



**CYNOSPORT® WORLD GAMES  
2025 TOURNAMENT SEASON RULES SUMMARY**



The Cynosport® World Games event is the culmination of the local and regional tournament season. Cynosport® 2025 is being planned for October 15 – 19, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Each tournament is open to all competitors with any dog, regardless of competition level (i.e., Starters, Advanced and Masters). USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply. This Rule Summary is issued pursuant to Chapter 10 of USDAA Rules & Regulations as amended September 3, 2024.

**Eligibility & Advancement Recap for Cynosport® 2025**

**Qualifying Season: September 4, 2024–September 2, 2025**

*(See regulations following this table for more details)*

Tournament	Regional Championship Entry & Advancement by Tournament		Cynosport® Entry and Advancement by Tournament		
	Semifinals (Round 1)	Finals (Round 2)	Entry	Semifinals	Finals
Purina® Pro Plan® Grand Prix Of Dog Agility®	No Prerequisite	2 Qs in Local Qualifying rounds*, <u>or</u> Advance from Regional Semifinal	4 Qs**  or  3 Qs** + 5Q Wildcard  or  2 Qs** 2 - 5Q Wildcards	Advance from Quarterfinals, <u>or</u> Regional Bye, <u>or</u> Three 1 <sup>st</sup> place special Qs in local tournament***	Advance from Semifinals, or Regional Champion***
Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Steeplechase®		Advance from Regional Semifinal		Advance from Quarterfinals, <u>or</u> Regional Bye	Advance from Semifinals
Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Masters® 2-or-3 Dog Team	No Prerequisite				
Purina® Pro Plan® Masters Challenge Biathlon <sup>SM</sup>	No Prerequisite				

\* Two (2) Local Grand Prix “Q” Vouchers must be submitted for advancement into regional finals.

\*\* Qualifications earned collectively among all tournaments with a minimum of one Q in two different tournaments.

\*\*\* First place special Qs have enhanced performance time requirements for a Bye as set forth in these regulations.

Note: Byes will be tracked electronically for Cynosport® 2025. Vouchers will not be issued.

**Minimum Eligibility Requirements**

The Qualifying Period for the 2025 tournament season shall run from **September 4, 2024 – September 2, 2025**. Eligibility requirements for each tournament are outlined herein.

Eligibility for entry to all four (4) tournaments at Cynosport® requires:

- earning four (4) qualifications (Qs) collectively among all tournaments with a minimum of one (1) Q in two different tournaments, or

- earning any three (3) tournament Qs collectively with a minimum of one (1) Q in two different tournaments and one (1) 5Q Wild Card<sup>(1)</sup> in USDAA® titling classes, or
- Earning any two (2) tournament Qs collectively with a minimum of one (1) Q in two different tournaments and two (2) 5Q Wild Cards<sup>(1)</sup> in USDAA® titling classes.

Qualifications (Qs) in local qualifying rounds are defined as follows for each tournament:

- **Purina® Pro Plan® Grand Prix of Dog Agility®**—a zero-fault round
- **Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Steeplechase®**—scoring in the top 25% of the average of the top three scores<sup>(2)</sup> in the class
- **Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Masters® 2-dog or 3-dog Team**—scoring in the top 25% of the average of the top three team overall scores in the tournament, except scoring in the top 25% of the top score if fewer than seven (7) teams compete.
- **Purina® Pro Plan® Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup>**—scoring in the top 25% of the average of the top three scores in the class<sup>(2,3)</sup>

**(1) 5Q Wild Card**—Earn 5 qualifications in the five core titling classes in USDAA Rules & Regulations—Standard, Gamblers, Jumpers, Relay, and Snooker, and/or Masters Challenge titling classes (see USDAA Rules & Regulations for qualification requirements in each class).

**(2)** When fewer than 7 competitors in classes with dogs measuring >15", or fewer than 5 competitors in classes with dogs measuring 15" or less, the top score rather than the average of the top 3 scores shall determine those eligible to qualify. Where the number of competitors criteria is met, but the top three scores include eliminations, the average shall be determined based upon the number of scores excluding the eliminations.

**(3)** An overall score (combined time plus faults) must meet the time standards equal to the minimum allowable SCT combined for the two classes for qualification for titling purposes (see Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules & Regulations).

**Note: A complete description of each tournament and specific rules, definitions, and course design requirements are set forth in USDAA Rules & Regulations, which are incorporated by reference.**

### Summary of Requirements for Advancement

These regulations provide rules for advancement within each tournament for local qualifying events, regional championship events, and the annual championship event Cynosport®. Due to the competitive nature of tournament events and the special rules for scoring and advancement, "For Exhibition Only" (FEO) runs are not permitted in any tournament class.

#### Purina® Pro Plan® Grand Prix of Dog Agility® World Championships

- **At Local Qualifying Events**

Compete in local qualifying events to earn qualifications (Qs) and to earn Byes into advanced rounds:

- earn Qs to establish eligibility for tournaments at Cynosport and Byes for advancement in regionals and Cynosport®
- earn two (2) Qs to earn a Bye into a regional championship final round (certificates will be provided to redeem for regional final entry)
- earn three (3) 1<sup>st</sup> place Qs in local qualifying rounds with a qualifying score and performance time meeting the following minimum time standards to earn a Bye into the semifinals at Cynosport®: (These Qs are tracked electronically. Q certificates are issued for local qualifying rounds only.)
  - 4.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 12" or less
  - 4.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 15" or less
  - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring 18" or less
  - 5.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 22" or less
  - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring more than 22"

- **At Regional Championship Events**

Compete to earn Qs, Byes, and/or to be named Regional Champion

- Compete in local qualifying round offered in conjunction with regional championships to earn Qs and to earn Byes for advancement in a regional championship event and/or Cynosport®, and/or
- Compete in regional semifinals to earn qualification for advancement into the regional finals. (Note: Qualification in a Regional Semifinals (Round 1) is also equivalent to a Q earned in local qualifying events with respect to meeting Cynosport eligibility standards and title calculations where tournament Qs are required. *(Note: No Q certificate is awarded in the semifinals.)*)
- Compete in regional finals to be named Regional Champion and/or to earn Byes to Cynosport® semifinals or finals
  - Earn a Bye into the Cynosport semifinals by having a score of zero faults and
    - earning 1<sup>st</sup> place, or
    - placing within the top 50% of the number of competitors that competed in each height class.
  - Earn a Bye into the Cynosport finals by placing 1<sup>st</sup> with zero faults as calculated using the special minimum time standards below. Grand Prix Finalist Byes are tracked electronically, and no paper certificates will be issued. *(These standards may be updated following Cynosport® 2024 and regulations updated no later than November 30, 2024.)*
    - 4.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 12" or less
    - 5.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 15" or less
    - 5.25 yards per second for dogs measuring 18" or less
    - 5.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 22" or less
    - 5.25 yards per second for dogs measuring more than 22"
- Eligibility for regional finals is earned by--
  - advancing from the regional semifinal, or
  - earning a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Q at local qualifying events and/or earning two Qs at local qualifying events or a local qualifier at a regional championship event; a bye may only be used once.
  - No Q certificate is awarded in the semifinals of a regional championship.

- **At Cynosport®**

Compete to be named Purina® Pro Plan® Grand Prix of Dog Agility® Champion.

- Compete in Cynosport® quarterfinals to advance to the semifinals by meeting the general entry requirements for Cynosport.
- Compete in Cynosport® semifinal to advance to the finals by—
  - advancing from the quarterfinal by performing a no-fault round, or
  - earning a Bye at a regional championship, or
  - earning three (3) 1<sup>st</sup> place Qs in local qualifying rounds with a qualifying score and performance time meeting the following minimum standards:
    - 4.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 12" or less
    - 4.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 15" or less
    - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring 18" or less
    - 5.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 22" or less
    - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring more than 22"

- Compete in Cynosport® finals by
  - Winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in a regional with a qualifying score and a performance time meeting the standards for earning the Bye (see “At a Regional Championship” above).
  - Advancing from semifinals with a no-fault round and scoring within 15% of the average performance time of the top three competitors, subject to minimum and maximum numbers as set forth in the Cynosport Test Schedule. In any case, the maximum number of competitors in the final round would be no less than two times the number of byes earned.

**Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Steeplechase®**

- **At Local Qualifying Events**

Compete in local qualifying rounds to earn eligibility for Cynosport and Byes for advancement in regionals and at Cynosport®

- **At Regional Championship Event**

Compete for prize money and to earn Qs, Byes, and/or to be named Regional Champion

- Compete in local qualifying round offered in conjunction with a regional championship to earn Qs and to earn Byes for advancement to the Cynosport® semifinals, and/or
- Compete in regional semifinals (no prerequisite for entry) to earn local qualifying Qs and to advance to regional finals
- Compete in regional finals for prize money by advancing from the regional semifinal—
  - for opportunity to be named Regional Champion, and/or
  - to earn Byes to Cynosport® semifinals by scoring within 15% of the average of the top three scores\*

- **At Cynosport®**

Compete for prize money and to be named Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Steeplechase® Champion

- Compete in Cynosport® quarterfinal to advance to the semifinals by meeting the general entry requirements for Cynosport®
- Compete in Cynosport® semifinal by—
  - advancing from the quarterfinal by scoring within 15% of the average of the top three scores\*
  - earning a Bye at a regional championship
- Compete in the Cynosport® final by advancing from the semifinal, scoring within 15% of the average of the top 3 scores\*, subject to minimum and maximum numbers as set forth in the Cynosport Test Schedule.

*\*When fewer than 7 competitors in classes with dogs measuring >15” or fewer than 5 competitors in classes for dogs measuring 15” or less, the top score rather than the average of the top 3 scores shall establish those eligible to advance. Where the number of competitors criteria is met, but the top three scores include eliminations, the average shall be determined based upon the number of scores excluding the eliminations.*

**Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Masters® Pairs (2-Dog Team) & 3-Dog Team Championships**

Compete with one or two partners in this tournament of versatility and endurance to be named Dog Agility Masters® Pairs or 3-Dog Team Champion.

Either 2-dog or 3-dog team tournaments may be offered in local qualifying events. Both 2-dog and 3-dog team tournaments shall be offered at regional championships and Cynosport®, at which champions will be named.

*Note: When both forms of the tournament are offered at regional championship events and Cynosport, competitors compete collectively in the individual classes for individual awards, and their individual scores are combined with those of their team members along with their team relay score from either 2-dog or 3-dog relay to determine the overall team winners in 2-dog and 3-dog tournaments, respectively.*

- **At Local Qualifying Events**
  - Compete to earn qualifications (Qs) for eligibility to enter Cynosport®
- **At Regional Championship Event**
  - Compete to earn Qs and/or to be named Regional 2-Dog and 3-Dog Team Champions.
  - Compete to be named Strategic Games Regional Champion for individual combined results in Gamblers & Snooker
- **At Cynosport®**
  - Compete to be named Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Masters® Pairs and 3-Dog Team Cynosport® Champions.
  - Competitors whose combined raw score in Gamblers and Snooker that meets criteria to be published in the Cynosport Test Schedule will be eligible to run in a special round of Gamblers and Snooker to be named Dog Agility Masters® Strategic Games Champion for best combined raw score (before applying the Team score multiplier) in Gamblers and Snooker.

### **Purina® Pro Plan® Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Championships**

The Masters Challenge Biathlon is scored on the basis of combined time plus faults from a Standard Agility round and a Jumpers round, as set forth in Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules & Regulations—Masters Challenge Program. Faults, including refusals, shall be penalized except that a wrong course shall be faulted 20 points instead of elimination (amended September 3, 2024). Omissions of an obstacle, poor sportsmanship, and other infractions shall be scored as Elimination.

Where the minimum number of competitors criteria for averaging the top three scores is not met, the overall score (combined time plus faults) must be less than or equal to the combined minimum allowable Standard Course Time for titling purposes for the two classes.

- **At Local Qualifying Events**
  - Compete to earn qualifications (Qs) for eligibility to enter Cynosport®
  - Compete to earn qualifications towards title in individual rounds, subject to regulations set forth in Chapter 12 of USDAA Rules & Regulations.
- **At Regional Championship Event**
  - Compete to earn Qs for eligibility to enter Cynosport and/or to be named Regional Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Champion
- **At Cynosport®**
  - Compete to be named Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Champion.

### **General Rules for All Tournaments**

The following general rules apply to all tournaments:

- 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.

- Any competitor may enter any of the local qualifying trials or regional championships without regard to prequalification or geographic location except as otherwise stipulated herein for events held outside the continental United States.
- For Exhibition Only (FEO) runs are not permitted in any tournament class (local, regional, or Cynosport).
- A person may enter more than one dog in the tournament; however, no dog may be entered twice in the same tournament at the same event.
- Results in tournaments and titling classes offered through USDAA@Home!<sup>SM</sup> events are for title qualification only and do not satisfy tournament eligibility requirements for entry to Cynosport®.
- Should tournament events be preempted due to natural disasters, public health, or similar causes, or any other matters beyond USDAA or event host control, an event may be canceled or requirements for tournament eligibility and advancement may be modified at USDAA or host's sole discretion without recourse.

### **Jump Height**

- A dog must be entered in either eligible jump height (championship or performance) for its dog size division (e.g., small, medium, etc.), except that—
  - a dog may compete in a larger dog size division at the championship height in that size division.
    - *(Examples: Extra-small dogs (measuring 12" or less) have two height divisions—4" and 8". Small dogs (measuring 15" and more than 12") have two height divisions—8" and 12". An extra-small dog may compete against small dogs in the small dog 12" height class, but not in the small dog 8" height class since extra-small dogs have their own 8" height class. Similarly, large dogs (measuring >18 through 22") can compete in the 24" class against extra-large dogs measuring more than 22"), but not in the extra-large 20" class.*
  - a Bye must be used for entry to a height class in the tournament in which the Bye was earned.
- A competitor must be entered in the same jump height and division as previously qualified in advanced rounds for which eligibility was earned.
- A competitor may enter different jump height divisions in different tournaments provided they have met the height class eligibility requirements for each tournament as provided herein.
- Any dog that does not have a certified registered height pursuant to Appendix D or USDAA Rules & Regulations must be measured prior to competing at local events, regional championships and/or at Cynosport.

### **Handler Substitutions**

- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in the advanced rounds of any 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.)
- Byes used to advance in any tournament at a regional championship or Cynosport may only be used by the handler and dog that earned the Bye and are not transferrable.
- There shall be no handler substitutions permitted in a Masters Challenge Biathlon tournament. The same handler must run the same dog in both rounds for tournament qualification, advancement, and awards. (This shall not prevent handler substitutions for titling purposes in local qualifying or regional championship events, though no qualification may be earned in the Biathlon overall.)
- In the event a handler in a Dog Agility Masters® tournament is unable to continue through all classes, one handler "substitution of necessity" with the approval of the judge at a local or regional event may be made. Once a substitution is made, no other handler substitutions shall be permitted (including reversion back to the original team member). Substitution at Cynosport® is not permitted other than prior to the start of the tournament.

**Recordkeeping Summary & Special Scoring Rules**

Qualifications (“Qs”) earned in local qualifying events and in local qualifying and semifinal rounds of tournaments at regional championship events are recorded for titling purposes for the Tournament Master<sup>SM</sup> and other titles, as well as Tournament Top 10 and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

For Grand Prix of Dog Agility® and Dog Agility Steeplechase®:

- Scores earned in the final round of a regional championship in Grand Prix of Dog Agility®, Dog Agility Steeplechase® and all rounds at *Cynosport*® are recorded for tournament advancement only and are not eligible as Qs towards earning title certificates or Lifetime Achievement Awards.

For Dog Agility Masters®:

- Qualifications in the individual classes of Dog Agility Masters® classes at local qualifying events and regional championship events may be earned toward Lifetime Achievement Awards, determined as follows:
  - The top three\* scores in each height class shall be averaged in Jumpers and Standard Agility, multiplied by a factor of 1.15 to determine the maximum qualifying score for each award class.
  - The average of the top three\* scores in Gamblers in each height class are multiplied by a factor of .85 to determine the minimum qualifying score.  
*\*If fewer than seven (7) competitors compete in any height class having competitors with dogs >15”, or fewer than five (5) competitors in classes for competitors with dogs 15” or less, 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 the same factors listed above. If there is just one competitor in an award class, the competitor automatically qualifies.*
  - A score in Snooker must be equal to or greater than 75% of the points available for the class, as follows:
    - with three Reds, 51 points are possible; a score of 39 is required.
    - with four Reds available to be performed, 59 points are possible; a score of 45 points is required.
    - With five Reds available to be performed, 67 points are possible; a score of 51 points is required.
- Special Team Scoring Rules (see Chapter 10, USDAA Rules & Regulations, as adopted September 3, 2024):
  - Refusals in Standard Agility, Jumpers, and Relay shall be penalized at 2 points instead of 5 points.
  - A point multiplier of 1.5 x points earned shall be applied to all scores in the Snooker class for calculating Team Scores.
  - A point multiplier of between 0.5 and 1.5 times points earned shall be applied to all scores in the Gamblers class for calculating Team Scores.
- Raw scores (i.e., scores without the multiplier applied) earned in Gamblers and Snooker shall be combined to determine competitor for strategic games awards, including placements and/or advancement to a final round, if offered.

For Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup>:

- 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 championship events are recorded as qualifications for titling purposes, Lifetime Achievement Awards, with placement points awarded for Masters Challenge Agility Top 10 (titling).
- Placements in the Biathlon overall at local and regional championships are awarded Tournament Top 10 points.

**Apparel (Dress Code) Requirements:**

- Competitors and all ring personnel must wear sports appropriate attire. Specific attire (e.g., award polo shirts or jerseys) must be worn as set forth in the Test Schedule or as announced at the event.
- Apparel or accessories that 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 at any time.
- No attire may be worn by competitors or officials that promotes personal sponsors or companies other than USDAA and its sponsors or affiliated groups without the express written consent of USDAA.
- Other restrictions in the spirit of these regulations may be imposed by USDAA without prior notice.

**Tournament Awards**

Awards as listed below shall be made at local and regional events and at Cynosport. A comprehensive list of prizes and awards offered at each event may be found in the published test schedules for each event. Additional awards than those listed below may be made at Host Group’s option with approval from USDAA.

**Local Qualifying Events and Regional Championship Awards**

Qualifying ribbons (or certificates) and placement ribbons or rosettes are to be awarded at local qualifying events.

USDAA will sponsor gold, silver, and bronze medals for first through third places in each height class for each tournament overall and a rosette or other award for each Regional Champion (i.e., gold medalist) at regional championship 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.

Cash Prizes for Dog Agility Steeplechase® at local qualifying and regional championship events may be offered as outlined below:

- At local qualifying events, prize money may be offered (but not required) in an amount not to exceed the greater of 30% of class net revenue overall or a fixed amount for top placements.
- At a regional event, money shall be distributed equally among jump height classes or divisions. Prizes may be allocated only to first place, or alternatively be allocated using a 5-3-1, 4-2-1, or 3-2-1 ratio for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places, respectively. Rules for distribution of prize money shall be published in the Agility Test Schedule or posted at the beginning of the event.

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.

Examples of award distribution when allocated to multiple placements:

Placement*	Distribution Ratio		
	3:2:1	4:2:1	5:3:1
1	\$15	\$20*	\$25*
2	\$10	\$10	\$15
3	\$5	\$5	\$5

*\*Additional sponsored cash or noncash prizes may be offered to one or more placements (including any that may be awarded beyond 3<sup>rd</sup> place) based upon the nature of such prizes.*

### **Cynosport® Championship Awards**

Awards for Cynosport® World Games will include:

- Gold, silver, and bronze medals for first through third place in each height class of individual tournaments
- Gold, silver, and bronze medals for overall teams placing first through third place in 2-dog and 3-dog team tournaments
- Gold, silver, and bronze medals for first through third place overall in the Strategic Games final rounds
- Trophy cup for each champion in—
  - Purina® Pro Plan® Grand Prix of Dog Agility®
  - Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Masters® Pairs
  - Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Masters® 3-Dog Team
  - Purina® Pro Plan® Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup>
- Prize money for top placements in Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Steeplechase®
- Finalist polo shirts or jersey to be worn in the final rounds of the following tournaments
  - Purina® Pro Plan® Grand Prix of Dog Agility®
  - Purina® Pro Plan® Dog Agility Steeplechase®
- Additional special prizes and awards for placements for one or more tournaments will be announced in the Agility Test Schedule.

### **Interpretations of Rules & Disputes**

These tournament rules cannot address all matters that may arise during the tournament season. 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 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 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 to the circumstances, and all rulings shall be final and without recourse.

### **Trademark Disclosure**

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