

RULES FOR THE 2017 USDAA® GRAND PRIX OF DOG AGILITY® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP & PERFORMANCE GRAND PRIXSM CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SERIES

USDAA's 2017 *Grand Prix of Dog Agility*® world championship tournament series is designed to showcase top competitors in the sport of dog agility and to name an annual world champion in each jump height.

The *Performance Grand Prix*SM championship tournament series follows the same structure and rules as the *Grand Prix of Dog Agility*. Obstacle specifications used in USDAA's Performance Program are utilized and the standard course times allow three additional seconds.

The Qualifying Period for the 2017 Tournament Season is September 6, 2016 through September 7, 2017.

Each tournament is structured on three levels:

- Local qualifying events held during the Qualifying Period
- Regional championships consisting of two progressive rounds of competition (semifinals and finals), held in select cities from March through September, and
- A final championship event, consisting of quarterfinals, semifinals and finals, to be held at the Cynosport® World Games in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 25-29, 2017.

General Rules

This tournament is designed to provide a test in head-to-head competition with challenges that generally conform to the Course Design Guidelines of the Masters Standard class. Emphasis will be on challenges at speed, which is measured against more stringent course time standards than what is used in Masters Standard titling classes, as set forth under "Scoring" in these regulations. Speed is further aided by the absence of the table in the course design.

Competitors are eligible to compete in the tournament series with any dog that is fully registered with USDAA without regard to previous accomplishments in the sport. The following general rules apply:

- A person may enter more than one dog in the tournament; however, no dog may be entered by more than one person and no dog may be entered in both the Championship and Performance Program of this tournament at the same event.
- Any competitor may enter any of the local qualifying trials or regional championship events without regard to geographic location.
- Competitors and all ring personnel must wear specified attire. Such attire, if any, shall be set forth in the Agility Test Schedule for the event, and/or distributed at the event. In addition,
 - T-shirts other than USDAA t-shirts are not permitted in the main performance ring at the World Championship event
 - Polo shirts are recommended and shirt-tails should be tucked-in in a neat manner
 - Apparel or accessories may not be worn or exhibited in or about the ring that include any insignia, name or logo of corporations or associations other than that of USDAA or its national and regional sponsors on the day of the tournament, without the express written permission of USDAA
 - Apparel or accessories may not be worn that include offensive graphics or remarks or include any statements promoting a cause or agenda
 - Apparel or paraphernalia event organizers in their sole discretion deem to present a poor image or representation of the sport, USDAA or other organizations shall not be exhibited in or about the ring
 - Other restrictions in the spirit of these regulations may be imposed by USDAA without prior notice
- Qualifications ("Qs") earned in local qualifying events and in Round 1 of a regional championship event are recorded for titling purposes and Lifetime Achievement Awards and count as a required Q for Cynosport.
- Qualifications ("Qs") earned in advanced rounds (i.e., regional finals and all rounds at the *Cynosport*® World Games) are recorded for tournament advancement only and are not recorded for titling or Lifetime Achievement Award purposes and do not count as a required Q for Cynosport.

Scoring

USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply. Standard scoring rules for the Masters standard agility class as set forth in Chapter 3 of USDAA rules and regulations shall apply, except that standard course times shall range from:

- 2.85 to 3.35 yards per second if entered in the 12" height class (10" height class after 12/28/2016)
- 2.95 to 3.45 yards per second if entered in the 14" height class
- 3.10 to 3.60 yards per second if entered in the 16" height class
- 3.25 to 3.75 yards per second if entered in the 18" height class (20" height class after 12/28/2016)
- 3.50 to 4.00 yards per second if entered in the 22" height class
- 3.50 to 4.00 yards per second if entered in the 26" height class (24" height class after 12/28/2016)

A qualifying score shall be awarded for a zero-fault round pursuant to these standards, except in designated countries or territories outside the U.S., where separate standards may apply. Only local residents within those areas that do not have ready access to competitions are eligible for these special standards.

Local Qualifying Events Eligibility & Advancement

- Local qualifying events consist of a single round on a standard course.
- One qualifying score is required for entry to a regional championship, and
- Two qualifying scores at the same jump height (one of which may be earned in round 1 at a regional championship) are required for entry to the world championship quarterfinals and semifinals, the latter of which requires a bye earned at a regional championship.
- First place winners earning a qualifying score at a local qualifier shall be awarded a Regional Bye Voucher ("RBV") for a first-round bye at a regional championship in the same tournament year at the jump height in which earned; however, when a local qualifier is held in conjunction with an agility test where all levels of any titling class held are NOT being offered, 'bye' vouchers will not be awarded.
 - RBVs earned at local qualifying events must be included with the entry to the regional championship and are not reusable and will not be replaced if lost or destroyed
 - RBVs are nontransferable to another handler or competitor

Regional Championship Events Eligibility & Advancement

- Regional championships consist of two rounds, with competitors who earn a qualifying score in Round 1 advancing to Round 2 to compete against competitors who have earned byes at local qualifying events.
- Generally, a competitor must be entered in a Regional championship in the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) and height class in which eligibility was earned; however,
 - For competitors transitioning to new eligible program jump heights beginning 12/28/2016, qualifications and byes earned at a local event prior to 12/28/2016, enable a competitor to enter the Regional championship in any eligible new jump height in either program, regardless of which height class or program the qualifications had been previously earned.
 - Such qualifications may be combined with qualifications earned in either program after 12/28/2016, as if earned in the new jump height and program.
- Any dog entered in this tournament that does not have a completed registration card, i.e. three measurements that place the dog in a specific jump height, must be measured prior to competing at a regional championship. Should the dog measure up (i.e., into a higher height class), the competitor must jump their dog at the higher height, regardless of the height previously qualified. If a bye was earned at the lower height, it cannot be used at the event where the dog measured up, and the competitor must compete in any preliminary rounds
- A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.

- A single-round, local qualifying class shall be held in conjunction with a regional championship event to provide an opportunity for competitors to qualify for the regional. Competitors who enter the local qualifying class must submit a provisional entry to round 1 of the regional with entry.
- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in Round 2 of a regional championship (i.e the competitor running in Round 2 must be the same handler of the dog that earned the Round 1 qualification or earned the RBV.)
- In a regional championship, “byes” in the world championship quarterfinals (i.e., earning the right to directly enter the semifinals) will be earned in each jump height by competitors placing 1-3 with zero faults in Round 2 or placing within the top 50% in each jump height in Round 2 with zero faults, whichever is greater.
- The competitor who places first in each height class is named Regional Champion, regardless of faults earned in the final round.

Cynosport® Championship Event Eligibility & Advancement

- A competitor must enter the same Program (i.e., Championship or Performance) for all tournaments entered.
- A competitor may enter different jump heights in different tournaments within the same program as long as they have met the height class eligibility requirements for each tournament.
- Competitors must meet qualification and eligibility requirements* in two of the four tournaments in the same program to compete at Cynosport® 2017, summarized as follows:
 - Grand Prix of Dog Agility®/Performance Grand PrixSM
 - Quarterfinals: Two Qs
 - Semifinals: Two Qs plus a bye earned in Round 2 of a regional championship
 - Dog Agility Steeplechase®/Performance Speed JumpingSM
 - Quarterfinals: Two Qs
 - Semifinals: Two Qs plus a bye earned in Round 2 of a regional championship
 - Dog Agility Masters® Team/Performance Versatility PairsSM – Two Qs
 - Masters Challenge (“MC”) BiathlonSM /Performance Masters Challenge (“PMC”) BiathlonSM –
 - Two Qs in a MC/PMC Biathlon Tournament earned at a local or Regional Biathlon event, or
 - Four Qs in MC/PMC titling classes, with two Qs in MC/PMC Standard titling classes and two Qs in MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes, when the titling classes are not held as part of a Biathlon (or when no biathlon Q is earned when concurrent scoring in a Biathlon is done for titling purposes), or
 - Three Qs, with—
 - One Q in a MC/PMC Biathlon Tournament (local or Regional), and
 - Two Qs, with one Q in MC/PMC Standard titling classes and one Q in MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes, when the titling classes are not held as part of a Biathlon (or when no biathlon Q is earned when concurrent scoring in a Biathlon is done for titling purposes).
- Competitors who place within the top 50% of those entered in each jump height class in Round 2 of a regional championship with zero faults shall be eligible to enter the Cynosport® World Championship semifinals.
- Competitors who place within the top 50% of those entered in each jump height class in the world championship quarterfinals with zero faults shall advance to the world championship semifinals.
- Competitors who place within the top 15% of those entered in the semifinals or advancing from the quarterfinals to the semifinals with zero faults are eligible to compete in the finals, subject to limitations for the maximum number of competitors allowed in each jump height. In the event a tie score results in the number of competitors exceeding these requirements, the additional competitors shall advance to the finals in lieu of holding a runoff.
- The competitor earning the least faults in the fastest time in the finals shall be the winner. Should a tie of faults occur, the competitor achieving that result in the fastest time is the winner. Should competitors have a tie of faults and time on course, a runoff shall be conducted on the same or similar course until a winner is determined.

2017 Grand Prix of Dog Agility® Tournament Rules – Continued



- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in the advanced rounds in the Cynosport® World Games (i.e., the competitor running in the semifinals must be the same handler of the dog that earned the qualification in the quarterfinals or earned the bye into the semifinals from a regional championship event, and the competitor running in the finals must be the same handler who earned the qualification in the semifinals.)

Awards

Qualifying ribbons (or certificates) and placement ribbons or rosettes at local qualifying events (including semifinal round qualifications at regional championships) and at championship events held outside the United States shall be the responsibility of the host organization.

USDAA will sponsor tournament awards at the regional championship events held throughout the United States as follows:

- Regional championship placement rosettes and medals shall be awarded to first through third places in each height class
- Cynosport® Semifinalist Bye Vouchers will be awarded to those with zero faults in the top 50% of a regional championship final
- Regional championship trophy shall be awarded to the first place winner in each jump height class

USDAA will sponsor tournament awards at the Cynosport® World Games as follows:

- Cynosport® semifinalist rosettes or certificates shall be awarded to those who advance from the quarterfinals or enter via a Semifinalist Bye Voucher to the semifinals at the world championship event
- Trophy cups, rosettes and medals shall be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in each jump height class of the final round at the Cynosport® championship event
- Finalist plaques shall be awarded to all finalists in the Cynosport® championship event who did not earn a first, second or third place
- Finalist polo shirts shall be awarded to all finalists and are to be worn in the finals

USDAA may offer awards in addition to those indicated above at its discretion.

Interpretations of Rules

These tournament rules cannot address all matters that may arise during the course of the tournament series. Interpretation of these regulations shall be made from time to time by judges and show officials as circumstances arise. These interpretations shall be made in the spirit of sportsmanship and in fulfillment of the purpose of this tournament series in seeking to identify and promote top competitors in head-to-head competition for the current tournament season. Final authority for interpretation of these rules shall be the USDAA Rules Advisory Board.

**See the respective tournament rules for definition of a qualifying score and eligibility requirements for each respective tournament.*