

OFFICIAL  
RULES & REGULATIONS  
OF  
UNITED STATES  
DOG AGILITY ASSOCIATION,  
INC.

*As Amended  
January 1, 2002*



# UNITED STATES DOG AGILITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## BACKGROUND

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

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

## LEGAL DISCLOSURES



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# CHAPTER 1 — GENERAL REGULATIONS

## SECTION 1.1 – ORGANIZATION PURPOSE & STRUCTURE

The United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. (USDAA) was founded in 1986 for the purpose of *“Promoting International Standards in Dog Agility”*<sup>SM</sup>. USDAA rules and regulations have been derived from rules in practice in Great Britain, with consideration to standards adopted throughout the world. These standards for the sport have been proven for more than twenty years as a basis for the safety of dogs and the excitement and fun in competition enjoyed by dogs and handlers alike.

Today, with many standards of performance the same throughout the world, USDAA has adopted a new motto – *“Promoting Competitive Excellence in Dog Agility”*<sup>SM</sup> in order to reflect its dedication to the adherence to the highest standards of performance, permitting the top of the field to continue to strive for higher accomplishments, while at the same time offering a new program of “Performance” for those whose primary pursuit is recreational competition in the sport.

A dog club or private training center may affiliate with USDAA as a “Member Group” through the execution of an “Affiliation Licensing Agreement” for the purpose of promoting dog agility and USDAA in their community as an athletic sporting event and to encourage family involvement in promoting responsible pet ownership. As a Member Group, the club or training center may apply for sanction of USDAA agility tests, matches and events pursuant to policies set forth by the USDAA Board of Directors. In addition, a Member Group may hold itself out as being a “USDAA Member Group” pursuant to a limited license contained in the Agreement. Member Groups benefit from national affiliation through referrals, USDAA’s promotional efforts and materials, guidance on conduct of events, and access to the knowledge and assistance of USDAA’s national office, which is dedicated to providing the best customer service support possible to its member groups and competitors.

## SECTION 1.2 – DOGS & HANDLERS IN COMPETITION

Dog agility is open to all dogs, purebred and crossbred alike, who are capable of demonstrating the fundamental elements of agility – strength, suppleness, confidence, speed and all around athleticism. These elements are seen in a dog’s strength and balance by scaling ramps, suppleness while weaving through a line of poles, and mobility by racing through tunnels and leaping over hurdles.

Dogs under eighteen months of age, bitches in season, dogs suffering from any deformity, injury or illness that may affect the dog’s performance, and dogs demonstrating signs of aggression toward people or other dogs shall not be eligible to compete in USDAA agility tests or events. Dogs found to meet any of the foregoing conditions after entry at a test or event shall be immediately dismissed from the test and reported to USDAA in the event Organizing Committee Report.

All dogs must be registered with USDAA in order to compete at sanctioned events pursuant to policies and procedures outlined in Appendix D to these regulations. A registration form (see inside back cover) may be obtained from USDAA or one of its member groups. A dog may only be entered in a class for which it is eligible to compete pursuant to these rules & regulations.

Dogs and/or handlers may not enter any class held for title under a judge who resides in the same household or with whom they have trained in the past ten (10) days.

USDAA events are open to any and all persons without discrimination who shall exhibit good sportsmanship and uphold the standards as set forth in these rules and regulations. Where charges of noncompliance are filed against a person or persons, such charges shall be handled in accordance with rules set forth in these regulations for handling of disciplinary actions as set forth in Appendix C herein.

All persons enrolling in USDAA events agree by their enrollment to comply with all aspects of these regulations and to recognize and accept the decisions rendered through due process of disciplinary rules of action as set forth herein without recourse.

### **SECTION 1.3 – CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM & TITLES**

The purpose of the Championship Program is to develop dogs and handlers to a level of athletic competitiveness that meets with international standards. The USDAA Board of Directors is charged with setting standards within the program that seek to not only maintain the sport at a high competitive level, but to improve competitiveness within the sport as viewed in the international community.

#### **Section 1.3(a) - Program Structure**

The Championship Program includes both standard and nonstandard dog agility classes to demonstrate a dog's natural agility and athleticism in a competitive environment, along with the working relationship with its handler. Classes are split into three primary categories, based upon the levels of training attained. At the introductory level – Starters or Novice – a dog and handler are charged with demonstrating obstacle performance and basic handling on an abbreviated course that includes each of the obstacles used in dog agility. At the next level – the Advanced level – courses are longer and contain sequences that require competitors to demonstrate a wider range of handling techniques with a more difficult time standard. In the third level – the Masters level – course designs are even more difficult and time standards are further tightened, requiring competitors to demonstrate high proficiency in handling while at the same time demonstrating more fully the dog's responsiveness and its confidence in performance while working at higher rates of speed. Standards of performance for these levels in the Standard Agility classes are set forth in Chapters 3, 4 and 5 of these regulations.

To develop and demonstrate even more depth, four basic nonstandard classes – Gamblers Choice, Jumpers, Pairs Relay and Snooker Agility are also offered at the Starters, Novice, Advanced and Masters levels. Each of these "nonstandard" classes offers special challenges demonstrative of one or more essential attributes of the competitive dog and handler – natural agility, competitive strategy and working together with other competitors in the spirit of good sportsmanship. Performance standards for the nonstandard classes are set forth in Chapter 6 of these regulations.

By completing the Masters level, a dog has demonstrated competitive excellence under international standards.

#### **Section 1.3(b) - Standard Classes & Titles**

##### Starters or Novice Classes

**Eligibility:** These classes as set forth in Chapter 5 of these regulations shall be for any dog that has not earned the Agility Dog® title. The Starters level is reserved for any dog that has also not earned a title in the Performance Program who is handled by a person who has not previously earned a title in the Championship, Performance or Veterans Program with any dog.

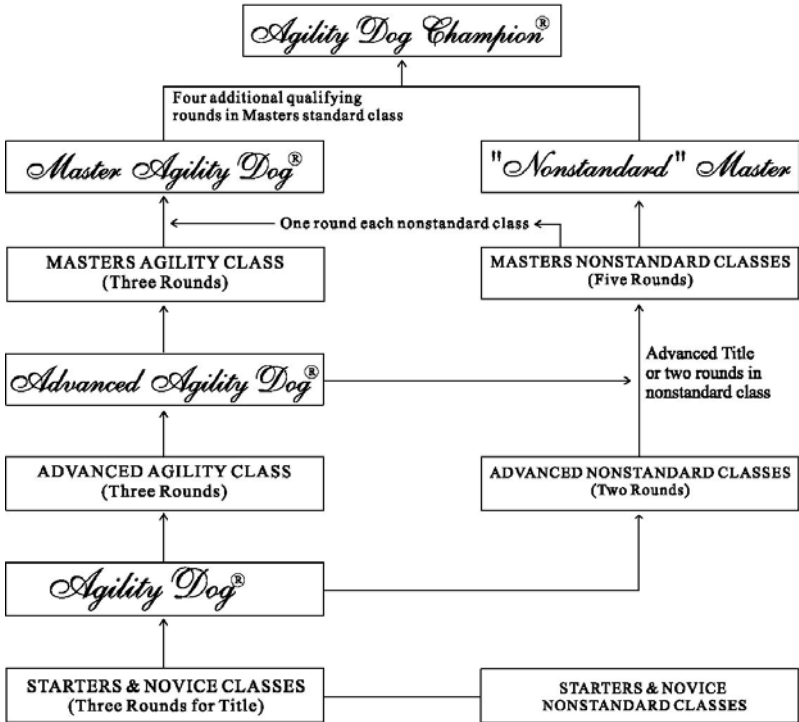
**Titling Requirement:** Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e., clear of course or time faults) in the Starters and/or Novice Standard Agility class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges, the dog shall be awarded the Agility Dog® title.

##### Advanced Classes

**Eligibility:** The Advanced level class as set forth in Chapter 4 of these regulations shall be for dogs that have earned the Agility Dog® title and not have earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title.

**Titling Requirement:** Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e., clear of course or time faults) in the Advanced Standard Agility class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges, the dog shall be awarded the Advanced Agility Dog® title.

**TITLE PROGRESSION TREE**



Masters Class

Eligibility: The Masters level class as set forth in Chapters 3 of these regulations shall be for dogs that have earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title.

Titling Requirement: A dog shall be awarded the Master Agility Dog® title upon satisfaction of the following criteria:

- earning three qualifying scores in the Masters Standard Agility class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges;
- qualifying scores collectively from Starters and/or Novice, Advanced and Masters Standard Agility classes being earned from at least five different judges; and,
- one qualifying score in each of the four nonstandard classes listed in Section 1.3.3, with scores collectively being earned from at least two different judges, one of which must be different than two of the judges under which the Masters Standard Agility qualifying scores were earned.

**Section 1.3(c) - Nonstandard Classes & Titles**

Specialty titles are awarded in the nonstandard classes listed in this section. Each class is also a required part of the Master Agility Dog® title. When held for title certification purposes, classes must be offered by class level (i.e., Starters/Novice or Starters and Novice, Advanced and Masters).

Provisions for the following classes are more fully described in Chapter 6 of these rules and regulations:

- Gamblers Choice – to demonstrate proficiency in distance control and competitive strategy
- Jumpers – to demonstrate a dog's jumping ability and fluid working habit
- Pairs or Team Relay – to demonstrate cooperative team effort and team sportsmanship
- Snooker Agility – to demonstrate a dog and handler's versatility in competitive strategy

Additional nonstandard classes or the above classes with modified rules may be held provided a complete description of such classes is included in the application approved for the event and explained in detail in the Test Schedule, as required by the provisions of Chapter 2. Section 2.2 of these regulations; however, the above classes must be conducted under the provisions set forth in Chapter 6 without modification in order to be considered as a titling class.

**Eligibility:** A dog must earn the Agility Dog® title to be eligible to enter an Advanced level non-standard class. A dog that has earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title or alternatively, a dog that has earned two qualifying scores in an Advanced level nonstandard class, with scores collectively being earned from at least two different judges (and with two different partners in Pairs Relay), is eligible for entry at handler's option to the same nonstandard class at the Masters level, at which a dog may earn qualifying scores toward title certification.

**Titling Requirements:** A dog shall be awarded the Gamblers Master<sup>SM</sup>, Jumpers Masters<sup>SM</sup>, Relay Master<sup>SM</sup> and Snooker Master<sup>SM</sup> titles upon completion of five qualifying scores in each class, with such scores earned from no fewer than two different judges, plus the following additional criteria:

In the Relay class, qualifying scores must be earned with five different partners;

In the Snooker class, at least three qualifying scores must be "qualifying placements" (or "Super Q"), representing the top 15% of the class as defined in Chapter 6

### **Section 1.3(d) - Championship Certification**

In order to recognize a dog for demonstration of their diverse expertise under international standards in the Masters level classes, a dog that has earned each of the foregoing Masters level titles and has earned four additional qualifying scores in the Masters level Standard Agility class shall be awarded the Agility Dog Champion® title.

[TRANSITION RULE: Dogs that have earned the Master Agility Dog® title prior to January 1, 2000, are exempt from the "four additional qualifying scores" requirement.]

### **Section 1.3(e) - Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> Awards**

Top competitors are recognized annually in the Championship Program at the Masters level in Standard Agility, Gamblers, Jumpers and Snooker classes in order to promote competitive excellence.

**Eligibility:** All dogs competing in the Masters level classes are eligible for award of the Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> points, which are based upon the number of dogs that actually compete in each height class and each dog's final placement in the class, as set forth in the table on page 5.

**Title Requirement:** Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> awards shall be made annually to the top ten dogs in each height class that have earned the most accumulated points during the calendar year in Standard Agility, Gamblers, Jumpers and Snooker.

In addition, USDAA will periodically publish rankings to recognize lifetime accumulation of top ten points earned since January 1, 1999, inception of the current program.

Points shall be earned as shown in the table in this subsection.



| NO. OF DOGS COMPETING | PLACEMENTS*   | POINTS AWARD/PLACE |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 2 – 3                 | 1             | 1                  |
| 4 – 5                 | 1, 2          | 3, 1               |
| 6 – 10                | 1, 2, 3       | 5, 3, 1            |
| 11 – 20               | 1, 2, 3, 4    | 7, 5, 3, 1         |
| 21 – 30               | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | 9, 7, 5, 3, 1      |

\*For each additional group of ten dogs competing in a height class, one additional placement shall be awarded, with each placement receiving two (2) additional points.

### **Section 1.3(f) – Lifetime Achievement Awards**

*Top competitors are recognized for their accomplishments throughout their careers as measured through consistent, high level performance in the Masters classes. Those amassing qualifying scores in Masters level competition meeting standards set forth by the Board of Directors shall be awarded one or more titles recognizing their level of lifetime achievement.*

*In addition, the Board of Directors, or a designated committee as it may appoint, may accept application for lifetime achievement awards, wherein an applicant, absent a sufficient number of qualifying scores as set forth for title, may be considered for special awards based upon their life-long accomplishments and contributions to the sport of dog agility. Such accomplishments and contributions shall be measured based upon their longevity, impact, and lasting significance to development and/or promotion of the sport, among other factors as the Board of Directors may find to be commensurate with standards set forth for the awards.*

### **Section 1.3(g) - Championship Tournaments**

Various championship tournaments are conducted to promote competitive excellence under international standards. These classes are open to all dogs, regardless of competition level (e.g. Starters, Advanced, etc.) or program (e.g., Performance, Championship, etc.) in which the dog regularly competes. All dogs entered in these tournaments compete under Championship Program standards as may be modified by special tournament rules.

**Grand Prix of Dog Agility® Championships** – The Grand Prix of Dog Agility® showcases the sport in its standard form and is conducted pursuant to tournament rules established annually by the USDAA Board of Directors. Dogs compete in local qualifying events to earn the right to compete in the regional championships/quarterfinals/semifinals or finals. Generally, the top 15% of dogs in each height class (with a minimum of eight dogs) advance to the finals. The winner in each of four height classes is named the year's Grand Prix of Dog Agility® Champion.

**Dog Agility Masters® Team Championship** – The Dog Agility Masters® showcases three-dog/three handler teams through five classes of competition – Standard Agility, Gamblers Choice, Jumpers, Snooker Agility and the final class – the Three-Dog Team Relay. The tournament challenges the diverse abilities of dogs and handlers, with emphasis on team strategy, consistency and endurance. A team may be comprised of any three dogs and three handlers, however a team may not be comprised of dogs jumping in more than two different height classes. Teams compete in regional qualifying events to earn the right to compete in the championship event. The winners at the championship event are named the year's Dog Agility Masters® Team Champions.

**Dog Agility Steeplechase® Championships** – The Dog Agility Steeplechase® is a two-round competitive tournament that emphasizes speed on a fluent, Jumpers-style course **with at least two spread hurdles** that also includes an A-frame and weave poles, one of which must be performed twice. The top dogs in each height class advance to the second (final) round, where they compete for placements, including prize money. Dogs compete in regional competition to qualify for entry to the championship event, where the top 15% of competitors in Round

1 in each height class vie for high stakes in the final round. The winner in each jump height class at the championship event is named the year's Dog Agility Steeplechase® Champion.

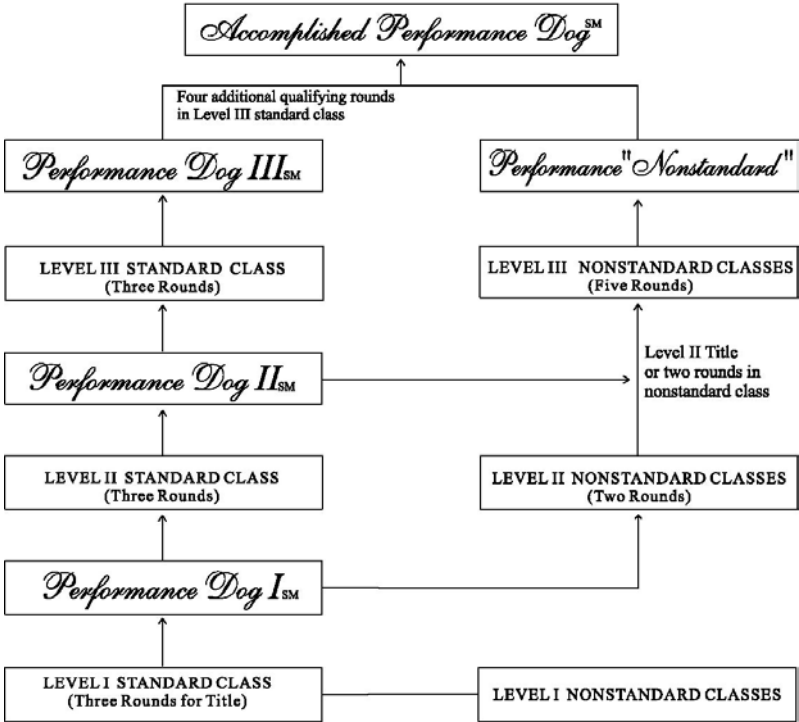
**SECTION 1.4 – OTHER PROGRAMS**

The Programs as set forth in this section and in Chapters 7 through 9 of these regulations are to foster dog agility in the community as a family recreational activity, foster responsible pet ownership and provide a foundation in performance that may lead to entrance into the Championship Program.

**Section 1.4(a) – Performance Program Structure**

The Performance Program as set forth in Chapter 7 is to enable dogs and handlers to compete through three progressive competition levels with less emphasis on a dog's agility than that required in the Championship Program. The Performance Program offers lower jumping heights, a lower incline on the A-frame and slightly less stringent time standards. Those participating in the Performance Program may also participate in the Championship Program while continuing to compete in the Performance Program, subject to requirements as set forth herein. Participation in both Programs may be further restricted at a given event through USDAA policy, which shall be stipulated in the event's "Test Schedule".

**TITLE PROGRESSION TREE**



## **Section 1.4(a)(1) – Standard Classes & Titles**

### Level I

Eligibility: The Level I standard performance class shall be for any dog that has not earned the Performance Dog I<sup>SM</sup> title or who has not earned a qualifying score at a higher level in the Performance Program.

Titling Requirement: Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e. clear of course or time faults) in the Level I standard performance class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges, the dog shall be awarded the Performance Dog I<sup>SM</sup> title.

### Level II

Eligibility: The Level II standard performance class shall be for any dog that earned the Performance Dog I<sup>SM</sup> title, the Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title or the Veteran Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title, but has not earned the Performance Dog II<sup>SM</sup> title or who has not earned a qualifying score at a higher level in the Performance Program.

Titling Requirement: Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e. clear of course or time faults) in the Level II standard performance class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges, the dog shall be awarded the Performance Dog II<sup>SM</sup> title.

### Level III

Eligibility: The Level III standard performance class shall be for any dog that has earned the Performance Dog II<sup>SM</sup> title, the Advanced Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title, or the Veteran Advanced Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title, or a higher level title in the Championship or Veterans Programs.

Titling Requirement: Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e. clear of course or time faults) in the Level III standard performance class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges, the dog shall be awarded the Performance Dog III<sup>SM</sup> title.

## **Section 1.4(a)(2) – Nonstandard Classes & Titles**

Eligibility: The same levels of competition – Levels I, II and III – are offered in each of three nonstandard classes - Gamblers Choice, Jumpers and Snooker Agility. A dog must earn the Performance Dog I<sup>SM</sup> title, the Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title, or the Veteran Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title to be eligible to enter a Level II nonstandard class. A dog that has earned the Performance Dog II<sup>SM</sup> title, the Advanced Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title, or the Veteran Advanced Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title, or alternatively, a dog that has earned from two different judges –

- two qualifying scores in a Level II nonstandard class,
- two qualifying scores in an Advanced level (Championship Program) nonstandard class, or
- two qualifying scores in a Veterans level nonstandard classes,

is eligible for entry to the same Level III nonstandard class, where a dog can earn qualifying scores towards title certification.

Titling Requirements: A dog shall be awarded the Performance Gamblers<sup>SM</sup>, Performance Jumpers<sup>SM</sup>, Performance Snooker<sup>SM</sup> titles upon completion of five qualifying scores in each class, with such scores earned from no fewer than two different judges and at least three qualifying scores in the Performance Snooker class must be “qualifying placements” (“Super Q”), representing the top 15% of the class as defined in Chapter 6.

## **Section 1.4(a)(3) – Accomplished Performance Dog Certification**

In order to recognize a dog for their accomplishments in the top level classes of the Performance Program, a dog that has earned each of the foregoing Level III title certificates and shall have earned four additional qualifying scores in the Level III standard performance class shall be awarded the Accomplished Performance Dog<sup>SM</sup> title.

## **Section 1.4(b) – Junior Handler Program**

The *Junior Handler Program* (JHP) was designed to encourage youth involvement in the sport of dog agility as a fun, recreational, family sport and to promote responsible pet ownership. Four progressive levels of classes – Beginners, Elementary, Intermediate and Senior – as set forth in Chapter 8 to these regulations are available to foster advancement in training and to provide recognition for their accomplishments as a dog and handler team.

**Eligibility:** Junior Handler Program classes are open to children eighteen years of age and younger. A junior handler must register with each dog with which they would like to compete in order to participate in this program. They may continue to compete at the Senior level after earning the Junior Handler – Senior Agility<sup>SM</sup> title.

**Titling Requirements:** Four classes and related titles are awarded in the Junior Handler Program as follows:

**Beginner Agility** – A dog and handler who have earned one qualifying score (i.e. run clean without course or time faults) shall be awarded the Junior Handler–Beginner Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate.

**Elementary Agility** – A dog and handler who have earned two qualifying scores(i.e., run clean without course or time faults) shall be awarded the Junior Handler–Elementary Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate

**Intermediate Agility** – A dog and handler who have earned three qualifying scores (i.e., run clean without course or time faults) shall be awarded the Junior Handler–Intermediate Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate.

**Senior Agility** – A dog and handler who have earned three qualifying scores (i.e., run clean without course or time faults) shall be awarded the Junior Handler–Senior Agility<sup>SM</sup> certificate.

## **Section 1.4(c) – Veteran Agility Program**

[TRANSITION NOTE: These classes are replaced by the Performance Classes, effective April 1, 1999. This section is included to provide descriptions of those titles earned while the program was in effect.]

A dog must be seven years of age or older to compete in the *Veterans Agility Program*. A dog entered in the Veterans classes may continue to compete in the Masters Veterans and Veterans nonstandard classes after receiving the Veteran Master Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title.

## **Section 1.4(c)(1) – Standard Classes & Titles**

### Novice Veterans Class

**Eligibility:** The Novice Veterans class shall be for dogs that have not earned the Veteran Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title.

**Titling Requirement:** Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e., clear run without course or time faults) in the Novice Veterans standard class, with scores being earned from at least two different judges, the dog is awarded the Veteran Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title.

### Advanced Veterans Class

**Eligibility:** The Advanced Veterans class shall be for dogs that have earned the Veteran Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title, or the Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title and not have earned the Veteran Advanced Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title.

**Titling Requirement:** Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e., clear run without course or time faults) in the Advanced Veterans standard class, the dog is awarded the Veteran Advanced Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title.

### Masters Veterans Class

**Description:** The Masters Veterans class shall be for dogs that have earned the Veteran Advanced Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title or the Advanced Agility Dog<sup>®</sup> title.

Titling Requirement: Upon earning three qualifying scores (i.e., clear of course or time faults) in the Masters Veterans standard class, the dog is awarded the Veteran Master Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> title.

### **Section 1.4(c)(2) – Nonstandard Classes & Titles**

Eligibility: The Veterans nonstandard classes – Gamblers, Jumpers and Snooker shall be for all dogs in the Veteran Agility Program.

Titling Requirement: A dog shall be awarded the Veteran Gambler<sup>SM</sup>, Veteran Jumper<sup>SM</sup>, Veteran Snooker<sup>SM</sup>, titles upon earning five qualifying scores in the each class.

### **Section 1.4(c)(3) Performance Certification**

In order to recognize a dog for their demonstration of diverse ability in the highest level classes of the Veteran Program, a dog shall be awarded the Veteran Performance Dog<sup>SM</sup> title upon completion of all Veterans Program titles.

### **SECTION 1.5 – OTHER CLASSES**

Other competitive classes may be held subject to USDAA approval. If approved, a complete detailed description of the class must be included in the “Test Schedule” (a.k.a., premium list) for the event.

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

### **SECTION 2.1 – PREPARING FOR SANCTIONED TESTS, MATCHES & EVENTS**

A USDAA member group wishing to hold a sanctioned test, match or competitive event must make written application to USDAA for an event license. Such license agreement shall permit the group to designate a test, match or competitive event as “sanctioned” by USDAA, indicating that the host organization or group shall comply with all the requirements set forth in these rules and regulations and such guidelines as may be established by the USDAA Board of Directors for conduct of such tests, matches or events. Herein-after, the terms “Test”, “Match” or “Event” are used interchangeably, and the appropriate term should be substituted when appropriate.

Copies of application forms and guidelines may be obtained upon request from USDAA. The application along with the appropriate filing fee shall be submitted to USDAA in accordance with USDAA policy as stipulated in the current licensing agreement for sanctioned tests, events or matches. USDAA reserves the right to refuse any application for license for any reason without recourse from the requesting organization. Failure of a member group to fulfill any portion of the requirements stipulated for a sanctioned test or event does so at the risk of loss of sanction of the test, match or event. It is the sole responsibility of the member group to adhere to the requirements stipulated by these rules and regulations and other guidelines established from time to time by the USDAA Board of Directors.

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

- acceptance of entries and registrations
- preparation of the Test Schedule and class running order pursuant to USDAA guidelines
- training and providing qualified support personnel for course building, ring operations and scorekeeping in accordance with USDAA procedures. At a minimum each ring of operation must have a timer, scribe, gate steward, scorekeeper, runner and two to four ring stewards; course builders can generally service more than one ring at an event.
- providing obstacles that meet USDAA specifications as provided in Appendix A hereof
- providing tools and supplies necessary to conduct a quality test, match or event
- resolution of all disciplinary matters that are brought before the Committee pursuant to Appendix C hereof.

All disciplinary matters shall be governed by the provisions of USDAA’s Rules of Conduct and Disciplinary Actions, which are reproduced in Appendix C to these rules and regulations. It is the responsibility of the Organizing Committee to uphold standards of conduct established by the USDAA Board of Directors.

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

### **SECTION 2.2 – TEST SCHEDULE**

A test shall be announced through the publication and distribution of a “Test Schedule” in the form approved by the Board of Directors no less than six (6) weeks prior to the proposed test date. A closing date for acceptance of entries of no less than ten (10) days prior to the first day

of a test weekend shall be established. A “secondary” closing date may be established for purposes of accepting changes to an entry in order to move to a higher class level, provided such date is published in the Test Schedule and the date allows sufficient time for accurate preparation of event records required pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures.

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

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

- the proposed date, time and location of the test
- a statement regarding the venue and performance surface, whether it will be indoors or outdoors, sod or packed dirt, etc.
- amount of entry fees
- the closing date (and secondary closing date if used) after which entries will no longer be accepted, changed or canceled; a statement that entries must either be “received by” the closing date or “postmarked” by the closing date
- description of each class to be offered
- description of prizes and awards for each class
- an official entry form and dog registration form, meeting requirements pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures. The entry form shall include a “General Agreement” in the form required by USDAA policies and procedures that shall be executed (i.e., signed and dated) by the dog’s owner, authorized agent, or parent or legal guardian (if the competitor is a minor)
- names of the judge(s) and alternate or supervising judge (if any)
- description of qualifications and/or restrictions for entry in the test or any of its classes
- a statement that fault limits may be imposed
- a statement that the event’s Organizing Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry for any reason
- a statement that the test event will be held under Official USDAA Rules and Regulations.
- a statement that the obstacles used meet USDAA specifications as outlined in the Rules and Regulations
- a statement that the competitor (and/or dog owner) has read and understands USDAA Rules and Regulations, which are incorporated in their entirety by reference
- a statement that in the event of unpaid entry fees due to an NSF check or chargeback on credit card, the host group may collect from the competitor within thirty (30) days of notice of NSF or chargeback on credit card. Any fees not collected within thirty (30) days of notice the host group will notify USDAA of delinquency for cancellation of event results for all classes for the registration number of entry that is delinquent. No reinstatement of results is possible, and all awards must be returned, or the dog’s registration may be suspended pending restitution for replacement and distribution of awards. Any unpaid fees for shortfalls must be paid prior to the start of the event or entry is canceled without recourse by owner/handler.

A group must include in the Test Schedule any other terms, notices or other conditions for entry. A competitor or entrant shall not rely upon any oral representation that is not specifically stated in the Test Schedule, USDAA Rules and Regulations or published USDAA policies and

procedures (as in the case of USDAA tournament rules, for example). It is the responsibility of the competitor to determine that any oral representation is valid pursuant to USDAA Rules and Regulations.

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

A match held as a prerequisite to holding a sanctioned test in the first year of membership shall be announced through the publication and distribution of a "Match Schedule" no less than three weeks prior to the proposed match date. A closing date no less than one week prior to the scheduled match shall be stipulated to allow sufficient time for preparation of a match running order and other preparatory procedures. An abbreviated Match Bulletin may be used for other sanctioned matches and no closing date for such other matches is required. For matches not held as a prerequisite to holding a sanctioned test, a USDAA approved class sign-in sheet shall be required for same day of show entries if the standard entry form is not used.

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

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

The Event Secretary shall be responsible for the handling and processing of entries to an event, arrange for the orderly check-in of competitors at the event, and follow USDAA-approved policies and procedures for the collection, recording and reporting of scores. In connection therewith, the Secretary shall prepare a check-in list of all competitors entered in the event (arranged in alphabetic order), listing each owner, dog, USDAA registration number and its height class.

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

Competitors shall present the dog's registration card at time of check-in to permit the Secretary to verify the dog's registration number has been correctly recorded on the show records and that the height class is correct pursuant to criteria set forth below.

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

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



No dog shall be permitted to compete at an event whose owner has not –

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

The measuring judge must be a judge of record for the event, including a supervising judge of record or a judge engaged solely for that purpose. The measuring judge’s determination shall be final for the event, including any contiguous days conducted by another USDAA group.

## **SECTION 2.4 – OBSTACLES**

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

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Contact Obstacles | Table                       |
| Dog Walk          | Jumps and Hurdles           |
| See-Saw           | Wishing Well                |
| Cross-Over        | Tire Jump                   |
| A-Frame           | Long Jump                   |
| Collapsed Tunnel  | Brush Jump                  |
| Pipe Tunnel       | Winged & Non-winged Hurdles |
| Weave Poles       | Spread Hurdles              |

Various additional hurdles as defined within the parameters set forth in Appendix A may be utilized. Safety must always be of foremost concern when designing and constructing obstacles.

A majority of the jumps and hurdles (including spread hurdles) utilized shall be of the “winged” type, with wings measuring no less than 18”(45cm) in width.

## **SECTION 2.5 – COURSE LAYOUTS**

A course area should be approximately 12,000 square feet (1050 square meters) but in no event shall it be less than 10,000 square feet (900 square meters) (e.g. 100’ x 100’ or 80’ x 125’; 30m x 30m or 24m x 37m) if the maximum number of agility obstacles is to be used. Obstacles should be spaced considering dogs’ natural paths, allowing on average approximately 18’ to 22’ (5.4m x 6.5m) distance between obstacles for dogs jumping 22” (55cm) or more and allowing on average approximately 15’ to 18’ (4.5m to 5.4m) distance between obstacles for dogs jumping 16” (40cm) or less. In no event shall successive obstacles be spaced closer than 12’ (3.7m) apart for dogs jumping 22” (55cm) or more and 9’ (2.7m) apart for dogs jumping 16” (40cm) or less. In events where dogs of all jump height classes are competing against each other in an open class, obstacle spacing should be balanced with all other competitive elements of the course.

Any test area must have a non-slip surface. The terrain should permit leveling of the obstacles and provide safe footing for handlers and dogs. If a test shall be held on hard surfaces such as cement, the test area should be fully covered with shock absorbent covering. Because of the nature of the sport, such hard surfaces are strongly discouraged. The dog’s safety shall be paramount in selecting a test site.

A Standard Agility course shall have a defined start line and finish line, at which the timekeeper (who shall be appointed by the group and approved by the judge) shall start and stop the clock when the dog crosses each line. The start and finish line shall not be set in a manner as that it becomes an “obstacle” to be performed; the start and finish line are intended solely as a means of measuring time on the course. A course shall require no more than 20 obstacles be performed by a single dog, including any obstacles to be taken more than once.

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

The course area should be partitioned by rope or fencing to prevent spectators from interfering with the course before, during or following the test. However, it must at all times be remembered that agility is a spectator sport, and accommodations should be made to permit spectators to play their role as such in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

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

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

These rules shall not preclude a judge from allowing a familiarization for all competitors on a specific obstacle that meets obstacle specifications but may vary in appearance or operation such that the judge views a lack of familiarization may create a significant performance or safety problem for dogs. A judge in such circumstances must give careful consideration as to the obstacle's operational safety before permitting it to be used in the test.

A separate "warm-up" area may be provided near each ring at a show site to allow handlers an opportunity to heel and jump their dogs. Only a single jump of judge's discretion shall be permitted in the "warm-up" area, which shall be under ring personnel supervision. No obstacles or jumps shall be permitted elsewhere at the test site for training, warm-up or other preparatory purposes. No training seminars, clinics or other practice sessions shall be permitted to be held at the test site within 24 hours prior to the first scheduled class at any sanctioned event without written USDAA approval.

No training shall be permitted on the show grounds at any time. Training collars, such as choke chain, pinch or similar collars commonly used in training shall not be permitted in or near the ring or warm-up area (or other spectator areas). "Similar collars" as used above shall be evaluated based upon their intended function and appearance. Shock collars or similar devices not deemed to be in the best interest of the sport shall not be permitted on the show grounds.

## **SECTION 2.6 – JUDGES & STEWARDS**

An agility class shall be conducted by one judge and stewards under the judge's direction. The judge shall not be allowed to compete in the event on a day that he or she is scheduled to judge without USDAA approval. Stewards shall not be permitted to compete in a class for which they are to serve as stewards. For this purpose, a class is defined by the manner in which awards are being distributed. (For example, a class would be a jump height if placements are made only by jump height; in Snooker, if two height classes are combined pursuant to rules set forth in Chapter 6, the combined class is considered a single class for this purpose). Only individuals who are listed on the "Approved Judges List" evidencing that they have

fulfilled the USDAA requirements for judges (see Appendix B) shall be permitted to judge at a sanctioned test or event pursuant to guidelines established by the USDAA Board of Directors, except as provided in the Junior Handler Program (see Chapter 8).

The judge shall be solely responsible for designing the course, measuring the course distance, establishing the standard course time, measuring dogs and scoring the performance. The judge shall consult with the Event Secretary to determine whether fault limits are to be utilized. When the secretary shall indicate that fault limits have been considered in establishing the class schedule, the judge shall utilize fault limits at least as stringent as those assumed in setting the class schedule. Where the secretary indicates that fault limits were not anticipated, the judge may apply (at their discretion) reasonable fault limits in exercising their duties pursuant to Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of these regulations.

The judge shall designate stewards to serve as timekeeper and scribe for a class, but the judge alone shall observe and signal course faults. No video or other means of instant replay shall be utilized for the determination of course faults. The judge's decision on scoring shall be final.

The judge shall hold a competitor's briefing prior to the commencement of each class. Such briefing shall include as applicable, a description of how the "down" on the table will be counted, a review of special scoring and performance requirements for the class to the extent deemed necessary for each class level, announcement of the standard course time and fault limit (if one is to be used), and a review of ring procedure (e.g., entering and exiting the ring, approaching the start line, etc.). The judge shall not advise competitors on handling position and strategy but may at his or her discretion respond to questions on what may be permissible or not within these rules and regulations. The judge shall provide at events where ring conflicts may occur, a written briefing on all special scoring and performance rules for Gamblers and Snooker classes (or other classes that may require special rules), which shall be posted along with the course design.

The scorekeeper shall be positioned ring-side at the exit gate where they shall receive the scribe sheet, tally and post scores immediately following each round pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures. This practice enables competitors the opportunity to promptly review their scores and make timely inquiry should a discrepancy be noted.

## **SECTION 2.7 – PRIZES & AWARDS**

A host organization shall recognize each qualifying score in a certification class through the award of a maroon qualifying ribbon or rosette. Placement ribbons or rosettes when awarded in sanctioned tests or events shall follow the color chart provided herein. Placements earned for determination of Agility Top Ten<sup>SM</sup> points pursuant to regulations set forth in Chapter 1 shall be announced for each height class in the Masters level Standard Agility, Gamblers, Jumpers and Snooker Agility even though placement awards are not being offered for all such placements. Placement awards should generally be made for a reasonable number of placements given the anticipated entry for each class (10 – 15%).

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

Additionally, the ribbon or rosette shall be imprinted or have a card attached where information may be recorded or be imprinted with the date of the test or event, class of competition (e.g. Advanced Class or Gamblers Class) and city and state where the test or event is being held.

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

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

Additional placements shall be light blue in color.

Trophies may also be awarded for prizes provided they are adequately described and announced in the Test Schedule. Cash awards and prizes are strongly discouraged unless otherwise approved by the USDAA office in advance of the event, though they may be offered in nominal amounts.

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

## CHAPTER 3 — MASTERS STANDARD AGILITY CLASS

This class shall be only for dogs having earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title.

### SECTION 3.1 – MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

A course shall include a minimum of seventeen (17) and a maximum of twenty (20) obstacles to be performed in the Masters class. Obstacles may be used more than once in a particular course design, but no more than four contact obstacles, twelve weave poles and/or twenty (20) total obstacles shall be required to be performed. The minimum requirements are:

Three contact obstacles:

- A-Frame
- Dog walk or Cross Over
- See-Saw

Weave poles (minimum of ten)

Collapsed tunnel

Pipe tunnel

Table

Jumps and hurdles\*:

- Tire jump
- Three winged hurdles, at least one of which must be a spread hurdle
- Non-winged jumps or hurdles (optional as to style)

\*The majority of jumps and hurdles to be performed on a course shall be of “winged” type, with a wing measuring no less than 18” (45cm) in width.

### SECTION 3.2 – OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance and scoring standards for the Masters class for each of the obstacles listed in Appendix A to these rules and regulations are as follows:

#### A-Frame

The dog must ascend the up ramp in the direction designated by the judge, touching the safety contact zone, cross over the apex and descend the down ramp, touching the safety contact zone before leaving the obstacle. Failure to touch a contact zone is a standard fault. Beginning ascent on the wrong ramp shall constitute running the wrong course. Leaving the obstacle prior to beginning descent shall constitute a refusal. A dog shall be viewed as “beginning ascent” or “beginning descent” if contact is made with one or more paws.

#### Dog Walk

The dog must touch the contact zone while ascending the ramp in the direction designated by the judge, traverse the cross-plank, and descend the other ramp touching the contact zone prior to leaving the obstacle. Failure to touch a contact zone is a standard fault. Beginning ascent on the wrong ramp shall constitute running the wrong course. Leaving the obstacle prior to beginning descent shall constitute a refusal. A dog shall be viewed as “beginning ascent” or “beginning descent” if contact is made with one or more paws.

#### See-Saw

The dog must touch the contact zone while ascending the see-saw, cross the plank's pivot point causing the see-saw to tilt to the ground on the other end, and descend the remainder of the plank, touching the safety contact zone before leaving the plank. Failure to touch a contact zone is a standard fault. A dog leaving the obstacle after crossing the plank's pivot point but prior to it touching the ground, or leaving the plank in an uncontrolled manner prior to the plank touching the ground, shall constitute a fly-off. Leaving the obstacle prior to beginning descent (i.e., crossing the pivot point or tipping the plank) shall constitute a refusal.

### Cross-Over

The Cross-Over may be used with two, three or four planks. The dog must ascend one ramp and descend a second ramp in the direction designated by the judge, touching the contact zone on both ramps. Failure to touch a contact zone is a standard fault. Beginning ascent or descent on the wrong ramp shall constitute running the wrong course. Leaving the obstacle prior to beginning descent down a ramp shall constitute a refusal. A dog shall be viewed as "beginning ascent" or "beginning descent" if contact is made with one or more paws.

### Collapsed Tunnel

The dog must enter the rigid opening to the tunnel and burrow through the collapsed portion of the tunnel. Jumping over any elevated portion of the tunnel or backing out of or exiting the tunnel entrance shall constitute a refusal.

### Pipe Tunnel

The dog must enter the opening to the tunnel in the direction designated by the judge and exit the other end of the tunnel. Entering the tunnel from the wrong end shall constitute running the wrong course. Jumping over any portion of the tunnel or backing out of or exiting the tunnel entrance shall constitute a refusal.

### Weave Poles

The dog must weave in and out in a continuous motion down the complete line of poles, beginning with the dog passing on the right side of the first pole, crossing the line of poles between pole #1 and pole #2 toward the left side of the second pole, then crossing the line of poles between pole #2 and pole #3 toward the right side of the third pole, and continuing in sequence down the complete line of poles.

A dog shall not be penalized for the act of hesitating in the poles while weaving down the line; however, this shall not preclude a judge from penalizing for a missed pole if in the judge's opinion, the dog had to shift backwards or otherwise make a corrective move, no matter how slight, so that the dog could properly weave in the proper direction between the poles in sequence. Failure to correct for missed poles or for improper entry shall constitute failure to perform the obstacle. Weaving in the wrong direction (i.e., "backweaving") shall constitute running the wrong course. A dog that enters the poles incorrectly or runs out past the proper entry to the line of poles shall be penalized for a refusal for each occurrence; however, a refusal shall not be charged once the dog has correctly entered the weave poles. Backing out of the entry to the poles shall constitute a refusal.

### Hurdles

The dog must jump over the hurdle at heights as set forth in the diagram presented in this section in the direction designated by the judge, crossing between the hurdle's two side supports over the planks, bars or poles without displacing the top plank, bar or pole. In the unlikely event that a judge views that a pole or plank support will not permit the top pole or rail to readily displace, the judge may declare in the competitor's briefing that "banking" of such hurdles will be faulted the same as fallen poles or planks. Running under or jumping the hurdle in the wrong direction (i.e., backjumping) shall constitute running the wrong course. Jumping over side supports or running under the hurdle in the proper direction shall constitute a refusal.

### Spread Hurdles

A spread hurdle must be performed under the same standards as the single hurdle. Entering or exiting the side of a spread hurdle, or failure to jump the front and back elements together as a single hurdle in the proper direction shall constitute a refusal.

Extended spread hurdles are those that range in span from 20" to 24" (50 to 60cm) for dogs jumping 22" (55cm) or higher, and measure 12" (30cm) in span for dogs jumping 12" (30cm) and 16" (40cm).

### Tire Jump

The dog must jump through the tire in the direction designated by the judge. Jumping through the tire or passing through the perimeter of the tire frame in the wrong direction shall constitute running the wrong course. Jumping between the tire and the frame, or jumping over or running under the tire in the proper direction shall constitute a refusal.

### JUMPING/HEIGHT STANDARDS (P) - PARALLEL; (A) - ASCENDING

| Height @ Withers          | Minimum Jump Height* | Spread Hurdle Span              | Long Jump Span | Table Height | A-Frame Height @ Apex |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Over 21"                  | 26"                  | (P) 12" - 15"<br>(A) >15" - 24" | 60"            | 24"          | 75"                   |
| 21" & under, but over 16" | 22"                  | (P) 12" - 15"<br>(A) >15" - 24" | 48"            | 24"          | 75"                   |
| 16" & under, but over 12" | 16"                  | No parallel<br>(A) 10" - 12"    | 36"            | 16"          | 75"                   |
| 12" & under               | 12"                  | No parallel<br>(A) 10" - 12"    | 20"            | 12"          | 66"                   |

### JUMPING/HEIGHT STANDARDS (IN METRIC UNITS)

| Height @ Withers            | Minimum Jump Height* | Spread Hurdle Span              | Long Jump Span | Table Height | A-Frame Height @ Apex |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Over 53cm                   | 65cm                 | (P) 30cm-38cm<br>(A) >38cm-60cm | 152cm          | 60cm         | 190cm                 |
| 53cm & under, but over 40cm | 55cm                 | (P) 30cm-38cm<br>(A) >38cm-60cm | 122cm          | 60cm         | 190cm                 |
| 40cm & under, but over 30cm | 40cm                 | No parallel<br>(A) 25cm-30cm    | 92cm           | 40cm         | 190cm                 |
| 30cm & under                | 30cm                 | No parallel<br>(A) 25cm-30cm    | 51cm           | 30cm         | 168cm                 |

\* Dogs may compete at a higher height if their handler so chooses on the entry form; however, where a dog may compete in two separate height classes, a separate entry form must be used for each height class entry to facilitate processing of entries.

#### Table

A dog must jump onto the table and assume the down position for a period of five (5) seconds. The judge shall count the five-second count aloud, commencing when the dog has fully assumed the down position. If the dog should leave the table or not remain in the down position for five seconds, the handler must instruct the dog to resume the down position for the remainder of the five (5) second count, **except in the circumstance where the dog breaks its down position and/or leaves the table a split second before the judge has said "GO" (i.e., anticipation of end of count). The "down position" shall generally be viewed by the judge as a dog with four primary points of contact with the table surface and indicating a position of rest.**

Running under or jumping over the table shall constitute a refusal. The table may not be used as a starting point in the Standard Agility **or Jumpers nonstandard titling classes**; however, when used as a finish point, or used as a start or finish point in the nonstandard titling classes, it shall not be judged for performance but shall be used solely as a means of starting and/or stopping the clock. Once the dog has jumped onto the table, a refusal cannot be charged; however, a penalty shall be assessed for the first occurrence of jumping off of the table any time prior to completion of the five-second count, **including anticipation of the judge saying "GO" as specified above.**

#### Wishing Well

The dog must jump in the direction designated by the judge beneath the rooftop and over the pole without displacing it. The dog shall not touch the well base when passing over the well. Jumping the obstacle in the wrong direction (i.e., backjumping) shall constitute running the wrong course.

#### Long Jump

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

exit between the back corner marker poles. Jumping the obstacle in the wrong direction (i.e., entering the back corner poles and exiting the side or front or entering the side and exiting the front corner poles) shall constitute backjumping, which shall constitute running the wrong course. Jumping from side to side (cross-jumping), exiting the side after proper entry or entering from the side and exiting the back shall constitute a refusal.

#### Water Jump

The dog must jump over the jump without touching it, crossing first between the front corner marker poles in the direction designated by the judge and clearing the span of the jump, exiting between the back corner marker poles. If a hedge, wall or other front barrier is used as a part of the water jump, the dog must clear the barrier without displacing any part of it. Jumping the obstacle in the wrong direction (i.e., entering the back corner poles and/or exiting the front corner poles) shall constitute backjumping, which shall constitute running the wrong course. Jumping from side to side, exiting the side after proper entry or entering from the side and exiting the back shall constitute a refusal.

### **SECTION 3.3 – COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS**

A handler shall direct his dog through the course off-leash. The dog shall not be permitted to wear any type of collar while running the course.

A handler is permitted to talk, cheer and encourage his dog through the course. There shall be no restrictions on the number of commands or directions given to a dog by the handler, except that language and antics not construed to be in the spirit of good sportsmanship shall not be permitted. This includes but is not limited to harsh commands, whether verbal or physical in nature, and physical handling of a dog in a corrective or abusive manner while entering or exiting the ring. Such behavior threatens to diminish the spectator appeal of the sport and shall not be tolerated. Any action viewed by the judge not to be in the spirit of good sportsmanship shall result in elimination and immediate dismissal from the class. The judge shall issue a formal reprimand or file a written complaint with the event's Organizing Committee pursuant to disciplinary rules specified in Appendix C to these rules and regulations.

A handler may direct his or her dog throughout the course using voice commands, hand signals or both. The handler shall not touch the dog or obstacles, either of which may be viewed as handler assistance and be faulted, unless otherwise provided herein. The handler shall not continuously and conspicuously lead his dog "through the course". Such assistance (i.e., touching the dog or an obstacle) by a handler that the judge shall deem excessive shall result in elimination. In the case of contact between dog and handler or handler and an obstacle, no fault shall be incurred for "incidental contact", which shall mean casual and unintended contact not resulting in a benefit to the performance by way of improved timing, performance or fault avoidance, or removing an opportunity to judge the dog's performance. Examples of incidental contact might include but are not limited to a handler knocking a pole from a jump by bumping a wing after the dog has cleared the jump, or a collision between dog and handler that has no apparent benefit to the performance, but does not remove the opportunity to judge the dog's performance. Examples of contact that would not be viewed as "incidental" might be a handler knocking a pole from a hurdle while any part of the dog is in flight over the hurdle, a casual bump at a point in the course where the dog must turn to make an approach to the next obstacle and thus removing the opportunity to judge the dog's direction of movement on course, or a collision between handler and dog that prevents a dog from incurring a runout or taking the wrong obstacle.

The handler and his dog should work as a team in a natural manner, with the dog demonstrating a willingness to work under voice command and hand signals. No food or other aid devices shall be allowed to be used by the handler in the course area at any time. This shall not preclude a handler at his or her option from leading the dog to the start line with a leash and collar or using a stop watch during a walk-through unless otherwise prohibited by class rules. A dog shall be dismissed from the ring and the score be marked for elimination for continual nipping or showing any other sign of aggression that may demonstrate a loss of control or abuse to its handler (or to others), which are not viewed in the best interest of the



sport. There shall be no smoking in the ring at any time. Any violation of these provisions shall result in immediate dismissal from the ring, score for the class marked for elimination and appropriate disciplinary action taken as set forth in Appendix C to these regulations.

A dog should work steadily through the course. If a judge should determine that a dog has ceased to work, is out of control beyond the point of completing the round in a reasonable time or is performing in an unsafe manner, the dog and handler shall be immediately dismissed from the ring and their score marked for elimination.

A handler may direct his dog through the course from any point in the course area; thus a handler need not stay alongside his dog while directing his dog through the course.

A dog leaving the ring, fouling the ring, running out of control on the course or running the wrong course shall result in elimination. Leaving the ring is defined as a dog that has physically left the course area with his attention distracted away from its handler. This is not intended to cause elimination for a dog that has passed beneath ring ropes used to define the course area as long as the dog is continuously demonstrating attentiveness and responsiveness to its handler. Likewise, a dog that jumps the ring barriers in an effort to avoid the barrier as a result of his momentum in performance is not intended to cause elimination. A dog that jumps a ring barrier of his own volition but continues to demonstrate attentiveness and responsiveness to its handler shall be penalized for wrong course.

A handler may not receive outside assistance from another person while running a dog on the course, whether intentional or not. Faults may be assessed by the judge at his sole discretion for assistance from outside the ring. The severity of the penalty shall be balanced with the nature of the incident and should be viewed that a dog's performance has been improved or obviously aided as a result of such incidence. In the most extreme circumstances, the judge may dismiss the dog and handler from the ring and file a complaint with the Organizing Committee to have the competitor, dog or other parties involved in such an incident dismissed from the show pursuant to disciplinary rules set forth in Appendix C of these rules and regulations.

A handler who causes an excessive delay at the start line or in the process of entering or exiting the ring without sufficient cause (e.g., delay arising from an unavoidable ring conflict) may be penalized or eliminated at the judge's sole discretion. A judge shall announce in a briefing circumstances for which this penalty shall be invoked.

No training shall be permitted on the show grounds at any time. Training collars, such as choke chain, pinch or similar collars commonly used in training shall not be permitted in or near the ring or the warm-up area (or other spectator areas). "Similar collars" as used above shall be evaluated based upon their intended function and appearance. Shock collars or similar devices not deemed to be in the best interest of the sport shall not be permitted on the show grounds.

A handler who has two or more dogs competing at a test or has a single dog entered in two or more classes in two or more rings has the responsibility of foreseeing and immediately notifying the gate steward or judge of a potential running order conflict. The competitor is responsible for being able to walk multiple courses prior to running a dog. Examples of legitimate running order conflicts are: two dogs running with separation of less than ten (10) dogs in the same ring or less than 10 minutes when dogs are in two different rings, ring crew are unable to be present at their scheduled time due to their duties. The judge shall have the responsibility to consider all relevant factors in adjusting the running order in a manner that is conducive to efficient show operations, e.g. making allowance in the event there is a jump height change. The judge shall consider competitive impact in permitting changes to the published running order. The judge should consult with key event personnel or other judges as appropriate in coordinating the running order between two or more rings, as efficient operation of the event is the responsibility of the host group.

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

In classes where performance is measured on the basis of faults, the judge shall carefully evaluate the planned dog's path, measure the course distance and set a Standard Course Time (SCT) based on the relative difficulty of the course design, weighing heavily in consideration the course flow in the context of other course elements, including environmental factors. The SCT shall be set at a rate pursuant to the table shown to encourage distance directional control and a "free-style" handling technique.

The judge shall not change the SCT after the first dog in a class has run except for errors in calculation of the SCT that are objectively determinable, as in the case of an arithmetic error or error in measurement of the course distance that is verified through actual measurement. Any other extraordinary and rare circumstances for which the judge deems adjustment to the SCT is necessary must be submitted to the USDAA office for approval before any re-determinations are made. Submissions for re-determination of SCT must be accompanied by a complete explanation of all relevant factors pertaining to the request, along with the class results and the course diagram.

| <b>STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b> |                                   |                         |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Jumping Height</b>  | <b>Standard Course Time Rates</b> |                         |
|  | <b>Operating Range</b>            | <b>Absolute Minimum</b> |
| <b>12"</b>   | <b>2.75 - 2.85 yds/sec</b>        | <b>2.65 yds/sec</b>     |
| 30cm   | 2.50 - 2.60 m/sec                 | 2.43 m/sec              |
| <b>16"</b>   | <b>2.75 - 2.95 yds/sec</b>        | <b>2.75 yds/sec</b>     |
| 40cm   | 2.55 - 2.70 m/sec                 | 2.52 m/sec              |
| <b>22" &amp; Up</b>  | <b>3.00 - 3.30 yds/sec</b>        | <b>3.00 yds/sec</b>     |
| 55cm & Up  | 2.75 - 3.00 m/sec                 | 2.75 m/sec              |

*"The "operating range" is the general rate range within which a judge should evaluate course factors in establishing a standard course time. Actual rates may be above or below the range when certain elements of a course setting are skewed or otherwise exist.*

Time faults shall be assessed on a 1:1 ratio for each second or fraction thereof that a dog's course time exceeds the standard course time. The actual course time of each dog shall be measured in units of 1/100th of a second. The judge, through consultation with the event's Organizing Committee, may set a fault limit at which point a dog would be eliminated from competition and dismissed from the ring. A fault limit shall be applied equally to all dogs after combining time and course faults (e.g., a dog dismissed from the ring for incurring twenty (20) faults would receive an "Elimination" on the score sheet. Similarly, a dog that finishes the course with ten (10) obstacle faults and ten (10) time penalties would also receive an "Elimination" because total faults are twenty (20)).

In order to permit the greatest possible number of dogs and handlers a reasonable chance to succeed in qualifying towards certification titles or earning competitive placement awards, an Organizing Committee shall apply a fault limit as a means of controlling or managing entries at a test rather than limiting the number of dogs that may participate. When entries are expected to exceed time and/or space available for a test after considering the effects of applying fault limits, a group may reduce the number of classes to be offered pursuant to USDAA policy.

### SECTION 3.5 – STANDARD SCORING

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

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

The following schedule of obstacle faults and penalties shall apply:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Missed contact zones on dog walk, cross over, see-saw or A-frame                                       | 5 faults |
| Fly-off on see-saw   | 5 faults |
| First occurrence of jumping off of table prior to end of count, including anticipation of end of count | 5 faults |
| First occurrence of a missed weave pole  | 5 faults |
| Failure to clear span of long jump or water jump*  | 5 faults |
| Touching the base of the wishing well*   | 5 faults |
| Displacing top poles or planks from hurdles and jumps*   | 5 faults |

*\*A maximum of five standard faults may be assessed for improper performance of a single jump.*

The following table of faults shall apply to course handling and performance:

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Each refusal (including runouts)                                | 5 faults              |
| Handler assistance or outside assistance                        | 5 faults              |
| Excessive delay at start line or upon entering/exiting the ring | Faults or Elimination |
| Running wrong course  | Elimination           |
| Three refusals (including runouts)                              | Elimination           |
| Food or devices on course                                       | Elimination*          |
| Excessive handler or outside assistance                         | Elimination           |
| Poor sportsmanship  | Elimination*          |
| Signs of aggression   | Elimination*          |
| Leaving the course area   | Elimination           |
| Dog being out of control or ceasing to work                     | Elimination           |
| Fouling the course  | Elimination           |
| Exceeding fault limits  | Elimination           |

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

Refusals

A refusal shall be defined as –

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

“Turning back” shall be generally defined as a reversal of flow along the course path (i.e., turning away from the correct obstacle) after the dog has begun an approach to the obstacle.

“Running out” past an obstacle shall be generally defined as crossing the line defined by the front plane of an obstacle except –

- the runout line for the table shall be defined by its back edge.
- the second pole of the weave poles shall be the start of the runout line to the right side of the weave poles and the first pole shall define the start of the runout line to the left side of the weave poles. The runout lines at the weave poles shall generally be perpendicular to the course line as it approaches the weave poles.

No runout shall be faulted at a contact obstacle where a dog runs out past the obstacle and is still able to ascend or otherwise perform the obstacle without turning back.

Three refusals (including runouts) on a course shall result in elimination.

### Running the Wrong Course

A dog shall be charged with running the wrong course if -

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

## CHAPTER 4 — ADVANCED STANDARD AGILITY CLASS

This class shall be for dogs having earned the Agility Dog® title. Completing the requirements of the advanced standard agility class shall earn a dog the Advanced Agility Dog® title.

### SECTION 4.1 – MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

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

### SECTION 4.2 – OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

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

### SECTION 4.3 – COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS

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

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

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

| STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS & METERS PER SECOND) |                            |                  |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| Jumping Height  | Standard Course Time Rates |                  |
|   | Operating Range            | Absolute Minimum |
| 12”   | 2.50 - 2.60 yds/sec        | 2.50 yds/sec     |
| 30cm  | 2.25 - 2.35 m/sec          | 2.25 m/sec       |
| 16”   | 2.50 - 2.70 yds/sec        | 2.50 yds/sec     |
| 40cm  | 2.25 - 2.45 m/sec          | 2.25 m/sec       |
| 22” & Up  | 2.75 - 2.95 yds/sec        | 2.75 yds/sec     |
| 55cm & Up   | 2.55 - 2.70 m/sec          | 2.55 m/sec       |

The judge shall not change the SCT without justification as set forth in Section 3.4 of these regulations after the first dog in a class has run.

### SECTION 4.5 – STANDARD SCORING

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

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

## **CHAPTER 5 — STARTERS & NOVICE STANDARD AGILITY CLASSES**

The Starters and Novice classes shall be for dogs not having earned the Agility Dog® title.

The Starters class shall be reserved exclusively for a dog who has not earned a title in the Performance Program or whose handler has not previously earned an Agility Dog® title, Veteran Agility Dog<sup>SM</sup> or Performance Dog<sup>SM</sup> title on another dog. Successful completion of the requirements for the Starters or Novice Standard Agility class shall earn a dog the Agility Dog® title.

### **SECTION 5.1 – MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **SECTION 5.2 – OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

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

### **SECTION 5.3 – COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS**

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

- A dog that incurs a fly-off on the see-saw or a refusal on a contact obstacle after the dog has committed to an obstacle with all four paws shall not be permitted to reattempt the obstacle; the handler and dog must omit the obstacle and proceed on to the remainder of the course. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in immediate dismissal from the ring.
- A dog shall be charged with running the wrong course as in the Masters class, except that a dog must commit to an obstacle with all four paws before being charged with “touching an obstacle out of sequence” or “taking an obstacle in the wrong direction”.

### **SECTION 5.4 – STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS**

The standard course time (SCT) and fault limits (if any) shall be established as in the Masters class except that the SCT shall be at a rate no less than 2.00 yards per second (1.8 m/sec) and shall generally be between 2.00 and 2.25 yards per second (1.8 and 2.05 m/sec). In no event shall the SCT be greater than 75 seconds. The judge shall not change the SCT without justification as set forth in Section 3.4 of these regulations after the first dog in a class has run.

### **SECTION 5.5 – STANDARD SCORING**

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

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

# CHAPTER 6 — NONSTANDARD CLASSES

## SECTION 6.1 – MASTERS GAMBLERS CLASS

The Masters Gamblers class is for dogs having earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title or two qualifying scores under two different judges in the Advanced Gamblers class pursuant to Section 6.5. A dog meeting requirements of this class earns qualifying scores toward the Master Agility Dog® title and the Gamblers MasterSM title.

The purpose of the Masters Gamblers class is to demonstrate course handling strategy and a handler’s distance control. The class shall include an opening period for point accumulation to test handler strategy and a special challenge period called a “gamble” or “joker” to demonstrate distance control.

A course shall meet the same minimum obstacle requirements as the Standard Agility classes, except that a spread hurdle is not required, and the table and/or pause box may be used only as a start or finish point. A refusal (including runout) of the table when it is used as the finish point shall be penalized and therefore disqualify the gamble; however, because the table is not to be performed, the table shall not be counted as an obstacle in meeting the minimum obstacle requirement for the “joker”.

The standards for handling and obstacle performance shall apply as provided in Chapter 3 except as otherwise stated in this section. The course design shall have no overall pattern, and each obstacle is assigned a point value. The handler seeks to accumulate points by performing the obstacles of handler’s choice in the time allotted, and the dog with the most points is the winner.

### Scoring

A course shall be designed by the judge without any overall pattern to create risk/reward alternatives for a handler in competition. In doing so, the judge may set additional performance or handling restrictions. The judge shall assign points to the obstacles on the basis of relative difficulty. A 1-3-5-7 point system or 1-2-3-5 point system shall be utilized for certification tests, with points allocated as shown in the following table:

|   | 1-3-5-7<br><u>System</u> | 1-2-3-5<br><u>System</u> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hurdles and jumps                             | 1 Point                  | 1 Point                  |
| Tunnels, tire jump & less than 10 weave poles | 3 Points                 | 2 Points                 |
| Contact obstacles or 10 - 12 weave poles      | 5 Points                 | 3 Points                 |
| 10 - 12 weave poles or dog walk               | 7 Points                 | 5 Points                 |

A judge may (at his discretion) add no more than four points under the 1-3-5-7 point system or two points under the 1-2-3-5 point system to the value of any one obstacle if it is placed in a position of relative difficulty. The judge should consider the course design (i.e., placement of the obstacles) and the relative difficulty of the various obstacles in determining point values such that when balancing obstacle difficulty, placement on the course in relation to other obstacles, and permitted time on the course, the point assignments will provide a balance of risk/reward challenges on the course; however, under the 1-3-5-7 point system, in no event shall there be:

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

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

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

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

Obstacles and hurdles may be performed any number of times in seeking to accumulate points; however, points can only be earned twice on a specific obstacle or hurdle during the "point accumulation period" (i.e., opening period). Any obstacle not successfully completed prior to the end of the course time shall not be counted for point accumulation, and no points shall be awarded if the obstacle is faulted. Any hurdle or other obstacle that shall be displaced or otherwise "retired" by the dog or handler during the performance shall not be replaced until conclusion of the round.

Successful completion of an obstacle in the opening period shall generally mean that the dog has performed an obstacle to a point of not being able to incur faults. Thus, a dog may receive points for successful performance even though they are still on a contact obstacle when the whistle sounds. At judge's discretion, an "exit" criterion may be used, meaning that the dog must have exited the obstacle prior to the whistle, provided the judge stipulates this criterion clearly in their class briefing.

Masters Agility Class rules shall be applied for evaluation of faults and refusals, except that refusals/runouts shall apply only in performance of the gamble or joker.

#### The "Gamble" or "Joker"

A "Gamble" or "Joker" representing a special challenge requiring distance control by the handler shall be outlined by the judge. The design of the gamble shall be one of three basic types listed below:

- obstacle discrimination
- contact obstacle or weave pole performance
- directional control

The gamble shall consist of three or more obstacles (excluding the table when used as a finish point) across and/or through which the dog must perform without any fault in working his way to the finish line or table. A handler's area shall be clearly defined by the judge such that the dog shall be required to work key elements of the gamble at a minimum distance of five yards from the handler.

Additional time shall be allotted for completion of the gamble based on the performance time that would be reasonably expected for performance of the obstacle sequence as in the Masters Agility Class. The time shall be no less than ten (10) seconds and no more than twenty (20) seconds. The time set for the gamble shall be a continuance of the normal course time, with little additional time being permitted for positioning for performance of the gamble. This presents the handler with an additional stratagem, requiring that the handler reasonably estimate the end of the course time so that they may be in close proximity to the gamble obstacles. The judge shall not change the time allotted for the gamble without justification as set forth with respect to SCT in Section 3.4 of these regulations after the first dog in a class has run.

The dog may not perform any part of the gamble sequence (including the table) in either direction during the opening period, though this shall not prohibit the dog from performing the individual obstacles out of sequence for purposes of accumulating points (i.e., an obstacle not a part of a gamble must be taken following performance of an obstacle that is a part of the gamble). This rule shall not preclude a handler from performing an obstacle "back to back" unless this action is part of the gamble. Performance of any segment of the "gamble" prior to the end of the initial course time shall result in disqualification. This rule does not prohibit a competitor from continuing to accumulate points in the opening period as defined for competitive purposes.

The handler shall not be permitted to stand idle in the area of the gamble obstacles or to perform obstacles repeatedly with no point accumulation for purposes of awaiting the conclusion of the course time.



Judging of the gamble shall commence with the dog's approach to the first obstacle of the defined "joker" sequence and shall conclude upon the dog crossing the finish line (or jumping upon the table) to stop the clock.

The timekeeper shall sound a whistle, signaling end of the opening period, while time continues to run. The timekeeper shall stop the clock when the dog crosses the finish line (or alights upon the table) to record the total course time, thus enabling the judge to determine whether the joker was completed in the allotted time. The time measured by the timekeeper shall be the sole factor used to determine whether the "joker" was completed in the allotted time.

No electronic devices that may aid a performance shall be permitted on the course during the round, nor shall the handler be permitted to receive aid from outside the ring.

#### Scoring Basis and Qualification

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

| <u>Course Time</u> | <u>Minimum Points Required</u> |               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
|                    | <u>System</u>                  | <u>System</u> |
| 25 Seconds         | 18 Points                      | 13 Points     |
| 30 Seconds         | 21 Points                      | 15 Points     |
| 35 Seconds         | 25 Points                      | 18 Points     |
| 40 Seconds         | 28 Points                      | 20 Points     |
| 45 Seconds         | 32 Points                      | 23 Points     |
| 50 Seconds         | 35 Points                      | 25 Points     |

## **SECTION 6.2 – MASTERS RELAY**

The Masters Relay class is for two or more dogs to perform as a team that have earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title or who have earned two qualifying scores under two different judges in the Advanced Relay class pursuant to Section 6.5. A dog meeting requirements of the Masters Relay class earns qualifying scores toward the Master Agility Dog® title and the Relay Master<sup>SM</sup> title.

A pair shall be comprised of two different dogs and different handlers, and a team shall be comprised of three or more different dogs and different handlers. Pairs or teams may be comprised of dogs of same or different heights, except that dogs jumping 12" or 16" (30 cm or 40 cm) may not be paired or teamed with dogs jumping 22" or 26" (55cm or 65cm), unless only one dog is entered in either category. (For example, if only one dog is entered in the 12" class and none are entered in the 16" class, the 12" dog may be paired with a dog from the 22" or 26" category). In such situation, the team shall be scored using the qualification standards of the 22"/26" (55/65cm) class.

A relay course shall have a minimum of fifteen obstacles and shall generally follow course design guidelines as in the Masters Agility class. Each dog in a pair or team must perform at least nine obstacles in sequence as defined by the course design; however, the course shall not include the table as an obstacle to be performed, and it need not include all of the contact obstacles; however, the course must include at least one contact obstacle to be performed by each dog.

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

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

Scoring Basis and Qualification

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

Special faults shall be assessed as follows:

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

The judge shall set a “qualifying course time” for certification purposes in a manner consistent with determining the standard course time in the Masters Standard Agility class for the distance to be run by all dogs in a pair or team, considering the effect on time of the nature and number of obstacles that may have been omitted from a “regular” course. A judge shall not modify the qualifying course time without justification as set forth in Section 3.4 of these regulations after the first pair or team in a class has run.

The pair or team’s score (time with faults added) must be equal to or less than the “qualifying course time” in order to qualify for titling purposes.

**SECTION 6.3 – MASTERS JUMPERS CLASS**

The Masters Jumpers class is for dogs having earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title or two qualifying scores under two different judges in the Advanced Jumpers class pursuant to Section 6.5. A dog meeting requirements of this class earns qualifying scores toward the Master Agility Dog® title and the Jumpers Master<sup>SM</sup> title.

The purpose of the Jumpers class shall be the demonstration of a dog’s natural jumping ability and fluid working habit. It shall be scored as in the Masters Standard Agility class and be run against a standard course time based upon rates shown in the following table.

| <b>STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS &amp; METERS PER SECOND)</b> |                                   |                         |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Jumping Height</b>  | <b>Standard Course Time Rates</b> |                         |
|  | <b>Operating Range</b>            | <b>Absolute Minimum</b> |
| <b>12” &amp; 16”</b>   | <b>3.50 – 4.00 yds/sec</b>        | <b>3.00 yds/sec</b>     |
| 30 & 40cm  | 3.20 – 3.65 m/sec                 | 2.75 m/sec              |
| <b>22” &amp; 26”</b>   | <b>4.00 – 4.25 yds/sec</b>        | <b>3.50 yds/sec</b>     |
| 55 & 65cm  | 3.65 – 3.88 m/sec                 | 3.20 m/sec              |

The judge shall not change the SCT without justification as set forth in Section 3.4 of these regulations after the first dog in a class has run.

A course shall consist of a minimum of seventeen (17) and not more than twenty (20) obstacles, excluding contact obstacles and weave poles, but including three spread hurdles of which at least one must be an extended spread. The course shall be predominantly comprised of displaceable, winged hurdles, with other style jumps and tunnels permissible in the course design. One or more decoy hurdles not to be jumped in the course are permissible.

When the Masters Jumpers class is conducted as part of a Dog Agility Masters® team tournament on a course that includes weave poles, the following standards for establishing the standard course time shall be used to permit tournament performances to be concurrently scored for titling purposes.

**TEAM CLASS STANDARD COURSE TIME RATES (IN YARDS & METERS PER SECOND)**

| Jumping Height | Standard Course Time Rates |                  |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------|
|                | Operating Range            | Absolute Minimum |
| 12" & 16"      | 3.25 – 3.75 yds/sec        | 3.00 yds/sec     |
| 30 & 40cm      | 2.95 – 3.40 m/sec          | 2.75 m/sec       |
| 22" & 26"      | 3.75 – 4.00 yds/sec        | 3.50 yds/sec     |
| 55 & 65cm      | 3.40 – 3.65 m/sec          | 3.20 m/sec       |

**SECTION 6.4 – MASTERS SNOOKER CLASS**

The Masters Snooker class is for dogs having earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title or two qualifying scores under two different judges in the Advanced Snooker class pursuant to Section 6.5. A dog meeting requirements of this class earns qualifying scores toward the Master Agility Dog® title and the Snooker Master<sup>SM</sup> title.

The purpose of the Snooker class is the demonstration of a handler and dog's versatility and competitiveness as they work together against the clock.

Course Construction

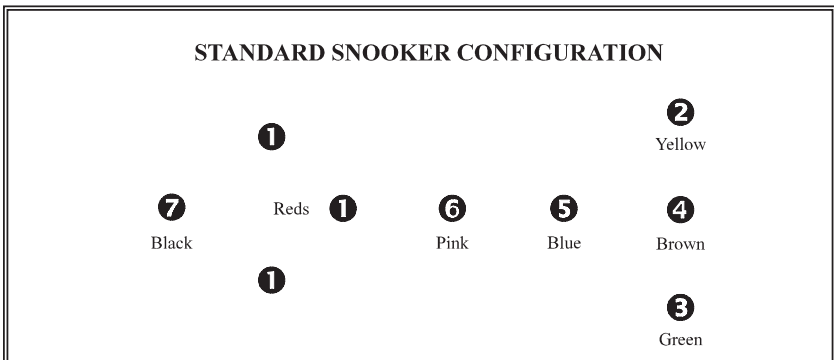
The course shall include a minimum of nine (9) obstacles that are assigned colour and point values, as follows:

| <u>Colour</u> | <u>Value</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| Red           | 1 point      |
| Yellow        | 2 points     |
| Green         | 3 points     |
| Brown         | 4 points     |
| Blue          | 5 points     |
| Pink          | 6 points     |
| Black         | 7 points     |

The "Red" obstacles shall be displaceable hurdles.

The course shall be constructed with the obstacles placed in one of six different general configurations. The following three configurations shall carry a course time of between 45 and 55 seconds:

- 1) standard snooker configuration ("reds" in snooker position)
- 2) only three of four or more "reds" are required
- 3) only jumps and tunnels are used



The following three configurations shall carry a course time of between 50 and 60 seconds:

- 1) modified snooker configuration (“reds” positioned near “yellow”, “green” and “brown”)
- 2) course with more than three “reds”
- 3) two or more “colour” combinations involving contact obstacles and/or weave poles



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

The course time used will be determined by the judge based on an evaluation of the course’s degree of difficulty given the specific obstacle placement and point assignments. The judge shall not change the time allotted for scoring points without justification as set forth with respect to SCT in Section 3.4 of these regulations after the first dog in a class has run.

#### The Snooker Sequence

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

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

Red - Colour - Red - Colour - Red - Colour

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yellow (2) - Green (3) - Brown (4) - Blue (5) - Pink (6) - Black (7)

Scoring ceases during the closing sequence if:

- an obstacle is faulted;
- the sequence is broken; or,
- time expires.

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

#### Qualification

A qualifying score towards the Master Agility Dog® or Snooker Master<sup>SM</sup> title shall be a minimum of 37 points. In addition, for purposes of qualification towards the Snooker Master<sup>SM</sup> title, three of the five qualifying scores must place in the top 15% of the class (“Super Q”) based on the number of dogs actually competing in each jump height class; that is, 12”, 16”, 22” or 26” (30, 40, 55, 65 cm). Any fractional number shall be rounded up to the next whole number. For example, a class of fifteen dogs shall result in a calculation of three dogs eligible for placement qualification ( $15\% \times 15 = 2.25$  rounded up to 3.00). In the event there are less than seven dogs competing in the 22” or 26” (55 or 65cm) class or less than five dogs competing in the 12” or 16” (30 or 40cm) class, the class shall be combined with another height class for determination of placement qualification (i.e., dogs jumping 12” combine with dogs jumping 16”, or dogs jumping 22” combine with dogs jumping 26”). If a combined class has fewer than seven dogs jumping 22” and 26” (55 and 65cm), or fewer than five (5) dogs jumping 12” and 16” (30 and 40cm) in competition, the first place dog in each combined division shall receive placement qualification provided at least two dogs competed in the class and the first place dog received at least 37 points.

#### The Class Running Order

All entries must be randomly drawn from all entries within each height class. The random draw may be made in advance of the show date and included in the running order list. In conducting the random draw, in a combined class, the height class shall be drawn first (i.e., 12” or 16” (30 or 40cm) and 22” or 26” (55 or 65cm) followed by the running order within each height class. The running order shall be strictly adhered to except when a handler is running more than one dog with a potential conflict as defined in Section 3.3. In anticipation of such conflict, the handler may request moving their first dog listed in the running order or when not possible, their last dog back in the running order such that the dogs may be separated by no more than ten (10) dogs.

### **SECTION 6.5 – ADVANCED NONSTANDARD CLASSES**

The advanced nonstandard classes are for dogs having earned the Agility Dog® title and not having earned the Advanced Agility Dog® title. Dogs that earn two qualifying scores under two different judges in an advanced nonstandard class shall be eligible for entry to the same masters level nonstandard class (e.g. two qualifying scores in Advanced Jumpers earn eligibility for entry to the Masters Jumpers class).

Advanced rules pursuant to Chapter 4 shall be applied in determination of performance and scoring of obstacles as applicable.

In addition, the following special rules shall apply:

#### Gamblers Class

The distance between the handler and key elements of the gamble shall be no less than three yards instead of five yards.

### Jumpers Class

The SCT shall be determined utilizing the following rates:

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

When the Advanced Jumpers class is conducted as part of a Dog Agility Masters team tournament on a course that includes weave poles, the standards set forth in the following table for establishing the standard course time shall be used to permit tournament performances to be concurrently scored for titling purposes.

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

### Snooker Class

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

### Relay Class

No additional or special rules.

## **SECTION 6.6 – STARTERS & NOVICE NONSTANDARD CLASSES**

Starters and Novice (or Starters/Novice) nonstandard classes shall generally follow guidelines for course design, performance and scoring as defined in Chapter 5 and Section 6.3 of these regulations (e.g., a Jumpers course would be limited to 14 to 16 obstacles and shall exclude weave poles, or in scoring weave poles in the Gamblers class, a dog would be able to correct for a missed pole at the point of error and still earn points for completing the obstacle since no standard fault is assessed for a missed pole at the Starters level; by comparison, in the Advanced or Masters Gamblers classes, the dog would have to return to the beginning of the line of poles to correct for a missed pole, since a standard fault would normally be assessed for this infraction).

## **SECTION 6.7 – OTHER CLASSES**

Events may include nonstandard classes other than those described in this Chapter, provided such classes are listed on the event application, which must be accompanied by a complete description of the class. Such classes are subject to USDAA approval. If approved, a detailed description for the class must be included in the Test Schedule. Examples of such classes are knockout, boxed pairs, pairs pursuit, time gamble, etc. Similarly, Gamblers, Snooker, Jumpers and Pairs or Team Relay may be held for other than for certification purposes under rules other than those specified in this Chapter. In such cases, the classes shall be listed on the event application (accompanied by a complete description) and designated as "Non-titling" in the Test Schedule.

The class description in the Test Schedule must clearly state that the class is not being held for certification purposes and that judge's discretion shall be applied to the extent applicable in establishing performance rules for the class where specific rules for the class are not otherwise stipulated.

All non-titling, nonstandard classes are encouraged to be divided by performance level (i.e., Starters, Novice, Advanced and Masters) to the extent possible to provide a competitive class commensurate with the experience level of competitors.

## CHAPTER 7 — PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

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

### SECTION 7.1 – MINIMUM OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

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

### SECTION 7.2 – OBSTACLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The obstacle performance standards shall be followed as established in Chapters 2 through 6, except that the A-frame shall measure 5'6" (168 cm) at the apex, and the jumping heights of dogs shall be as follows:

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

### SECTION 7.3 – COURSE HANDLING STANDARDS

Course handling standards shall be the same as established in Chapters 3 through 5 in the Standard Agility classes for each level and in Chapter 6 in the Nonstandard Agility classes for each level, subject to special rules set forth in Section 6.5 thereof.

### SECTION 7.4 – STANDARD COURSE TIME & FAULT LIMITS

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

The course time allocated in Levels I, II and III in the Gamblers and Snooker Performance classes shall be the same as determined pursuant to Chapter 6 for the Starters, Advanced and Masters levels in the Championship Program, except that the judge may allow up to an additional (3) seconds for the gamble (or Joker) performance time and for the Snooker course time; however, the time allocated to the gamble shall not exceed twenty (20) seconds and the Snooker performance course time shall not exceed sixty (60) seconds.



## **SECTION 7.5 – STANDARD SCORING**

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

## **SECTION 7.6 – SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

A dog may not be entered in the same class in both the Championship Program and the Performance Program at the same event. Other restrictions on entry, if any, shall be set forth in the Test Schedule pursuant to USDAA policies and procedures.

Dogs competing in the Performance Program at an event may participate in the tournament classes at the appropriate Championship regulation jump height as set forth in Section 3.2 of these regulations. A separate entry form must be utilized to assure proper class height entry.

Dogs that have earned a title in the Performance Program and not have earned the Agility Dog® title must enter the Novice level when entering the Championship Program.

Dogs competing in the Championship Program may enter the comparable or lower level classes in the Performance Program. Once a dog competing in the Championship Program earns a qualifying score in Level II or Level III, the dog is ineligible to enter a class at a lower level than the level in which that qualifying score is earned in the Performance Program.

## CHAPTER 8 – JUNIOR HANDLER PROGRAM

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

### SECTION 8.1 – PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

- To assure that junior handlers have a clear understanding of the rules, the USDAA® Junior Handler Representative shall give a detailed briefing regarding performance, scoring practices and ring sportsmanship.

Official USDAA junior handler entry forms are required to be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian. Junior handlers entered in the Beginners class must complete an eight to ten question examination, and items missed on the examination must be reviewed prior to or during the judge's briefing. The examination may be included with the entry form, or alternatively, the examination may be given the morning of the agility test.

Performance awards shall be awarded at three levels –

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

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

## **SECTION 8.2 – CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

### Beginners Class

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

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

- A-Frame (apex at 4'6" or 137cm)
- Table at 12" (30cm) for all dogs (to be performed in the down position for five cumulative seconds)
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Six Hurdles (wings, if any, should be no more than 18" or 45cm in width)

The standard course time shall be 60 seconds.

### Elementary Class

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

The obstacle course shall be comprised of ten obstacles set in a simple horse shoe or simple "M" design. The same agility obstacles and related modifications shall be used as in the Beginners class, except that the A-frame shall measure five (5) feet (152cm) at the apex.

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

### Intermediate Class

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

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

- A-Frame (apex at 5'6" or 167cm)
- Dog Walk (a standard dog walk as described in Appendix A, or alternatively, a dog walk with elevation of no less than 3'0" (92 cm) and planks of no less than 7'0" (214 cm) in length)
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Short set of weave poles (five or six)
- Table at 12" for dogs jumping 8" and 12", and at 16" for dogs jumping 16" and 22" (or in metrics, 30cm for dogs jumping 30cm and 40cm, and at 40cm for dogs jumping 40cm and 55cm); the table to be performed in the down position for five consecutive seconds
- Long Jump
- Tire Jump
- Four to six hurdles

The standard course time shall be 75 seconds.

#### Senior Class

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

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

- A-frame apex at 6'0" for dogs in the 12", 16" and 22" classes and 5'6" for dogs in the 8" class. (In metrics, the apex is at 182 cm for dogs in the 30cm, 40cm and 55cm classes and at 168 cm for dogs in the 20cm class.)
- Dog Walk (a standard dog walk as described in Appendix A, or alternatively, a dog walk with elevation of no less than 3'0" (92cm) and planks of no less than 7'0" (214cm) in length)
- See-saw
- Pipe Tunnel
- Collapsed Tunnel
- Short set of weave poles (five or six)
- Table at 12" for dogs jumping 8" and 12", and at 16" for dogs jumping 16" and 22" (and in metrics, at 30cm for dogs jumping 20cm and 30cm, and at 40cm for dogs jumping 40cm and 55cm); the table to be performed in the down position for five consecutive seconds
- Long Jump
- Tire Jump
- Four to six hurdles

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

## **CHAPTER 9 - LEAGUE PLAY**

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

### **SECTION 9.1- DEFINITION & ENROLLMENT**

Typically, League rules will stipulate --

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

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

### **SECTION 9.2 - RESULTS REPORTING & AWARDS**

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

## APPENDIX A — OBSTACLE CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

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

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

Tolerance is permitted only where a measurement in the regulations is stipulated as being approximate. "Flat" paint shall be used on all contact equipment and table to permit adequate traction. [Note that metric conversions are based upon 2.54cm or 25.4mm per inch and 30.48cm per foot and are included for quick reference purposes for persons residing outside the United States.]

### A-Frame

The A-Frame shall be of sturdy construction consisting of two sidewalls, each being approximately 9' in length and a minimum of 3' in width (275cm in length and 92cm in width). Construction such that the width at the top is 3' (92cm) and at the bottom is 4' (122cm) is strongly encouraged for lateral stability. The sidewalls shall be securely hinged together on one end such that when standing upright in the "A-Frame" position with the two sides at a 90 degree angle, the apex shall be 75" (187.5cm) from the ground

Each wall section shall have non-slip slats securely fastened to the sidewalls at intervals of approximately 12" or 30cm. Scaling slats shall be fastened such that slats are approximately 6" (15cm) and no less than 4" (10cm) from the top line of the contact zone. Slats shall measure between 3/8" and 1/2" in thickness (9.5mm and 12.7mm) and between 3/4" and 1- 1/2" in width (19mm and 38mm), with no rounding of top edges.

Chains or other support devices shall be fastened to the sidewalls on each side between 2' and 3' (app. 60cm - 90cm) above ground level to provide stability. The bottom 42" (1067mm) of each sidewall shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow and must be a significant contrast to the obstacle color to form a distinct top line. The edge of the zone shall be both on the top of the sidewall and extend a reasonable depth onto the sides. White is not a permissible color.

Sidewall surfaces shall be roughened for better traction but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint shall be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces.

### Dog Walk

The Dog Walk shall be of sturdy, rigid construction sufficient to support large dogs safely. The obstacle shall consist of one cross-plank and two ramp-planks, each measuring approximately 12' (365cm) in length and measuring between 11" (28cm) and 12" (31cm); however, planks with widths measuring from 9" to 11" (23cm to 28cm) are permitted until January 1, 2003. The cross-plank shall be elevated between 48" (122cm) and 54" (137cm) above ground by two rigid supports on each end of the plank, to which the cross-plank and ramp-planks shall be securely fastened.

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

The bottom 36" (915mm) of each ramp-plank shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow and must be a significant contrast to the obstacle color to form a distinct top line. The edge of the zone shall be both on the top of the plank and extend a reasonable depth onto the sides. White is not a permissible color.

Plank surfaces shall be roughened for better traction but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint shall be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces.

#### See-Saw

The See-Saw shall consist of a sturdy plank measuring approximately 12' (365cm) in length and measuring between 11" (28cm) and 12" (31cm); however, planks with widths measuring from 9" to 11" (23cm to 28cm) are permitted until January 1, 2003. The plank shall be supported in the middle by a sturdy base that may be capable of being securely anchored or weighted to the ground and that shall be visible to the dog when approaching the ramp from the front on a straight line. The elevation at the plank's pivot point shall be between 24" (61cm) and 27" (68cm) above the ground.

The last 36" (915mm) of each end of the plank shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow and be a significant contrast to the obstacle color to form a distinct top line. The edge of the zone shall be both on the top of the plank and extend a reasonable depth onto the sides. White is not a permissible color.

The plank surface should be roughened for better traction but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint shall be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces.

#### Cross-Over

The Cross-Over shall consist of four ramp-planks measuring approximately 12' (365cm) in length and measuring between 11" (28cm) and 12" (31cm) in width; however, planks with widths measuring from 9" to 11" (23cm to 28cm) are permitted until January 1, 2003. The ramp-planks shall be securely fixed to each side of a sturdy table frame at an elevation of between 48" (122cm) and 54" (137cm) with a top surface measuring 32" x 32" (81cm x 81cm). The obstacle shall be of rigid, sturdy and balanced construction such that the obstacle will be safe whether two, three or four ramp-planks are used.

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

The bottom 36" (915mm) of each ramp-plank shall be designated as a safety contact zone, shall be painted yellow and be a significant contrast to the obstacle color to form a distinct top line. The edge of the zone shall be both on the top of the plank and extend a reasonable depth onto the sides. White is not a permissible color.

Plank surfaces and the cross-table shall be roughened for better traction but shall not be hazardous to dogs' pads. Rubber or similar matting shall not be permitted. Flat paint shall be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces.

#### Tire Jump

The Tire Jump shall consist of a tire suspended within a sturdy frame. The tire shall have an aperture diameter of no less than 17" (43cm) and no greater than 20" (51cm). The tire shall have a sidewall width of no less than 4" (10cm) and shall be wrapped or filled such that a dog's

paw may not be caught on the inside of the tire while jumping through. The tire shall be banded or striped in contrasting colors to improve visibility.

The frame shall be of rigid construction and shall be designed such that it may not topple under the pressure of a large dog hitting the tire at high speed. The frame should permit the suspension of the tire from four corners or the top, leaving at least 8" (20cm) clearance between the tire and vertical frame support on each side. The frame shall not be constructed in a manner that would significantly impede performance on a reasonable, angled approach or permit a side entry of the frame. The perimeter of the frame when viewed from the side shall not extend more than 9" (23cm) either side of the tire, except for footing supports to hold the frame safely erect. The bottom cross-piece of the frame shall not be more than 4" (10cm) above ground level. The tire shall be adjustable to heights of 8", 12", 16", 22", 26" and 30" (20cm, 30cm, 40cm, 55cm, 65cm and 75cm) at the lowest point of the aperture.

#### Table

The table shall be a sturdy surface of 36" (91cm) square with a roughened surface supported on a stable base that shall be capable of being securely anchored or weighted to the ground. The side view of the table top edge shall be a minimum depth of 3" (75mm). The elevation of the table shall be as provided in Sections 3.2 and 7.2. Rubber or similar matting may be used on the table surface to improve traction. Flat paint shall be utilized to permit optimum traction on performance surfaces.

#### Collapsed Tunnel

The collapsed tunnel is comprised of two parts - the rigid opening and the tunnel chute. The rigid opening shall be constructed with a frame of rigid construction that may be securely anchored or weighted to the ground. The rigid opening shall be no more than 30" (75cm) in length and shall be between 18" (45cm) and 24" (60cm) in height. When the floor of the entrance is made of a hard material, a non-slip covering must be applied to provide safe footing. The edge of the tunnel entrance must be padded. It is strongly encouraged that the tunnel entrance be elongated or half-moon design with a flat floor with non-slip surface. The base shall not exceed 4" (10cm) in height.

The tunnel chute shall be of non-rigid material construction, such as durable fabric or similar material not to exceed 420 denier or 6.00 ounces (170grams) per square yard of fabric. The chute shall be approximately 12' (365cm) in length and shall have a circumference sufficient to snugly fit the rigid opening. The chute should flare out over the twelve-foot (365cm) distance to a circumference of approximately 96" (245cm).

#### Weave Poles

The weave poles shall consist of poles approximately 1" (2.54cm) in diameter and between three (91cm) and four feet (121cm) in length. They shall be spaced between 18" (45cm) and 21" (53cm) apart on center. A minimum of 5 and maximum of 12 poles shall be used, with a minimum of 10 poles in sequence required for the Standard Championship and Standard Performance Agility titling classes.

The poles shall be held upright by rigid or semi-rigid standards permitting the poles to stay upright if bumped by the dog while weaving through the line of poles rapidly. If the weave poles are to be supported with a continuous base extending the full length of the line of poles, the base support should be no more than 1" (2.54cm) in height and no more than 3 1/2" (8cm) wide. This base should be supported in a reasonable manner that shall not interfere with a dog's performance.

#### Pipe Tunnel

The pipe tunnel shall be a rigid tunnel being fully enclosed except for the openings on each end, capable of being curved such that it is not possible to see through the tunnel from one end to the other. There shall be no obstructions or other hazards within the tunnel. The diameter of the tunnel shall be approximately 24" (60cm) in diameter and the length shall be no less than 10' (305cm) and no more than 20' (610cm). The spacing of wire (called pitch) or other material that holds the tunnel material open throughout the length of the tunnel shall be no



more than 4" (10cm). Metal or other rigid holders (or supports) used to anchor the tunnel must be padded.

### Hurdles and Jumps

Hurdles and similar jumps shall be of sturdy construction with displaceable planks, rails or poles of no less than 48" (120cm) and no more than 60" (150cm) in length. The side standards holding the planks, rails or poles shall be constructed so as to not topple if bumped by a dog while running and should include "wings" similar to those used in equestrian events. The height of the planks, poles or bars to be jumped shall be adjustable to 8" (20cm), 12" (30cm), 16" (40cm), 22" (55cm), 26" (65cm), and 30" (75cm).

Planks, rails & poles shall be positioned parallel to the ground at the proper jump height. For pole-style hurdles, a minimum of two poles are required in the Starters, Novice and Advanced level classes in the Championship Program and in Levels I & II of the Performance Program. A pole may be used to indicate a ground line by positioning it at an angle to the ground. All poles, rails and planks must be displaceable. Poles and rails shall be no less than 1-1/4" (31.75mm) and no more than 1-3/4" (44.45mm) in outside diameter or width. If PVC pipe is used, only Schedule 40 - 1" (25.4mm) or 1-1/4" i.d. (31.75mm) pipe may be used. All poles and rails shall be marked with contrasting colors through striping or banding. Pole supports may not exceed the width of the poles, must generally follow the contour of the pole and shall not be more than 1/8" (3.175mm) in depth. When pegs are used for pole supports, the peg and pole "stop" on the peg must conform to these requirements. When a flat rail support is used, the support shall not exceed 1-1/2" (38.10mm) width.

Side wings or other support standards should be free of sharp or other hazardous edges and be a minimum of 6" (15cm) higher, with 12" (30cm) encouraged, than the hurdle height at the point where the wing joins with the cross plank, rail or pole, so that a safe and clear indication of the jumping path is visible to the dog. A majority of jumps and hurdles shall be "winged" and clear of supports beneath the bars. A "wing" must measure no less than 18" (45cm) in order to be considered a winged jump.

### Spread Hurdles

Hurdles may be aligned to form "spreads", being either two or three like-kind hurdles placed closely together to be jumped as a single hurdle, or a single obstacle that simulates a spread. A spread that has the front and back hurdles set at full jumping height shall be termed a "parallel spread". A spread that has the height of the front hurdle set at least 4" (10cm) lower than the jumping height of the back hurdle shall be termed an "ascending spread".

For dogs jumping 22" (55cm) or more, a spread of any type shall not exceed 24" (60cm) or be less than 12" (30cm) in span when measuring the line on the ground from the center of the front pole to the center of the back pole. With a maximum pole width of 1-3/4" (44.45mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 25-3/4" (64.45cm). A spread must be set "parallel" when the spread is 15" (38cm) or less when measured on center. A spread of greater than 15" (38cm) when measured on center must be "ascending". A spread of 20" (51cm) or more when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

For dogs jumping 16" (40cm) or less, a spread shall not exceed 12" (30cm) or be less than 10" (25cm) in span when measuring the line on the ground from the center of the first pole to the center of the back pole. With a maximum pole width of 1-3/4" (44.45mm), this will provide a maximum jumping span of 13-3/4" (34.45cm). All spreads must be "ascending". A spread set at 12" (30cm) when measured on center shall be termed an "extended spread".

### Long Jump

The Long Jump shall consist of between two and five planks, being no less than 36" (91cm) and no more than 60" (150cm) in length and between 5" (125mm) and 10" (250mm) in width.

The planks shall be mounted to side braces or legs such that the plank will have a slight increase in elevation. Elevations of all planks shall be no less than 2" (51mm) and no more than 10" (250mm). Marker poles of approximately 48" (120cm) in height shall be placed at the four corners of the jump. The maximum possible number of planks based on the plank width

should be used for each jumping distance. When using fewer than the maximum number of planks available, the lowest height planks shall be used for dogs jumping 12" (30cm).

#### Wishing Well

The wishing well shall consist of a base, pole support and pole, and roof top. The base unit shall be no less than 32" (81cm) in width between the roof supports.

The base shall stand at a height and be no greater in jumping span than would be reasonable for a dog to jump considering the principles of spread hurdles. A pole shall be positioned at the stipulated jump heights and shall be displaceable when bumped by a dog.

A roof top covering an area not substantially more than the base unit shall be fastened securely to the pole supports at an elevation of no less than two (2) times the dog's jump height. The roof top shall be engineered or supported such that it will not fall over in gusts of wind if it is to be used outdoors. The obstacle should be balanced such that a dog cannot knock it over if hitting the base or side supports with force when jumping.

#### Other Hurdles and Jumps

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

## APPENDIX B — JUDGES' GUIDELINES

Judges are the backbone of any sport and their actions and opinions influence conduct beyond the performance ring. Because of that influence, the United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. has taken an active part in educating and approving judges in the sport of dog agility.

In order to continually improve the standards of adjudication at agility tests and events, USDAA has developed standards for judges. Persons meeting these qualifications may be added to the "Approved Judges List". In connection with such qualification, the list shall be divided into class levels, based on the extent of knowledge and training demonstrated through examination and experience.

### Standard for Judges

Qualified individuals shall have met the following requirements before being placed on the Approved Judges List:

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

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

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

- be a current member of USDAA
- periodically pass the short form examination dealing with rule changes
- have satisfactory attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic & examination once every three years until being approved at the Masters level without supervision
- Masters level judges are strongly encouraged to attend a rules & course design clinic once in each five (5) year period in order to stay abreast of current course design techniques
- maintain an active role in the sport
- be of good character, setting forth a professional image for the sport and USDAA.

### Code of Conduct

Persons on the Approved Judges List –

- are expected to uphold an image as a competent professional, both on and off the course. ***An integral part of this image is appropriate attire consisting of slacks with a coordinating shirt, which may bear the USDAA logo. A judge shall not wear any apparel bearing business, sponsor or other organization insignia without the express written consent of USDAA.*** Failure to uphold this standard may result in removal from the Approved Judges List or other disciplinary action.
- shall recognize their role as a judge is a privilege and not a right.
- shall diligently fulfill all responsibilities with regard to judging assignments including, but not limited to, timely filing of course plans and judge's reports as required by USDAA policy.

- shall not become an activist in disputes, campaigns designed to influence another judge's decisions or to direct attention to others' shortcomings, or similar behavior that may be generally viewed as inappropriate conduct or as a conflict of interest as a representative of USDAA. As such, persons on the "Approved Judges List" shall seek to maintain an objective posture at all times.
- should give of themselves freely as a representative of the sport to USDAA member groups and the community in the promotion of dog agility as a sport for dogs without regard to pedigree.
- shall not at any time promote themselves as an authority in the sport on the basis of their standing as a USDAA judge or otherwise hold themselves out in personal endeavors as a USDAA judge.
- shall seek to assist fellow judges when needed in fulfillment of judging responsibilities when viewed in the best interest of the sport.
- shall judge a minimum of three sanctioned events in a two year period or judge a minimum of one sanctioned event per year combined with attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic and examination within a two-year period.

#### Disciplinary Actions

A person on the Approved Judges List who shall violate the standards in fact or in spirit shall be subject to disciplinary action in the form of reprimand, probation, suspension or removal from the Approved Judges List. All disciplinary action proceedings shall be conducted by the USDAA Board of Directors in "closed session" and shall remain confidential, except that the decision to suspend or remove a person from the Approved Judges List shall be published.

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

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

In the event of suspension or removal of a judge's name from the Approved Judges List, the Board of Directors shall –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

out as expeditiously as possible. Each Committee member shall be responsible for maintaining confidentiality of all proceedings.

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

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

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

#### Infractions

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

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

#### Sanctions

The following is a list of possible sanctions:

**Courtesy Warning** — a verbal warning issued by the judge, Organizing Committee Chairman (or DAC chairman). The decision to reprimand versus issue a courtesy warning shall be based on the perception by the judge or chairman of the situation as it might appear to spectators pursuant to guidelines established herein. Determining factors in favor of issuing a reprimand shall be whether the incident warranted immediate dismissal from the ring and whether the incident is one that would be deemed unacceptable (not in the best interest of the sport) if it recurred. When an incident may be questionable as to its acceptability, or otherwise might escalate to a point of not being acceptable, the judge may excuse the competitor from the ring and issue a courtesy warning. This situation generally relates to an incident where —

- The incident is not readily visible to others and the competitor is not excused from the ring
- The incident is marginal, such as when a competitor’s tolerance level is eroding as a result of a performance on the decline. In this case, typically the competitor should be excused from the ring in anticipation of a possible abusive act that could result from a “temporary” loss of control” (see Section 3.3, paragraph 6).

**Reprimand** — a written warning issued by the judge or Chairman, and held by the Chairman. A second reprimand of a similar nature shall be treated as a “Written Complaint”, thus resulting in a disciplinary hearing.

**Written Complaint** — a written complaint filed by anyone. This shall result in a disciplinary hearing.

**Warning** — a formal warning is issued by the Organizing Committee or DAC following a disciplinary hearing, stating that an incident is in violation of the rules of conduct, and a second occurrence of a like incident shall result in expulsion from the event. A second occurrence would be treated as a willful disregard for the rules and authority of the Committee, resulting in immediate expulsion from the show of the competitor and any dogs owned and/or handled by the competitor.

**Dismissal from the Ring** — determined by the judge based on the rules of performance, and or for matters related to competitor misconduct. This may be accompanied by a courtesy warning, reprimand, or written complaint.

**Expulsion from the Event** — determined by the Organizing Committee or DAC. This results from a disciplinary hearing held in response to a written complaint or two reprimands. Expulsion shall be for all days of the event, including prior and future days when a multi-day event is being held. All scores earned shall be canceled and all awards forfeited (including any earned on preceding days).

**Suspension, Fines, and Other Sanctions** — issued by the USDAA Board of Directors.

#### Application of Sanctions

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

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

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

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

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

If a dog is found to be aggressive, meaning that there exists a realistic risk of injury to a person, other dog or property, the dog must be removed from the show grounds immediately.

Where immediate removal is not possible, the dog must be isolated away from other dogs and people until it can be removed from the show grounds.

#### USDAA Sanctions

When a competitor or dog has accumulated two incidents that have resulted in expulsion from an event, the USDAA Board of Directors shall automatically impose a suspension of the com-

petitor and/or dog for a period of not less than three (3) months and not more than two (2) years. Upon a recurrence of acts by the competitor and/or dog following the suspension period, the Board shall convene to determine and impose additional sanctions. Those sanctions shall carry a suspension of not less than one additional year to life, depending on the nature of the misconduct.

#### Other Acts of Misconduct Not Categorized Above.

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

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

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

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

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

- The name(s) of the competitor(s) and/or dog(s) involved in the incident
- The time and place of the incident
- A description of the incident
- Any known circumstances or actions leading to the incident
- The names of any witnesses to the incident
- The date, name and signature of the complainant
- The reprimand shall be filed with the Committee immediately following the incident, or as soon as practical thereafter, so that the matter can be promptly recorded and/or resolved.

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

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

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



### Notice of Hearing or Waiver Thereof

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

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

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

### Disciplinary Hearing

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

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

### Hearing Documentation

The Committee proceedings shall be documented in detail, noting:

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

A statement of findings of the Committee including:

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

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

#### Rulings

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

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

#### Report findings

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

#### USDAA Actions

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

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

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

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

Any individual, club or association may file a complaint against another individual, club or association for conduct deemed against the best interests of the USDAA or the sport of agility. Any complaint that arises at an event must be filed with the event’s Organizing Committee for due process. Other complaints may be filed in writing, within 10 days of the incident at the USDAA

office along with a fee of \$150.00. If the complaint is upheld, the fee will be refunded to the Complainant.

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

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

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

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

## APPENDIX D – POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR REGISTRATION OF DOGS & JUNIOR HANDLER TEAMS

A dog must be at least eighteen (18) months of age and registered with USDAA in order to compete in USDAA sanctioned events. ***However, a dog may not be registered prior to twelve (12) months of age (effective April 1, 2002).*** Additionally, a junior handler and their dog must be registered with USDAA as a team to compete in the Junior Handler Program (JHP) as set forth in Chapter 8 of these rules and regulations. As part of the registration process, the following procedures for certification of a dog's height been established for the determination of a dog's minimum jumping height as set forth in these rules and regulations.

### Registration Application

A dog or junior handler/dog team may be registered directly with USDAA or the competitor may submit a registration application and fee along with their entry to an event. The registration application shall meet the form and content of the application shown on the inside back cover of these rules and regulations. Where a dog is not recognized by a major breed registry and cannot be definitively identified as to breed or birth date, the dog shall be classified as an "All American" breed and an estimate of the dog's birth date shall be made and entered on the form. USDAA reserved the right to request proof of a dog's age, with such proof being represented by an official record of breed or litter registration from a recognized registry, or if a dog is not so registered, a photograph and a veterinarian's letter of opinion, stipulating that the age represented on the registration application is a reasonable estimate. Such estimate shall become the official "birth date" of record and may not be changed at a later date without significant, substantive evidence to the contrary.

When submitting registration application directly with USDAA, a registrant must allow a minimum of three weeks for issuance of a registration number. A registration application should be filed at least four weeks prior to the closing date or any event that the dog is to be entered in order to assure receipt of a registration number for inclusion on the event entry form. It is required that all entries include a USDAA registration number, or be accompanied by a registration application and fee in order to be valid.

Upon receipt of a dog or junior handler/dog team registration, a host group for an event shall forward the registration application via fax, Email or overnight mail to USDAA for processing and issuance of a registration number prior to preparation of the event's running order list or catalog. Listing a dog or junior handler as "pending" is not acceptable. The responsibility to provide a registration number on an entry form rests with the competitor.

Upon issuance of a registration number, USDAA issues a temporary registration card bearing the information included on the registration application. Any errors on the card must be reported to USDAA for correction to assure correct issuance of title certificates and/or delivery of mail. Any expense incurred to replace certificates issued as a result of failure to make prompt notification shall be paid by the registrant.

### Height Certification

On the back of the temporary registration card is the Judges Certification form. To receive a permanent registration card, a dog must be competing in the 26" height class, or must meet specific age and measurement requirements as set forth below.

All measurements must be made on a flat surface utilizing a USDAA-approved measuring device, which is the responsibility of the show-giving group to provide. ***In the circumstance that a surface is deemed not level enough to provide for an accurate measurement and/or an approved device is rendered not functional, the judge shall evaluate each dog's height for that event only and NO measurement shall be recorded on the temporary card.***

The following height certification policies and procedures apply:

- Only one measurement per day may be obtained and the three measurements must span a period of seven days or more; for multiple-day events, only the first measurement shall be effective for determining the proper height class for that event.
- Dogs must be at least eighteen months of age to be measured.
- Measurements must be made by three different judges; each of whom must be approved at the Advanced or Masters level and be a judge of record for the event.
- At least one of the judges must be a Certified Measuring Judge (or "CMJ"), and all three judges must agree to the height class or additional measurements are required, unless the two concurring measurements are by CMJ's. A CMJ need not be a judge of record provided they file a Judge's Report notifying USDAA that they have measured dogs at this event.
- Any measurement that is made resulting in a dog being required to jump at a higher height than indicated on the temporary registration card or event entry form (when a temporary registration card is not available) must be reported by the judge to USDAA via the Event Judging Report.
- If the dog is less than three years of age and any of the measurements are one inch or less beneath the cutoff height (for example, 11"-12" for a dog in the 12" height class), the dog must be re-measured by a CMJ after age three to establish its permanent height.
- If a CMJ differs in opinion from other judges rendering height measurements, a second CMJ must make an independent measurement. If the two CMJ's disagree, then a third CMJ shall make an independent measurement. The two CMJ's that are in agreement shall determine the dog's official jump height class designation as set forth in Section 3.2 of the rules and regulations.

In cases where a competitor wishes to avoid controversy when official measurements are in disagreement, the competitor may request an official CMJ committee evaluation which must be requested from USDAA in writing. Upon receipt of a request, USDAA shall appoint CMJ's to a committee for measurement certification purposes. Likewise, upon notification and review by USDAA of a dog's recorded measurements, USDAA may call for an evaluation.

Once a dog has met all of the measurement requirements, the dog does not need to be measured again and a permanent card may be obtained; however, any judge may challenge a dog's permanently registered height by filing a written request for evaluation with USDAA, which shall appoint a panel of CMJ's to evaluate the dog's height. A dog may not be challenged more than once in a twelve-month period. A permanent registration card may be issued upon satisfactory completion of the foregoing procedures and –

- if prior to three years of age, no measurement is within one inch beneath the cutoff height for their official height class
- the dog is at least three years of age when the measurements are obtained
- the CMJ measurement is obtained after age three though the other signatures were obtained prior to age three

A temporary card meeting the foregoing criteria may be used as a permanent card until such time as the original, signed, temporary card is sent to USDAA for certification. A competitor should allow six to eight weeks for issuance of a permanent card. A competitor may request an official certification letter, which may be used while the permanent card is being processed. Such letter shall be good for no more than sixty days. Photocopies of temporary cards are not acceptable for measurement certification at events.

It is important that all competitors carry their registration cards to each event, regardless of jump height. The card must be presented at check-in not only to confirm entry in the proper height class, but also to confirm that the dog's registration number has been properly recorded on event records. Failure to confirm the registration number could result in failure to receive official credit for a performance. The responsibility for confirmation of the registration number rests with the competitor.

**Suspension & Renewal of Registrations (Provisions take effect January 1, 2002)**

***For any temporary card that is not processed for a permanent card within three years of issuance, a renewal fee shall be assessed equal to one-half the current registration fee. If the renewal fee is not paid within 90 days of the renewal date, the dog's registration and eventing privileges shall be suspended and the renewal fee shall double, equal to the current registration fee in effect at the time.***

All renewals must be paid directly to and be received by USDAA at its official place of business in order for them to take effect.