

TOURNAMENT RULES FOR THE 2020 CYNOSPORT® WORLD GAMES

The 2020 Cynosport® World Games event is the culmination of the local and regional tournament season. The event will be held in Paso Robles, California, November 11-15, 2020.

Each tournament is open to all competitors with any dog, regardless of competition level (i.e., Starters, Advanced and Masters). Tournament advancement is structured on three levels: Local qualifying events held during the Qualifying Period, Regional Championships, and a final championship event, consisting of multiple rounds to be held at the Cynosport® World Games.

USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply.

2020 Cynosport Eligibility Requirements:

The Qualifying Period for the 2020 tournament season shall run from September 3, 2019, through September 8, 2020.

Competitors must meet eligibility requirements in a minimum of one (1) tournament to compete at Cynosport® 2020. All Qualifications (“Qs”) for entry to Cynosport must be in the same Program for which entry is made. The qualification requirements for each tournament are as follows:

- **Grand Prix of Dog Agility®/Performance Grand PrixSM**
 - Quarterfinals: Two (2) Qs, one of which may be replaced by a 5Q Wild Card as defined on page 2
 - Semifinals: Above qualifications, plus a Bye earned at a Regional Championship
- **Dog Agility Steeplechase®/Performance Speed JumpingSM**
 - Quarterfinals: Two (2) Qs, one of which may be replaced by a 5Q Wild Card as defined on page 2
 - Semifinals: Above qualifications, plus a Bye earned at a Regional Championship
- **Dog Agility Masters® Team/Performance Versatility PairsSM**
 - Two (2) Qs, one of which may be replaced by a 5Q Wild Card as defined on page 2
- **Masters Challenge/Performance Masters Challenge BiathlonSM**
 - Two (2) Biathlon Qs, one of which may be replaced by a 5Q Wild Card as defined on page 2, *or*
 - One (1) Masters Challenge Wild Card, which is the accumulation of five (5) Qs earned in MC/PMC Standard or MC/PMC Jumpers titling classes (see Biathlon rules herein).

5Q Wild Card Qualification

- A “5Q Wild Card” qualification is the accumulation of any five (5) Qs earned in titling classes at a local and/or Regional event during the qualifying period. Eligible titling classes include: Standard, Gamblers, Snooker, Jumpers, and Pairs Relay at any level (i.e., Starters/Performance Level 1, Advanced/Performance Level 2, and Masters/Performance Level 3, and MC/PMC).
- All Wild Card qualifications must be earned at the tournament jump height being entered at Cynosport®, except as otherwise permitted for the Team/PVP tournament.
- One (1) 5Q Wild Card may be applied to satisfy a single Qualification required for one of the four tournaments at Cynosport® 2020.

Separate qualification standards may apply in designated countries or territories outside the U.S. and North America. Only local residents within those areas that do not have ready access to competitions are eligible to qualify under such special standards.

General Rules for All Tournament Classes

- 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, except as otherwise stipulated herein.
- Any competitor may enter any of the local qualifying trials or Regional Championships without regard to geographic location except as otherwise stipulated herein.

Program Requirements:

- 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 a single tournament at the same event.
- A competitor must be entered in a Regional Championship in the same program (Championship or Performance) and height class in which eligibility was earned.

Jump Heights:

- A competitor may enter different jump heights in different tournaments within the same program (e.g., 24” Steeplechase, 12” Grand Prix, 20” MC Biathlon) provided they have met the height class eligibility requirements for each tournament as provided herein.
- Any dog 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 or in the Cynosport Quarterfinals. 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.



Handler Substitutions:

- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in a Masters Challenge Biathlon tournament. The same handler must handle the dog in both rounds for tournament qualification, advancement and awards. (This shall not preclude handler substitutions for titling purposes in the titling classes.)
- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in the advanced rounds of a tournament (i.e., the competitor running in a Final round must be the same handler of the dog that earned the advancement from the Semifinal round or earned an RBV at a local qualifying event.)
- Byes used to advance in the tournament may only be redeemed by the handler and dog that earned the Bye and are not transferrable.
- In the event a handler in the Team/PVP tournament is unable to continue through all classes, one handler “substitution of necessity” with the approval of the judge may be made. No additional handler substitutions shall be permitted (including reversion back to the original team member).

Recordkeeping:

- Qualifications (“Qs”) earned in local qualifying events and in tournaments that specify a “Semifinals” at a Regional Championship event are recorded for titling purposes for the Tournament Master and other titles, as well as Lifetime Achievement Awards.
- 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. (These Qs do not count as required Qs for Cynosport entry eligibility.)
- Lifetime Achievement Awards
 - Qualifications for Lifetime Achievement Awards in the Team/PVP classes may be earned at local qualifying events and Regional Championships and shall be determined based upon the scores of the top three dogs in each award class provided there are at least 5 scores in the mini-division height classes, or 7 scores each in the large division height classes in Team. The top three scores shall be averaged and for Jumpers and Standard, multiplied by a factor of 1.15 to determine the maximum qualifying score for each award class. For Gamblers and Snooker, the average of the top three scores in each class are multiplied by a factor of .85 to determine the minimum qualifying score.
 - In the event that fewer than five competitors actually compete in any mini-division height class, or fewer than seven competitors in the large division height classes, the top score from each award class shall be used to calculate the qualifying score. In this case, the top score shall be multiplied by same factors listed above. If there is just one competitor in an award class, that competitor automatically qualifies.
 - Qualifying scores earned at Cynosport® 2020 are not recorded for title or Lifetime Achievement Awards purposes.
- Zero fault rounds meeting the titling requirements of Chapter 12 that are earned in each of the Masters Challenge/Performance Masters Challenge Biathlon tournament classes at local qualifying events or Regional Championships are recorded as qualifications for titling purposes and Lifetime Achievement Awards.



Apparel (Dress Code) Requirements:

- Competitors and all ring personnel must wear sports appropriate attire. Specific attire (e.g., award polo shirts or award jerseys) must be worn as may be set forth in the Agility Test Schedule for the event, and/or as posted at time of distribution at the event. In addition, apparel or paraphernalia that event organizers in their sole discretion deem to present a poor image or representation of the sport, USDAA, or other organizations, including sponsors, shall not be exhibited at any time. Other restrictions in the spirit of these regulations may be imposed by USDAA without prior notice.

(See Tournament Awards Summary following individual Rules for each tournament below.)



Grand Prix of Dog Agility® and Performance Grand PrixSM Tournament

A world championship tournament series designed to showcase top competitors in the sport of dog agility and to name an annual world champion in each jump height. The challenges presented generally conform to the Course Design Guidelines of the Masters Standard class in both Programs, with an emphasis on speed.

Grand Prix (GP) / Performance Grand Prix (PGP) Qualification:

A qualifying score (“Qualification” or “Q”) shall be awarded for a zero-fault round within the course time standards established below. Standard course times shall range from:

- Small: 2.95 to 3.45 yards per second (10” height class)
- Medium: 3.10 to 3.60 yards per second (14”-16” height classes)
- Large: 3.50 to 4.00 yards per second (20”-24” height classes)

In Performance Grand Prix, the standard course time is increased by three (3) seconds.

Grand Prix / PGP Tournament Advancement:

Local Events:

- Local qualifying events consist of a single round on a standard course.
- First place winners in each jump height earning a Qualification 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.
 - 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 non-transferable to another handler or competitor.

Regional Events:

- One (1) qualifying score is required for entry to a Regional Championship.
- Regional Championships consist of two (2) rounds, with competitors who earn a qualifying score in the Semifinals advance to the final round to compete against competitors who have earned RBVs at local qualifying events.
- 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 for this purpose must submit a provisional entry to the Regional Semifinals with their entry.
- Byes for the tournament quarterfinals at Cynosport® 2020 may be earned in the final round at a Regional Championship by competitors placing 1st through 3rd with zero faults or placing within the top 50% in each jump height with zero faults, whichever is greater. A “Bye” permits a competitor to directly enter the Semifinals at Cynosport. A Bye is non-transferable to another handler or competitor.
- The competitor who places first in each height class in the final round is named Regional Champion, regardless of faults earned.



Cynosport:

- Two (2) qualifying scores at the same jump height (one of which may be earned in the semifinal round at a Regional Championship) are required for entry to the Cynosport World Games Quarterfinals and Semifinals, the latter of which also requires a Bye earned at a Regional Championship.
- One (1) of the qualifying scores may be satisfied with a 5Q Wild Card. (A 5Q Wild Card may not be used for more than one tournament.)
- Grand Prix Tournament advancement consists of 3 rounds: Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.
 - 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 Semifinals.
 - Competitors who place with zero faults within the top 25% of the number of competitors competing in the Semifinals are eligible to compete in the Finals, subject to a minimum of 6 (with zero-fault rounds) and the maximum number of competitors stipulated in the Test Schedule for the event, which is established annually based upon the number of competitors qualifying in each jump height through July 31 of the tournament season. In the event that a tie score results in the number of competitors exceeding these requirements, such 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 pursuant to these rules.



Dog Agility Steeplechase® and Performance Speed JumpingSM Tournaments

This tournament series is designed to showcase top competitors with emphasis on jumping and speed, which recognizes competitors through cash prizes at local, regional and final championship events.

Derived from the equestrian world, this tournament is designed as a spectator attraction with the addition of dog agility's two most dynamic obstacles—the A-frame and weave poles. The course design requires constant flow and a design that encourages speed throughout the course.

USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply. Standard scoring rules for the Starters level class as set forth in Chapters 5 and 7 of USDAA rules and regulations shall apply to these tournament series, with the exception of:

- Competition shall be run on jumpers-style courses including between seventeen and twenty obstacles that include primarily hurdles and tunnels, with at least two spread hurdles, a long jump, an A-frame and a minimum of 12 weave poles (presented as one set of 12 or two sets of 6 as separate obstacles). Either the A-Frame or weave poles shall be performed twice.
- 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 defined under Masters rules as set forth in Chapter 3 of USDAA rules and regulations and shall be scored as an "Elimination."
- Course design guidelines for the Masters Jumpers class shall generally apply. Course design should establish flow throughout that encourages speed.

Steeplechase/PSJ Qualification

A Qualifying Score is based upon a formula that defines a "Qualification Standard" in the first round at a local qualifying event or a Regional Championship (Semifinal round), as follows:

- When there are five or more Championship competitors actually competing in the 10", 14", or 16" height classes, or seven or more competitors in the 20", 22", or 24" height classes, a competitor with a score within 25% of the average of the top three scores in the height class shall qualify.
- When there are five or more Performance competitors actually competing in the 8" and 12" height classes, or seven or more competitors in the 14", 16", or 20" height classes, a competitor with a score within 25% of the average of the top three scores in the height class shall qualify.
- When there are fewer than the minimum number of competitors specified above for averaging of the top three competitors scores, a competitor with a score within 25% of the top score in the height class shall qualify. (By default, when only one competitor in a height class has a score, the competitor qualifies.)
- Separate qualification standards may apply in designated countries or territories outside the U.S. Only local residents within those areas that do not have ready access to competitions are eligible for such special standards.



Steeplechase/PSJ Tournament Advancement

Local Events:

Local qualifying events may consist of one round or two progressive rounds of competition at the event host's discretion. When just one round is held, qualification, tournament top ten points, and prize money will be awarded based upon placement in the first round. When two rounds are held, tournament top ten points and prize money will be awarded based upon placement in the second round. Qualification is awarded based upon performance in the first round only.

Regional Events:

- One (1) qualifying score is required for entry to a Regional Championship.
- Regional Championships consist of two rounds—Semifinals and Finals. Competitors who earn a qualifying score in the Semifinals advance to the Finals.
- 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 for this purpose must submit a provisional entry to the Regional Semifinals with their entry. Competitors earning a qualifying score in a Regional Semifinals shall advance to the Regional Finals to compete for cash prizes and for the opportunity to earn a “Bye in the Quarterfinals to enable them to enter directly into the Cynosport Semifinals.
- In Regional Championship Finals, a competitor meeting the performance standard as defined below is eligible to bypass the Quarterfinals and directly enter the Semifinals at Cynosport. The same formula for calculating the Qualification Standard at a local qualifying event is used for calculating the performance standard for a “Bye”, except that:
 - The actual number of competitors competing in the Regional Finals is used, and
 - The percentage is 15% instead of 25%
 - Regional Championship Byes into the Cynosport® World Games Semifinals (i.e., earning the right to directly enter the Semifinals) will be earned in each jump height by competitors placing 1st – 3rd in Regional Finals or placing within the top 15% in each jump height in the Finals, whichever is larger.
- The competitor who places first in each height class final round is named Regional Champion, regardless of faults earned in the final round.

Cynosport:

- Two (2) qualifying scores at the same jump height (one of which may be earned in the semifinal round of a Regional Championship) are required for entry to the Cynosport Quarterfinals. Competitors who have also earned a Bye at a Regional Championship may enter directly into the Semifinals.
- One (1) of the qualifying scores required for Cynosport® participation may be satisfied with a 5Q Wild Card.
- Tournament advancement consists of 3 rounds—Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.
 - Competitors whose score is within 15% of the top scores of those actually competing in each height class in the Quarterfinals (same criteria as established for earning a Bye in a Regional



- Championship in these regulations) shall advance to the Cynosport Semifinals (see Regional Championship Eligibility and Advancement above).
- Competitors who score within 15% of the top score of those competing in their height class in the Semifinals advance to the Finals, subject to limitations for the maximum number of competitors allowed in each jump height published in the Agility Test Schedule. In the event that 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 lowest score (i.e., the fastest time after faults have been added) in the Finals shall be the winner. Should a tie occur, a runoff shall be held, with each competitor running on the same or similar course, until a winner is determined.



Masters Challenge & Performance Masters Challenge BiathlonSM Tournaments

This tournament is designed to feature mastery of training for execution of controlled maneuvers while working at full speed in both a Standard Agility and Jumpers course, that generally conform to the Course Design Guidelines of the Masters Challenge (“MC”) Standard and Masters Challenge (“MC”) Jumpers classes. Scores from the two classes are combined to determine the winners. An annual champion and medalists will be named in each height class.

USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect as set forth in Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules and Regulations at the date of competition shall apply, except that scoring of the Biathlon tournament shall be on a time plus faults basis, rather than being run against a standard course time.

- Competitors receiving a score through both rounds (i.e., no elimination) shall be eligible for Biathlon awards. An elimination in either round results in elimination from the tournament.
- The competitor earning the fastest time with faults added through both rounds shall be the winner. Should a tie occur, the competitor achieving the fastest time is the winner. Should competitors have a tie of both faults and time on course, a runoff shall be conducted on a same or similar course until a winner is determined. Title qualifications may be earned in the individual classes of the tournaments at local and Regional events, which shall follow the regulations as set forth in Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules & Regulations for the titling program (i.e., qualification requires zero faults run against a standard course time in the class).

MC Biathlon / PMC Biathlon Qualification:

- A Qualifying Score for a MC/PMC Biathlon Tournament at a local event or Regional Championship event shall be an overall score within 25% of the average of the top three scores in a height class. When there are fewer than three competitors with scores, the maximum qualifying score shall be determined for each height class by multiplying the top score in that class by 1.25. (By default, when only one competitor in a height class has a score, the competitor qualifies.)
- A special “Masters Challenge Wild Card” may be earned in lieu of earning two Qualifications in the Biathlon Tournament, which is the accumulation of any five (5) Qs earned in Masters Challenge or Performance Masters Challenge titling classes or individual standard or jumpers rounds within a Biathlon that are scored for MC/PMC titling class purposes. Qualifications must be earned in the Program in which they are to be used.
- No Qualification can be used towards establishing eligibility for entry more than once.

MC Biathlon / PMC Biathlon Advancement:

Local Events:

- Local qualifying events consist of two rounds of competition—one Masters Challenge Standard Agility course and one Masters Challenge Jumpers course, with scores combined to determine the placement winners.



Regional Events:

- Regional Championships consist of two rounds of competition—one Masters Challenge Standard Agility course and one Masters Challenge Jumpers course, with scores combined to determine the placement winners.
- No qualifications are required for entry to a Regional Championship event in this tournament.
- The competitor who places first in each height class overall is named Regional Champion, regardless of faults earned.

Cynosport:

- Two (2) qualifying scores at the same jump height from a local qualifying event and/or a Regional Championship event are required for entry to the Cynosport Biathlon Championships.
 - One (1) of the qualifying scores required for Cynosport® participation may be satisfied with the 5Q Wild Card, or
 - Both of the qualifying scores required for Cynosport participation in this tournament may be satisfied with a special Masters Challenge Wild Card (see above).
- The competitor who places first in each height class is named Cynosport® Champion.



Dog Agility Masters[®] Three-Dog Team & Performance Versatility PairsSM Championships

This tournament is designed to exhibit the camaraderie in the sport in a test of versatility and endurance through the five principal classes in USDAA's competitive programs—Standard Agility, Jumping, Gamblers, Snooker, and Relay.

A "Team" is comprised of three handlers and three dogs from no more than two jump heights per team other than stipulated herein. A "Pair" is comprised of two handlers and two dogs. Each individual on Team or Pair competes in four classes—Standard Agility, Jumping, Gamblers, and Snooker. Top Teams/Pairs compete in a fifth and final class—Relay—to establish final placements for prizes and awards based upon total points earned through the five classes.

Unlike the other tournaments where qualifications must be earned at the height to be run at Cynosport[®], there is no height class eligibility restriction for the Team and Versatility Pairs tournaments, provided each dog is jumping a legal height for the program in which entered. Should the competitors entering for draw teams be of such heights that all cannot be aligned with a team, three dogs of differing heights may be teamed together at the discretion of the secretary; one of the three must jump "up" in the Relay class to conform to one of the two height options available on a single Relay course.

Each handler and dog on a Team/Pair must compete in all classes as applicable; i.e., two or more different dogs on a Team or Pair may not both be handled by a single handler.

Team/Pairs Qualification

- A Qualifying Score shall be awarded to competitors whose Team/Pair scores are within 25% of the average of the total points earned by the top three Teams/Pairs after the final class. Full details are outlined in the Scoring section.

Tournament Advancement

Local Events:

- Local events are open to all competitors, regardless of level.

Regional Events:

- No qualifications are required for entry to a Regional Championship in this tournament.

Cynosport:

- Two (2) Qualifying Scores, which may be earned at a Regional Championship or local event in a dog's eligible jump height, are required for entry to the Cynosport[®] World Games.
- One (1) of the qualifying scores required for Cynosport[®] participation may be satisfied with the 5Q Wild Card.
- At Cynosport[®] only Teams/Pairs scoring within 15% of the average of the total points earned by the top three Teams/Pairs through the first four rounds may advance to the final round (i.e., Relay). The total



number of Teams and Pairs in Relay shall be limited to the lesser of 30 and 24, respectively, or 15% of the total number of Teams/Pairs competing through the first four rounds.

Team/Pairs Class Special Rules

Each of the classes will be conducted pursuant to Chapters 3, 6, and 7 of USDAA Rules & Regulations, except that select performance requirements are subject to judge's discretion as set forth below. This allows additional creativity in make the classes more dynamic as a spectator event and in balancing the aspects of small and large dogs competing together in line with the tournament's purpose of promoting team sportsmanship, versatility, consistency, fun, and endurance through five classes.

Team Standard Agility:

The performance requirements of the Standard Agility class are to be a combination of elements as specified for the Advanced and Masters levels as generally set forth in Chapters 3 and 7, except that:

- The course shall include course design elements from a combination of the Advanced and Masters levels in such a manner to present a balanced playing field for small versus large dogs. The intent is to use varied spacing combined with control elements that are likely to yield favorable speed differentials for small versus large dogs, while maintaining a flowing path and sufficient degree of competitive challenges for small and large dogs alike.
- The following modifications may be made in obstacle usage in course design as follows:
 - The table shall not be used.
 - One contact obstacle may be omitted at judge's discretion.
 - One combination comprised of two or three jumps, as defined in Chapter 12 of the USDAA Rules & Regulations, may be used. When such a combination is used, the total number of obstacles (including the component elements of the combination) may not exceed 22 obstacles to be performed.

Team/PVP Games (Gamblers, Snooker, Jumpers):

The performance requirements of the Snooker, Gamblers, and Jumpers classes shall generally follow the requirements of Chapter 6 (and Chapter 7) of USDAA Rules & Regulations, except that:

Team Gamblers:

- The Gamblers class may include or omit rules normally applied for point assignments, time allocations, and/or Joker requirements, however a Joker requiring distance handling shall be available in all classes for more points than may be earned in any Joker not having a distance requirement. In either case, point schemes shall provide balance between points earned through strategic course performance and Jokers available on course.
- The potential total points per round shall maintain a proportional balance between all classes of the tournament, and not permit undue emphasis in the Gamblers class as compared to any other class in the overall tournament outcome. A maximum potential score may fall in the 70 – 80-point range per round. A course shall not be designed to create score differentials that would be significant when



combined with scores from other classes in the tournament. Guidance for establishing point schemes are provided in these regulations.

- The table performed in the down position may be used for earning points in the opening period (e.g., 1 point per second on the table not to exceed 5 points or 7 points when used as a bonus with a distance or other performance requirement element).
- Rules departing from Chapter 6 shall be well-defined in a written course briefing.

Team Snooker:

- The Snooker class course configuration and course components may be at the judge's discretion, but must have regular, single, displaceable hurdles as 'Reds' and must follow the Snooker sequence conforming to the general standards from which the game was derived.
- The Table may be utilized as a "Color other than Red" on course, subject to rules established by the judge in the class briefing.
- Rules departing from Chapter 6 shall be well-defined in a written course briefing.

Team Jumpers:

- The course shall include course design elements from a combination of the Advanced and Masters levels in such a manner to present a balanced playing field for small versus large dogs. The intent is to use varied spacing combined with control elements that are likely to yield favorable speed differentials for small versus large dogs, while maintaining a flowing path and sufficient degree of competitive challenges for small and large dogs alike. The following modifications may be made in obstacle usage in course design as follows:
 - The course shall include a long jump.
 - The course shall include weave poles.
 - One combination comprised of two or three jumps, as defined in Chapter 12 of the USDAA Rules & Regulations, may be used. When such a combination is used, the total number of obstacles (including the component elements of the combination) may not exceed 22 obstacles to be performed.

Team/PVP Relay:

- The course shall include course design elements from a combination of the Advanced and Masters levels in such a manner to present a balanced playing field for small versus large dogs. The intent is to use varied spacing combined with control elements that are likely to yield favorable speed differentials for small versus large dogs, while maintaining a flowing path and sufficient degree of competitive challenges for small and large dogs alike.
- The following modifications may be made in obstacle usage in course design as follows:
 - One contact obstacle may be omitted at judge's discretion.
 - The table shall be excluded other than as a start or finish point and/or a relay exchange point, with no position or time requirement imposed.
 - A reverse baton exchange (RBE) may be utilized.



Special Tournament Scoring Rules for Team & Versatility Pairs

- Masters scoring rules shall apply for the determination of faults in all classes.
- Points from Standard, Jumpers, and Relay shall be added to points earned in the Gamblers and Snooker classes after adjustment as set forth below to determine each team's final score. Team ranking and placements shall be on the basis of cumulative scores through the five classes of competition, unless otherwise provided.
- In local and regional events, a Qualifying Score shall be awarded to competitors whose team scores are within 25% of the average of the total points earned by the top three teams after the final class. In the event fewer than five (5) Teams/Pairs are entered:
 - The minimum qualifying score will be calculated using the top score instead of the average of the top 3 scores after all classes.
 - Should only one team compete, their minimum qualifying score shall be 750 points or more.

Score Calculation:

The standard point distribution and scoring methods for the tournament intend to provide a relative balance of points from all classes. These point values provide the baseline against which the time-plus-fault penalties are applied when accrued by team members. The standard point distribution is as follows:

- Standard: 390 points
- Jumpers: 300 points
- Relay: 450 points

Time-plus-faults scoring method shall be utilized in the Standard, Jumpers, and Relay classes (i.e., no standard course time is employed), with the following special values assigned for penalties:

- Each Refusal is 2 fault points.
- Three refusals or a wrong course per team member—Jumpers: 100 fault points, Standard: 130 faults points, Relay: 150 fault points.
- Omission of a team member in Relay (see Special Rules for handler “pass”), 200 fault points.

Points earned in the Snooker and Gamblers classes, after adjustments as described below, are added to the point basis scores earned in Standard, Jumping and Relay classes (as described above) to determine the final overall score:

- Snooker: Class points are multiplied by a factor of 1.5.
- Gamblers: Class points are multiplied by a factor determined by the judge as described on the next page.

In no case shall the team score for a single class be less than zero.



Special Scoring Notes:

- A handicapping system will be employed in the Gamblers and Snooker classes when computing scores for competitors in the Mini-dog (small dog) Division.
- Competitors with dogs in the Championship 10" and Performance 8" height classes shall be allowed approximately 20% additional time over the time allowed for competitors in the Open (large dog) division.
- Competitors with dogs in the Championship Program 14" and 16" classes, and the Performance Program 12" height class shall be allowed approximately 10% additional time over time allowed for competitors in the Open divisions.
- No time handicapping shall apply in the Standard, Jumping or Relay classes. In these classes the judge shall employ course design elements as provided herein that will provide natural handicapping to the class (e.g., variations in obstacle spacing and controlled turns and similar challenges that may result in a balance of time over the distance among the different height classes).
- For purpose of this section, the Mini-dog Division shall include the 10", 14", & 16" heights in the Dog Agility Masters three-dog Team classes and 8" and 12" heights in the Performance Versatility Pairs classes; the Open Division shall include all higher heights in each program.

Determining the Gamblers Class Handicapping Factor:

A judge shall employ a point system and rules in the Gamblers class that will not create a significant imbalance in points that may be earned collectively among the tournament classes, before or after applying a point multiplication factor.

The factor shall be established prior to the start of the class and shall not be changed once the class has started.

- Weighting Factors should be employed to balance the overall point accumulation potential with the other four classes in the tournament. As such, the maximum potential points earned by a team should generally fall between 210 and 240 points after applying any weighting factor in the Gamblers class.
- The following Weighting Factors are exemplary only, and must be critically evaluated for each event:
 - If a 1-2-3-5 system is utilized with 30 seconds on course and a potential 15 points in the joker period, a 1.5 factor should be considered
 - If a 1-3-5-7 system is utilized with 35 seconds on course and a potential of 20 points in the joker period, a 1.25 factor should be considered
 - If a larger point scheme is utilized, a factor may be 1.00 or less than 1.00, to achieve the desired result
- Point systems may be devised at judge's discretion that utilize irregular time periods, such as a 20/25 time split between beginning and closing periods
- Jokers may be devised at judge's discretion that place emphasis on time or a specially defined sequence; however, one or more distance-type Joker(s) shall be provided on all courses, and present challenging elements for both small and large dogs to present an equitable playing field.



Special Scoring Considerations for Relay:

- In Relay, a reverse baton exchange (RBE) may be used where the handler waiting to run next in the exchange area holds the baton and hands it off to the handler arriving in the exchange area. Whether a standard baton exchange or reverse baton exchange is used, a 10-point penalty shall be assessed for dropping the baton at the exchange (and/or during the round if carried). Other minor errors involving the baton such as for throwing the baton or for failing to make the exchange prior to engaging the first obstacle by a team member, a 20-point penalty shall be assessed. Completing all segments without an exchange, shall result in an elimination.
- A team who has a teammate unable to run the relay class may have a person pass the baton, declaring “Pass” to the judge, and passing the baton as otherwise required. If the competitor passing is first or last to have run on course for their team, they must cross the line to start or stop the clock as appropriate. An automatic penalty of 200 points is applied for a competitor unable to run; this includes penalty for “Elimination” and an additional value penalty for time saved by the omission. In any case, the class score may not be less than zero. Failure to start or stop the clock as appropriate shall result in elimination for the team (i.e., zero points earned for the class).

In the event a handler on a team is unable to continue through all classes, one handler “substitution of necessity” with the approval of the judge may be made. No additional handler substitutions shall be permitted (including reversion back to the original team member). Should no substitution be possible, then the remaining team member(s) may compete in individual classes, with an elimination score recorded for the withdrawn team member.

Other Team/PVP Special Rules

All Teams/Pairs must be finalized prior to the running of the first tournament class. Should an incomplete Team or Pair exist prior to the start of the first class, whether the result of a withdrawn entry or due to draw entries remaining unmatched, the secretary shall make every effort to complete the team through acceptance of an additional class entry from a competitor entered in the event. The entry form shall be adjusted, and fees paid in order for the entry to be valid and for results to be entered for the volunteer competitor.

Competitor substitutions or change in status are not allowed once the first class has been run.

Should a competitor run without a complete team as defined under these regulations, the competitor is eligible for all awards in the individual classes, including Top Ten points and Lifetime Achievement Award qualification, at local and regional events.

If 40 or more teams are entered in any qualifying event, the show committee may elect to impose a limit on the number of teams running the relay class. If so elected, it must be posted prior to start of the event that—

- The number of teams running in the relay class will be limited based upon scores through four rounds of competition, and
- No team whose score is within 25% of the average of the top three scores through four rounds shall be precluded from running the Relay class.



In scheduling a Team/Pair event, the following scheduling parameters should be followed:

- A “height rotation” should be utilized in establishing the running order so that the same height class is not running first in more than one of the four classes.
- When classes are spread over multiple days, it is preferable that “strategy” classes (i.e., Gamblers and Snooker) are offered on different days or at different times when it is practicable to do so.

The Relay class must always run last, as the final class will present all team members together in the ring.



Tournament Awards

Qualifying ribbons (or certificates) and placement ribbons or rosettes are to be awarded at local qualifying events. All local awards and those at local, regional and national Championship events held outside the United States shall be the responsibility of the host organization.

USDAA will sponsor tournament awards at Regional Championships 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 Certificates for the Cynosport Quarterfinals in Grand Prix of Dog Agility®, Performance Grand Prix, Dog Agility Steeplechase®, and Performance Speed Jumping as outlined in these regulations.
- Regional Championship trophy shall be awarded to the Regional Champion in each tournament to be named pursuant to these regulations.

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

- Semifinalist pins shall be awarded to those who compete in semifinal rounds and do not advance to the Finals.
- Trophy cups, rosettes and medals shall be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in each jump height class of the final rounds.
- Finalist plaques or Rosettes as announced in the Cynosport Test Schedule shall be awarded to all finalists who did not earn a first, second or third place.
- Finalist polo shirts or jerseys shall be awarded to all Grand Prix and Steeplechase finalists and are to be worn in the Finals.

Steeplechase and Performance Speed Jumping Tournament Cash Awards

Prize money equal to 30% of the total entry fees at local and/or Regional Championship events (or other such amount being no less than 20% and no more than 40% of the entry fees as stipulated in the Agility Test Schedule) shall be awarded to top winners in Final round at local qualifying and at Regional Championship events in accordance with the payout table below, regardless of the size of entry in any height class.

Championship Program	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Combined Total*
10", 14" (each)	8%	4%	2%	1%			30%
16", 20", 24" (each)	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%		51%
22"	8%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	19%
TOTAL	48%	24%	12%	10%	5%	1%	100%



Performance Program	1st	2 nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Combined Total
8"	10%	5%	3%				18%
12"	10%	5%	3%	1%			19%
14", 16", 20" (each)	10%	5%	3%	2%	1%		21%
TOTAL	50%	25%	15%	7%	3%		100%

NOTE: Allocable prize money to positions that are not filled for any reason, and amounts less than \$5.00 per award, shall not be paid unless otherwise stipulated in the Test Schedule.

Amounts payable from the local qualifying round held in conjunction with a Regional Championship shall be combined with the Regional Championship awards unless otherwise stipulated (at event host’s discretion) in the Regional Championship Test Schedule.

Cynosport prize money as specified in the Agility Test Schedule for Cynosport® 2020, shall be distributed among top competitors as specified in the Agility Test Schedule for the Dog Agility Steeplechase® final round and Performance Speed Jumping final round.

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

Interpretations of Rules & Disputes

These tournament rules cannot address all matters that may arise during the course of the tournament series during a tournament season. Further, modifications may be made at USDAA’s discretion without recourse to accommodate changes made to USDAA Official Rules & Regulations that become effective during the tournament season. Further, interpretation of these regulations shall be made from time to time by judges and show officials as circumstances arise. In any case, such changes and/or 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.

Separate regulations or exceptions to these regulations may be issued from time to time for competitors residing in geographically isolated or developing regions outside the United States where a sufficient number of supporting events for qualification or advancement are not available.

Final authority for interpretation of these rules shall be the responsibility of USDAA and/or the Judge, as appropriate for the circumstances, and all rulings shall be final and without recourse.

