs registered with USDAA shall be published in USDAA's official publication, indicating the reason for and term of the suspension. Notification of the suspension shall be made to all USDAA member groups.

#### **SECTION C-5. GENERAL COMPLAINTS**

Any individual, club or association may file a complaint against another individual, club or association for conduct deemed against the best interests of the USDAA or the sport of agility. Any complaint that arises at an event must be filed with the event's Organizing Committee for due process. Other complaints may be filed in writing, within 10 days of the incident at the USDAA office along with a fee of \$150.00. If the complaint is upheld, the fee will be refunded to the Complainant.

A Complainant shall file a written complaint with the USDAA, in a form comparable to a complaint to be filed with an event's Organizing Committee as set forth in Section C-4. No verbal complaints shall be accepted. The USDAA Board shall review and respond to a complaint within 30 days following its receipt. Upon acceptance of the Board to hear the complaint, the charged individual or organization shall then be formally notified of the charges by certified mail. The charged party shall then provide a written response to the alleged charges no later than 10 days after receipt of notification. The Board shall make a preliminary ruling and notify the two parties accordingly. If further evidence is offered, then the Board shall reconvene in order to evaluate any additional evidence. After evaluation of the evidence, the Board shall issue a ruling regarding the merits of the complaint and take appropriate disciplinary action. These disciplinary actions may vary from written reprimands (public or private), suspensions, sanctions, fines or other penalties levied against the individual or organization. The action shall be dependent upon the severity, nature and frequency of the infraction(s), subject to guidelines

established herein. Once the pending course of action has been ruled upon, USDAA shall provide a written notification to the Complainant and the Accused.

#### **SECTION C-6. APPEAL OF SANCTION OR SUSPENSION**

Upon receipt of notice of sanction or suspension, or during the suspension period, an individual or organization may appeal to the USDAA Board to have a case further reviewed. Such appeal must be made in writing, accompanied by a fee of \$150.00, which shall be delivered to the USDAA office. If the appeal results in a complete reversal of sanctions, 50% of the fee shall be refunded. If the Board upholds the sanctions or suspensions, said actions will be retroactive to the date of the incident. If the individual or organization declines to file an appeal with USDAA within 10 days following receipt of notice of suspension, such inaction shall constitute acceptance of the proposed sanction. In such cases, the impending actions against the individual or organization shall be automatically implemented.

During the appeals process, the individual or organization may present any additional evidence, including testimony of witness(es) if any, regarding the incident. Once received by the USDAA, the Board will examine all evidence regarding the incident(s) and infraction(s). A written notice of the decision of the Board shall be issued to the offending individual or organization. The decision of the Board shall be final. If the individual or organization has participated in any USDAA sanctioned events since the incident, all placements, titles and awards obtained during the suspension period shall be forfeited.

#### **SECTION C-7. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION**

Where a dog bites a person and a puncture wound is found, there shall be an automatic one-month suspension and a report filed with the USDAA office the next business day following the incident. The report shall include statements from concerned parties (i.e., dog owner/handler, person attacked, physician, veterinarian and any principal witnesses), as well as a summary of actions taken by the Event Organizing Committee.

Upon review of the evidence, the Board may extend the suspension for such an occurrence to be one year suspension. Where mitigating circumstances are found (e.g., person intervenes into an encounter between two dogs), discretion may be exercised in rendering judgment regarding long-term suspension.

## APPENDIX D—REGISTRATION OF DOGS & JUNIOR HANDLER TEAMS

A dog must be registered in order to compete in USDAA® events. The responsibility to provide a registration number for entry to an event rests solely with the competitor.

The dog becomes eligible to compete in competition at eighteen (18) months of age, or fourteen (14) months for entry into the Intro Program.<sup>D.01</sup>

The following procedures for certification of a dog's height have been established for the determination of a dog's minimum jumping height as provided in Section 3.2 of these rules and regulations.

### Registration Application

A dog or junior handler dog team may be registered by —

- completing application online through the USDAA web site at [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com),
- mailing a completed registration form and fee to the USDAA office, or
- submitting a registration application and fee along with entry to an event.

The written registration application shall meet the form and content as prescribed by the Board of Directors, which may be downloaded from the USDAA web site at [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com).

Where a dog is not recognized by a major breed registry and cannot be definitively identified as to breed or birth date, the dog shall be classified as an "All Breed" or other approved designation and an estimate of the dog's birth date shall be made and entered on the form.<sup>D.02</sup>

USDAA issues a temporary registration card bearing the information included on the registration application. Any errors on the card must be reported to USDAA for correction to assure correct issuance of title certificates. The registrant shall be liable for cost of reissuance of cards if lost or stolen, or for the reissuance of title certificates that contain previously unreported errors.

### Height Certification

On the back of the temporary registration card is the Judges Certification form. To receive a permanent registration card, a dog must measure over 21" (53cm), or must meet specific age and measurement requirements as set forth below.

All measurements must be made on a flat surface utilizing a USDAA-approved measuring device. Final determination of suitability of the surface and calibration of the device (provided by the club) shall be made by the judge.

Should a surface be found not level enough to provide for an accurate measurement and/or an approved device is rendered not functional, the judge shall evaluate each dog's height for that event only, notify the event secretary of any discrepancy between height class entered and the dog's measured height and no measurement shall be recorded on the temporary card.

The following height certification policies and procedures apply:

- No more than one measurement per day or two measurements within a six (6) day period.
- For multiple-day events or clustered contiguous events, only the first measurement shall be effective for determining the proper height class for the event or event cluster.
- Dogs must be at least eighteen months of age for measurements to be officially recorded.
- A measuring judge must be fully approved at the Advanced or Masters level (or Advanced under supervision provided the judge's supervisor observes the process) and must be a judge of record for the event, except as otherwise provided below.
- At least one of the judges must be a Certified Measuring Judge (or "CMJ"), and all three judges must agree to the height classification, or additional measurements are required, unless the two concurring measurements are by CMJs.
- Any measurement that is made resulting in a dog being required to jump at a higher height than indicated on the temporary registration card or event entry form (when a temporary registration card is not available) must be reported by the judge to USDAA via the Event Judging Report. The dog must be placed in the proper height class for the event based upon the measurement.

- If the dog is less than three years of age and any of the measurements are less than one inch beneath the cutoff height (for example, >11" to 12" for a dog in the 12" height class), the dog must be re-measured by a CMJ after age three to establish its permanent height.
- Where a CMJ differs in opinion from other judges rendering height measurements after age three, a second CMJ must make an independent measurement. If the two CMJs disagree, then a third CMJ shall make an independent measurement. The two CMJs that are in agreement shall determine the dog's official jump height class designation as set forth in Section 3.2 of the rules and regulations.

#### Permanent Height Cards

In cases where a competitor wishes to avoid controversy when official measurements are in disagreement, the competitor may request an official CMJ committee evaluation which must be requested from USDAA in writing. Upon receipt of a request, USDAA shall appoint a CMJ committee to make an evaluation and render a decision. USDAA reserves the right at any time to call for an evaluation upon review of a dog's measurement record.

A permanent registration card may be issued upon satisfactory completion of the foregoing procedures to certify the dog's height and –

- no measurement between eighteen (18) months of age and three (3) years of age is within one inch beneath the cutoff height for their official height class, or
- the dog has three measurements as described above and is at least three years of age when the CMJ measurement consistent with other measurements is obtained, or
- the CMJ measurement obtained after age three is consistent with other judge signatures obtained prior to age three
- the two CMJ measurements obtained after age three (3) are in agreement

A temporary card meeting the foregoing criteria may be used as a permanent card until the original, signed, temporary card is sent to USDAA for certification; however, any temporary card that is not processed for a permanent card within three (3) years of issuance, may be assessed a renewal fee or marked as expired. If expired, a reinstatement fee will need to be paid to reinstate the registration. A dog may not be entered into competition with an expired card.

A competitor should allow three (3) to six (6) weeks for issuance of a permanent card. A competitor may request an official certification letter or print a copy of their dog's record status from the Competitor Services section of USDAA's web site, either of which may be used until the permanent card is received. Photocopies of temporary cards are not acceptable for measurement certification at events.

A competitor must present their registration card at check-in to confirm that the dog's registration number has been properly recorded on event records and that the dog is entered in the proper height class. The responsibility for confirmation of the registration number rests with the competitor.

#### Challenging a Permanent Height Card

Any judge may challenge a dog's permanently registered height by filing a written request for evaluation with USDAA, which shall appoint a panel of CMJs to evaluate the dog's height. A dog may not be challenged more than once in a twelve-month period.

## **APPENDIX D FOOTNOTES**

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*D.01 Age of competition and performance standards have been established so as not to encourage rigorous training prior to full physiological development of the dog.*

*D.02 USDAA reserves the right to request proof of a dog's age, with such proof being represented by an official record of breed or litter registration from a recognized registry, or if a dog is not so registered, a photograph and a veterinarian's letter of opinion, stipulating that the age represented on the registration application is a reasonable estimate. Such estimate shall become the official "birth date" of record and may not be changed at a later date without significant, substantive evidence to the contrary.*

# APPENDIX E—ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR ENTRY TO CLASSES

## Championship Program

	STARTERS CLASS	ADVANCED CLASS	MASTERS CLASS
<b>STANDARD</b>	Open to those who have not earned a— - Starters Standard Agility title - or Agility Dog® title	Open to those who have earned— - Starters Standard Agility title - or Agility Dog® title But have not earned— - Advanced Standard Agility title or Advanced Agility Dog® title	Open to those who have earned— - Advanced Standard Agility title - or Advanced Agility Dog® title
<b>GAMBLERS</b>	Open to those who have not earned a— - Starters Gambler title - or qualifying score in Advanced Gamblers - or qualifying score in Masters Gamblers	Open to those who have earned— - Starters Gamblers title - or Agility Dog® title But have not earned— - Advanced Gamblers title or qualifying score in Masters Gamblers	Open to those who have earned— - Advanced Gamblers title - or Advanced Agility Dog® title - or 2 qualifying scores in the Advanced Gamblers class prior to January 1, 2004
<b>JUMPERS</b>	Open to those who have not earned a— - Starters Jumper title - or qualifying score in Advanced Jumpers - or qualifying score in Masters Jumpers	Open to those who have earned— - Starters Jumpers title - or Agility Dog® title But have not earned— - Advanced Jumpers title or qualifying score in Masters Jumpers	Open to those who have earned— - Advanced Jumpers title - or Advanced Agility Dog® title - or 2 qualifying scores in the Advanced Jumpers class prior to January 1, 2004
<b>RELAY</b>	Open to those who have not earned a— - Starters Relay title - or qualifying score in Advanced Relay - or qualifying score in Masters Relay	Open to those who have earned— - Starters Relay title - or Agility Dog® title But have not earned— - Advanced Relay title or qualifying score in Masters Relay	Open to those who have earned— - Advanced Relay title - or Advanced Agility Dog® title - or 2 qualifying scores in the Advanced Relay with two different partners prior to January 1, 2004
<b>SNOOKER</b>	Open to those who have not earned a— - Starters Snooker title - or qualifying score in Advanced Snooker - or qualifying score in Masters Snooker	Open to those who have earned— - Starters Gamblers title - or Agility Dog® title But have not earned— - Advanced Gamblers title or qualifying score in Masters Gamblers	Open to those who have earned— - Advanced Snooker title - or Advanced Agility Dog® title - or 2 qualifying scores in the Advanced Snooker class prior to January 1, 2004



# APPENDIX E—ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS—CONTINUED

## Performance Program

	LEVEL I CLASSES	LEVEL II CLASSES	LEVEL III CLASSES
<b>STANDARD</b>	<p>Open to those who have <u>not</u> earned a—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Standard title</li> <li>- or Performance Dog® title</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Standard title</li> <li>- or Starters Standard Agility title</li> <li>- or Performance Dog® title or Agility Dog® title</li> </ul> <p>But have <u>not</u> earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced Performance Standard title</li> <li>- or Advanced Performance Dog® title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Standard</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced Performance Standard title</li> <li>- or Advanced Performance Dog® title</li> <li>- or Advanced Standard Agility title</li> <li>- or Advanced Agility Dog® title</li> </ul>
<b>GAMBLERS</b>	<p>Open to those who have <u>not</u> earned a—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Gambler title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level II Gamblers</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Gamblers</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Gamblers</li> <li>- or Starters Gamblers title</li> <li>- or Performance Dog® title or Agility Dog® title</li> </ul> <p>But have <u>not</u> earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level II Gamblers title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Gamblers</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced Performance Gamblers or Advanced Gamblers title</li> <li>- or Advanced Performance Dog® or Advanced Agility Dog® title</li> <li>- or 2 qualifying scores in the Level II Gamblers or Advanced Gamblers class prior to January 1, 2004</li> </ul>
<b>JUMPERS</b>	<p>Open to those who have <u>not</u> earned a—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Jumper title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level II Jumpers</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Jumpers</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Jumpers title</li> <li>- or Starters Jumpers title</li> <li>- or Performance Dog® title or Agility Dog® title</li> </ul> <p>But have <u>not</u> earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level II Jumpers title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Jumpers</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced Performance Jumpers or Advanced Jumpers title</li> <li>- or Advanced Performance Dog® or Advanced Agility Dog® title</li> <li>- or 2 qualifying scores in the Level II Jumpers or Advanced Jumpers class prior to January 1, 2004</li> </ul>
<b>RELAY</b>	<p>Open to those who have <u>not</u> earned a—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Relay title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level II Relay</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Relay</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Relay title</li> <li>- or Starters Relay title</li> <li>- or Performance Dog® title or Agility Dog® title</li> </ul> <p>But have <u>not</u> earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level II Relay title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Relay</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced Performance Relay title</li> <li>- or Advanced Performance Dog® title</li> <li>- or Advanced Relay title</li> <li>- or Advanced Agility Dog® title</li> </ul>
<b>SNOOKER</b>	<p>Open to those who have <u>not</u> earned a—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Snooker title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level II Snooker</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Snooker</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starters Performance Snooker title</li> <li>- or Starters Snooker title</li> <li>- or Performance Dog® title or Agility Dog® title</li> </ul> <p>But have <u>not</u> earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level II Snooker title</li> <li>- or qualifying score in Level III Snooker</li> </ul>	<p>Open to those who have earned—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced Performance Snooker or Advanced Snooker title</li> <li>- or Advanced Performance Dog® or Advanced Agility Dog® title</li> <li>- or 2 qualifying scores in the Level II Snooker or Advanced Snooker class prior to January 1, 2004</li> </ul>



## APPENDIX F—TITLES AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS

Following is a summary of principal titles awarded in competition and their abbreviations. See Chapter 1 for details on titling requirements.:

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM*		PERFORMANCE PROGRAM*	
<b>Starters Level</b>		<b>Level I</b>	
Agility Dog®	AD	Performance Dog <sup>SM</sup>	PD
Starters Standard Agility <sup>SM</sup>	SSA	Starters Performance Standard <sup>SM</sup>	SPS
Starters Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	SJ	Starters Performance Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	SPJ
Starters Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	SG	Starters Performance Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	SPG
Starters Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	SS	Starters Performance Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	SPK
Starters Relay <sup>SM</sup>	SR	Starters Performance Relay <sup>SM</sup>	SPR
<b>Advanced Level</b>		<b>Level II</b>	
Advanced Agility Dog®	AAD	Advanced Performance Dog <sup>SM</sup>	APD
Advanced Standard Agility <sup>SM</sup>	ASA	Advanced Performance Standard <sup>SM</sup>	APS
Advanced Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	AJ	Advanced Performance Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	APJ
Advanced Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	AG	Advanced Performance Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	APG
Advanced Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	AS	Advanced Performance Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	APK
Advanced Relay <sup>SM</sup>	AR	Advanced Performance Relay <sup>SM</sup>	APR
<b>Masters Level</b>		<b>Level III</b>	
Master Agility Dog®	MAD	Masters Performance Dog <sup>SM</sup>	MPD
Standard Agility Master <sup>SM</sup>	SAM	Performance Standard Master <sup>SM</sup>	PSM
Jumper Master <sup>SM</sup>	JM	Performance Jumper Master <sup>SM</sup>	PJM
Gambler Master <sup>SM</sup>	GM	Performance Gambler Master <sup>SM</sup>	PGM
Snooker Master <sup>SM</sup>	SM	Performance Snooker Master <sup>SM</sup>	PKM
Relay Master <sup>SM</sup>	RM	Performance Relay Master <sup>SM</sup>	PRM
<b>Additional Masters Level Titles<sup>F.01</sup></b>		<b>Additional Level III Titles<sup>F.01</sup></b>	
Agility Dog Champion®	ADCH	Performance Dog Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PDCH
Tournament Master <sup>SM</sup>	TM	Performance Tournament Master <sup>SM</sup>	PTM
Standard Agility Champion <sup>SM</sup>	SACH	Performance Standard Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PSCH
Jumpers Champion <sup>SM</sup>	JCH	Performance Jumpers Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PJCH
Gamblers Champion <sup>SM</sup>	GCH	Performance Gamblers Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PGCH
Snooker Champion <sup>SM</sup>	SCH	Performance Snooker Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PKCH
Relay Champion <sup>SM</sup>	RCH	Performance Relay Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PRCH

Details on titling requirements for the Junior Handler and Veterans Programs can be found in Chapters 8 and 9, respectively.

JUNIOR HANDLER PROGRAM		VETERANS PROGRAM <sup>F.01</sup>	
Junior Handler - Beginner <sup>SM</sup>	JHB	Veteran Standard Dog <sup>SM</sup>	VSD
Junior Handler - Elementary <sup>SM</sup>	JHE	Veteran Gamblers Dog <sup>SM</sup>	VDG
Junior Handler - Intermediate <sup>SM</sup>	JHI	Veteran Jumpers Dog <sup>SM</sup>	VJD
Junior Handler - Senior <sup>SM</sup>	JHS	Veteran Snooker Dog <sup>SM</sup>	VKD
		Veteran Versatility Dog <sup>SM</sup>	VVD

### UPCOMING TITLES

The following program is to be implemented August 1, 2011

INTRO PROGRAM <sup>F.02</sup>	
Intro Standard Dog <sup>SM</sup>	ISD
Intro Gamblers Dog <sup>SM</sup>	IGD
Intro Jumpers Dog <sup>SM</sup>	IJD
Intro Snooker Dog <sup>SM</sup>	IKD
Intro Versatility Dog <sup>SM</sup>	IVD

Additional titles will be awarded in the Championship and Performance Programs starting January 1, 2012, as follows:<sup>F.03</sup>

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM		PERFORMANCE PROGRAM	
MC Standard Agility Champion	MCSAC	MC Performance Standard Champion	MCPSC
MC Jumpers Champion	MCJC	MC Performance Jumpers Champion	MCPJC

### APPENDIX F FOOTNOTES

<sup>F.01</sup>Each of the below titles are enhanced through designation as Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum upon earning 15, 25, 35 and 50 qualifications towards the individual title, and may be designated by appending the letter B, S, G or P to the related title abbreviation. (For example: ADCH-B or PDCH-G.)

<sup>F.02</sup>Each of the below titles are enhanced through designation as Bronze, Silver and Gold upon earning 6, 9 and 12 qualifications, respectively, towards the individual title, and may be designated by appending the letter B, S or G to the related title abbreviation. (For example: ISD-B..)

<sup>F.03</sup>These titles are subject to change with release of final details on these Classes. (See Chapter 12.)

## APPENDIX G—ELECTRONIC TIMING SYSTEMS

The purpose of timing is to measure the time required to perform the course<sup>G.01</sup>. Time may be measured manually or through the use of an electronic timing system at the option of the host organization. An electronic timing system is defined as equipment that is electronically calibrated to measure time with start and finish measured electronically by the breaking of a reflective light beam. The group should state in the agility test schedule (a.k.a., premium list) if an electronic timing system will be used<sup>G.02</sup>.

### Rules For Judging When Using Electronic Timing

- A timekeeper shall be assigned to monitor and reset the system under direction of the judge.
- Time shall be measured to 1/100th of a second<sup>G.03</sup>.
- Sensors should be positioned to form a start and finish line at a position on or in front of the first obstacle and on or beyond beyond the last obstacle. The start and finish lines shall not exceed six feet (180cm) from the obstacle.
- The sensors shall not impede the performance path of handler or dog. The course distance shall be measured from the start and finish lines as defined by the sensors.

When timing sensors are on the plane of the first obstacle,

- a dog that runs past the first obstacle without tripping the sensors shall be assessed a refusal penalty if refusals are penalized in the class.
- for all classes a five second time penalty shall be added to the performance time.
- for point-basis classes, points should generally be deducted from the score earned during the time period in lieu of other penalties at the judge's discretion<sup>G.04</sup>.

If a dog runs past the last obstacle (a refusal), he shall be assessed a refusal when appropriate to the class. If this is not corrected by having the dog perform the obstacle in the intended direction, then the appropriate penalty for omitting a course obstacle (i.e., wrong course penalty) shall apply.

If a handler triggers the start or finish sensor instead of the dog,

- a penalty for a five point standard fault or elimination shall be scored, as the judge deems appropriate.
- if the start sensor, time shall keep running and shall not be restarted.

The timekeeper should be positioned to monitor the finish line in case the a manual stop is required due to sensor failure or the dog should jump over or run around the beam.

### Course Design Considerations

- The judge should determine if there are any special limitations to a timing system. For example, some systems do not allow the start or finish obstacle to be used a second time during the course.
- Start/finish lines must be designed such that a steward can be on course as a timekeeper in the event of failure of the electronic timing system.
- When the start sensors are placed upon the plane of the obstacle, the only obstacles that may be used for a starting obstacle are: (1) jumps of any type, (2) open tunnels, and (3) collapsed tunnels.
- When the finish sensors are placed upon the plane of the obstacle, the only obstacles that may be used for a finish obstacle are: (1) jumps of any type, and (2) open tunnels.
- When electronic timing sensors are to be utilized on the plane of the first and/or last obstacles, the judge shall indicate this on their course diagram when submitted for course review.

## **APPENDIX G FOOTNOTES:**

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**G.01** *The concept of time measurement presumes that any device used for timing the course shall be accurate from start line to finish line, and that such devices (and lines) are solely for the purpose of measuring time, and not as an obstacle on the course. Consistency of timing from one competitor to the next is an important element in use of any timing methodology.*

**G.02** *A statement that electronic timing is being used does not obligate the group to measure all runs using electronic timing. It shall be understood by competitors and others that electronic timing equipment is subject to failure or may have other potential issues and manual timing may still be employed at the discretion of the judge, and such time shall be the official time for the performance.*

**G.03** *If timing equipment measures a greater degree of accuracy than 1/100th of a second, the additional digits shall be disregarded. For example, time measured to .067 shall be recorded as .06. In case of a tie, a runoff may be required if duplicate prizes are not being awarded. While timing equipment may be rated as being more accurate, by the nature of most equipment and the nature of the dog, we cannot be sure whether the dog's nose, chest or leg trips a beam. If and when a solid plane is covered where accuracy can be assured, the regulations may be modified to require such measurement.*

**G.04** *The number of points to be deducted shall be at the discretion of the judge. In gamblers or snooker, as an example, the point value of the last obstacle performed in the time period may be deducted, as . In the rare situation where the dog does not perform an obstacle or earns no points on the last obstacle before the time period expires, the judge may deem that no points shall be deducted, as no benefit was realized.*

## **APPENDIX H—GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR ENTRY TO EVENTS**

### **1.1—CONSIDERATION & WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

In consideration of the acceptance of this entry and the opportunity to participate and/or to be judged in the event on the dates to which this entry form applies (the “event”), I agree to hold harmless each of the parties listed below (including each of their members, officers, directors, agents and employees), hereinafter collectively referred to as the “event organizers”, from any claim for loss or injury that may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of myself or the dog listed on the entry form while in or upon the event premises or grounds or near any entrance thereto -

- The event’s organizing committee
- The event organizer, being the usdaa affiliated group (or groups) hosting or otherwise responsible for conduct of the event
- United states dog agility association, inc. (“usdaa”), world cynosport limited and affiliated companies
- Event sponsors
- Property owners of the premises upon which the event is held

I further agree to hold harmless the event organizers from any claim for loss or injury of the dog listed on my entry form for the event as a result of disappearance, theft, death or other act, whether such loss or injury is caused or alleged to be caused for any reason, including negligence. I assume all responsibility and liability for any claims referenced in this “general agreement”, including legal fees.

### **1.2—ACKNOWLEDGMENT & ACCEPTANCE OF REGULATIONS**

I acknowledge that I have read and understand USDAA® official rules and regulations and rules for competition (e.g., tournament rules) that relate to the event, whether incorporated in this general agreement by reference or as stipulated herein for the event to which this entry form pertains.

I accept and agree to abide by any and all rulings of the organizing committee (and its members), the event’s disciplinary action committee and/or usdaa relative to matters related to the event.

### **1.3—ACKNOWLEDGMENT & REPRESENTATION OF ACCURACY**

I acknowledge, represent and warrant that the information supplied by me in the entry form is correct and complete. If any portion of this information is found to be invalid or insufficient to establish the validity of my entry, such finding shall render my entry invalid in its entirety, for which there shall be no refund of fees paid or other recourse against the event organizers. Any acceptance of additional information or corrections to information after the closing date shall be at the sole discretion of the event secretary.

### **1.4—REPRESENTATION OF OWNERSHIP OR AGENCY**

I hereby represent and warrant that I am the owner of the dog listed hereon, or that I have full authority from the dog’s owner as their agent to enter the dog in competition and to assume their responsibilities for the care, custody and control of the dog for entry to the event, and

I agree to hold harmless the event organizers listed in paragraph 1.1

From any liability or claims, including legal fees, related to such ownership or agency status.

### **1.5—MEDIA RELEASE, GRANTS & WAIVERS OF RIGHTS TO BROADCAST & PROMOTE**

Competitor hereby grants to usdaa and its affiliated companies, representatives, agents and assigns, all rights and permission to use or appropriate his/her and their dog’s name, biography, likeness, photograph, voice, performing persona, or other indicia of identity for broadcast,

telecast, cablecast, transmission or distribution in any format or media known now or in the future.

### **1.6—WAIVER OF RIGHTS TO PRIVACY, PUBLICITY & PERSONALITY**

Further, competitor hereby releases united states dog agility association, inc. And its affiliates, representatives, agents and assigns from any claim or cause of action for invasion of the rights of privacy, right of publicity, right of personality, or any similar right.

### **1.7—SIGNATURE/ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION EXECUTION**

Through my physical signature on the paper entry form, or through my submission of an electronic entry to the event, I acknowledge, accept and agree to abide by the provisions of this general agreement, and all policies, rules, regulations and conditions of entry to the event

Further, if entry is for a minor, through my physical signature on the paper entry form, or through my submission of an electronic entry to the event, I represent and warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of the competitor/handler entered in the event, and I acknowledge that I have reviewed all provisions of this general agreement, policies, rules, regulations, and conditions of entry to the event with the minor and I shall be solely responsible for their actions and compliance with all rules, regulations, policies and provisions for the event, and assume full liability for minor's actions and actions of their dog.



# PERFORMANCE PROGRAM TITLE CONVERSION CHART

Titles in the Performance Program were renamed effective January 1, 2011, in order to better reflect the level and nature of each title within the program. Below is a comparative table showing the changes.

PRE-2011 PERFORMANCE PROGRAM		2011 PERFORMANCE PROGRAM	
<b>Level I</b>		<b>Level I</b>	
Performance Dog I <sup>SM</sup>	PD1	Performance Dog <sup>SM</sup>	PD
Performance Standard I <sup>SM</sup>	PS1	Starters Performance Standard <sup>SM</sup>	SPS
Performance Jumpers I <sup>SM</sup>	PJ1	Starters Performance Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	SPJ
Performance Gamblers I <sup>SM</sup>	PG1	Starters Performance Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	SPG
Performance Snooker I <sup>SM</sup>	PK1	Starters Performance Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	SPK
Performance Relay I <sup>SM</sup>	PR1	Starters Performance Relay <sup>SM</sup>	SPR
<b>Level II</b>		<b>Level II</b>	
Performance Dog II <sup>SM</sup>	PD2	Advanced Performance Dog <sup>SM</sup>	APD
Performance Standard II <sup>SM</sup>	PS2	Advanced Performance Standard <sup>SM</sup>	APS
Performance Jumpers II <sup>SM</sup>	PJ2	Advanced Performance Jumper <sup>SM</sup>	APJ
Performance Gamblers II <sup>SM</sup>	PG2	Advanced Performance Gambler <sup>SM</sup>	APG
Performance Snooker II <sup>SM</sup>	PK2	Advanced Performance Snooker <sup>SM</sup>	APK
Performance Relay II <sup>SM</sup>	PR2	Advanced Performance Relay <sup>SM</sup>	APR
<b>Level III</b>		<b>Level III</b>	
Performance Dog III <sup>®</sup>	PD3	Masters Performance Dog <sup>SM</sup>	MPD
Performance Standard III <sup>SM</sup>	PS3	Performance Standard Master <sup>SM</sup>	PSM
Performance Jumpers III <sup>SM</sup>	PJ3	Performance Jumper Master <sup>SM</sup>	PJM
Performance Gamblers III <sup>SM</sup>	PG3	Performance Gambler Master <sup>SM</sup>	PGM
Performance Snooker III <sup>SM</sup>	PK3	Performance Snooker Master <sup>SM</sup>	PKM
Performance Relay III <sup>SM</sup>	PR3	Performance Relay Master <sup>SM</sup>	PRM
<b>Accomplished Level</b>		<b>Championship Level</b>	
Accomplished Performance Dog <sup>SM</sup>	APD	Performance Dog Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PDCH
Accomplished Tournament Dog <sup>SM</sup>	ATD	Performance Tournament Master <sup>SM</sup>	PTM
Accomplished Standard Dog <sup>SM</sup>	ASD	Performance Standard Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PSCH
Accomplished Jumpers Dog <sup>SM</sup>	AJD	Performance Jumpers Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PJCH
Accomplished Gamblers Dog <sup>SM</sup>	AGD	Performance Gamblers Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PGCH
Accomplished Snooker Dog <sup>SM</sup>	AKD	Performance Snooker Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PKCH
Accomplished Relay Dog <sup>SM</sup>	ARD	Performance Relay Champion <sup>SM</sup>	PRCH



**UNITED STATES DOG AGILITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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