

## 2008 DOG AGILITY STEEPLECHASE® LOCAL QUALIFIER

**Description:** The “Steeplechase” is a two-round tournament with emphasis on speed. Each round will be conducted on a jumpers-style course that shall include at least two spread hurdles, a long jump and an A-frame and weave poles. Either the A-Frame or weave poles shall be required to be performed twice. Top competitors as set forth below (see qualification and advancement) shall advance to Round 2 to compete for prize money and Tournament Top Ten points. Qualifiers as defined herein earn the right to enter either the quarterfinals or semifinals at the Dog Agility Steeplechase® championships to be held in autumn of 2008. This tournament is open to all competitors not entered in Performance Speed Jumping<sup>SM</sup> qualifier at this event regardless of titles earned.

**Scoring:** The tournament shall be conducted pursuant to USDAA Championship Program Starters level rules, except that scoring in each round shall be on a time plus faults basis, with a five-point penalty added to a competitor’s performance time for each occurrence of a fallen hurdle or missed contact; running the wrong course shall be scored as an elimination as defined under Masters rules.

**Qualification & Advancement (For the purposes of this explanation, a score is anything other than elimination.)**

### **Local Qualifiers:**

Qualification shall be determined based upon the Round 1 scores of the top three dogs in each jump height provided there are at least 5 scores in the 12” or 16” height classes or 7 scores in the 22” and 26” height classes. The top three scores shall be averaged and multiplied by a factor of 1.25 to determine the maximum qualifying score for each jump height. Only competitors with scores equal to or less than the maximum qualifying score qualify.

Further, in the event that fewer than five competitors in any height class receive a score, the top three scores must be determined from the combined height division for small dogs (12” and 16”) or large dogs (22” and 26”) to determine the maximum qualifying score for all dogs competing in that division in the manner described above.

However, if there are fewer than five scores in a division, the top score from the division shall be used to calculate the maximum qualifying score. In this case, the top score shall be multiplied by a factor of 1.25 to determine the maximum qualifying score.

Qualifiers and placement winners (minimum of four, there is no maximum) in the height class are eligible to advance to Round 2 at a local qualifying event in order to compete for Top Ten points and prize money, provided they have finished the round with a score. Non-qualifying competitors running in Round 2 shall not be credited with a qualifying score regardless of their final standing and at the Regional level are not eligible to earn a bye based upon their score in Round 2. A finalist slot vacated by a competitor who has earned the right to compete in the final round shall be forfeited and no substitutions are allowed.

### **Regional Championships**

The same process used for determining qualifying scores in Round 1 at the local qualifier will be applied in Round 1 at a Regional. To determine the maximum qualifying score in Round 2 at a Regional, the same method is applied, but the multiplier of 1.15 will be utilized. Any competitor in Round 2 with a score less than or equal to the maximum qualifying score as calculated in this manner will earn a 'bye' into the Steeplechase semifinals championships. Non-qualifying competitors are not eligible to run in Round 2 to satisfy numerical minimums. Any 'bye' that is earned may only be used by the handler/dog team who earned it and may not be transferred to another dog and/or handler.

### **Eligibility for Entry:**

**Regional Championships:** A competitor must have one qualification at a local qualifier to be eligible to enter Round 1 of a Regional Championships.

**World Championship:**

**Quarterfinals:** Two qualifications, one of which may be from the first round of a Regional Championship will be required for entry.

**Semifinals:** Advancement from the quarterfinals by earning the equivalent of a qualifying score or by direct entry into the semifinal by having earned a 'bye' at a Regional Championship.

Program eligibility in Regional and National/World Championships shall be determined as follows: Where a competitor has qualifying scores in Championship Program tournaments and Performance Program tournaments, a competitor must enter all Championship Program tournaments unless the total number of qualifications earned in all Performance Program tournaments is greater.

### **Awards:**

**Local Qualifiers:** Prize money shall be computed based upon 20% to 40% (at club’s discretion) of the total entry fees to be allocated in accordance with the payout table below regardless of the size of entry in any height class.

**Regional Championships:** Prize money shall be computed based upon 30% of the total entry fees to be allocated in accordance with the payout table below regardless of the size of entry in any height class.

Height Class	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Total*
12”	10%	6%	4%				20%
16”	10%	6%	4%	3%			23%
22”	10%	6%	4%	4%	3%	3%	30%
26”	10%	6%	4%	4%	3%		27%
Totals	40%	24%	16%	11%	6%	3%	100%

\*Allocable amounts to finalist positions that are not filled for any reason or allocable prize amounts less than \$3.00 shall not be paid.