

# CYNOSPORT® WORLD GAMES 2023 TOURNAMENT RULES

The 2023 Cynosport® World Games event is the culmination of the local and regional tournament season. The event is being planned for Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 18 – 22.

Each tournament is open to all competitors with any dog, regardless of competition level (i.e., Starters, Advanced and Masters). USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations currently in effect at the date of competition shall apply. These regulations have been updated for rules amendments since the beginning of the tournament season, recognizing qualifications and placement winners in each of ten (10) height classes.

## **2023 Cynosport Eligibility Requirements**

The Qualifying Period for the 2023 tournament season shall run from **September 6, 2022, through September 5, 2023**. Eligibility requirements for each tournament are outlined herein.

### **Minimum Eligibility Requirements**

A competitor may pursue eligibility requirements in any or all tournaments offered with the added flexibility of using USDAA titling classes to supplement tournament requirements with a 5Q Wild Card<sup>(1)</sup> option. Eligibility for entry to any or all tournaments at Cynosport 2023 requires:

- earning any three (3) qualifications (Qs) collectively among all tournaments, or
- earning any two (2) Qs collectively and a 5Q Wild Card<sup>(1)</sup> in USDAA® titling classes.

By meeting these eligibility requirements, a competitor is automatically eligible to enter all four (4) tournaments at Cynosport® 2023.

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

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

**(1) 5Q Wild Card**—Earn 5 Qualifications in the five core titling classes in Chapters 3-6 of USDAA Rules & Regulations— Standard, Gamblers, Jumpers, Relay, and Snooker, and/or Masters Challenge titling classes defined in Chapter 12 (see USDAA Rules & Regulations for qualification requirements in each class).

**(2)** When fewer than 7 competitors in classes with dogs measuring >15” or fewer than 5 competitors in classes with dogs measuring 15” or less, the top score rather than the average of the top 3 scores shall determine those eligible to qualify.

A dog may be entered in any eligible jump height regardless of which jump height they earned qualification; however, a Bye must be used for entry to a height class in the tournament in which the Bye was earned.

Note: Additional description of each tournament, specific rules, and course design requirements are included in a separate document on [usdaa.com](http://usdaa.com) under Regulations|Tournaments, which are incorporated here by reference.

## ***Summary of Requirements for Advancement***

Tournament advancement is structured on three levels: Local qualifying events held during the Qualifying Period, Regional Championships, and the final rounds at Cynosport®.

- **Grand Prix of Dog Agility® World Championships**

### ***At Local Qualifying Events***

Compete in Local Qualifying Events to earn Qs, and Byes:

- earn Qs to establish eligibility for tournaments at Cynosport and Byes for advancement in Regionals and Cynosport®
- earn 2 Q to earn a Bye into a Regional Championship final round
- Earn three (3) 1<sup>st</sup> place Qs in the tournament at Local Qualifying or Regional Championship Events with a qualifying score and performance time meeting the following standards to earn a Bye into Cynosport:
  - 4.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 12” or less
  - 4.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 15” or less
  - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring 18” or less
  - 5.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 22” or less
  - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring more than 22”

### ***At Regional Championship Event***

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

- Compete in local qualifying round offered in conjunction with Regional Championships to earn Qs and to earn Byes for advancement in a Regional Championship Event and/or Cynosport®, and/or
- Compete in Regional Semifinals (no prerequisite for entry) to earn Qs and to advance to Regional Finals. (Note: Qualifications in Regional semifinals (Round 1) are also recorded as Qualifications earned in local qualifying events.)
- Compete in Regional Finals to be named Regional Champion and/or to earn Byes to Cynosport® Semifinals or Finals
  - Earn a Bye into the Semifinals by placing placing 1st through 3rd with zero faults or placing within the top 50% in each jump height with zero faults, whichever is greater.
  - Earn a Bye into the Cynosport Finals by placing 1<sup>st</sup> with zero faults as calculated using the special time standards:
    - 4.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 12” or less
    - 5.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 15” or less



- 5.25 yards per second for dogs measuring 18" or less
- 5.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 22" or less
- 5.25 yards per second for dogs measuring more than 22"
- Eligibility for Regional Finals is earned by--
  - advancing from the Regional Semifinal, or
  - earning two (2) Qs at Local Qualifying Events and/or Local Qualifying Rounds at a Regional Championship event.

### **At Cynosport® 2023**

Compete to be named Grand Prix of Dog Agility® Champion

- Compete in Cynosport® Quarterfinals to advance to the Semifinals by—
  - Earning any three (3) Qs collectively among all tournaments, **or**
  - Earning any two (2) Qs collectively and a 5Q Wild Card
- Compete in Cynosport® Semifinal to advance to the Finals by—
  - advancing from the Quarterfinal by performing a no-fault round, or
  - earning a Bye at a Regional Championship, or
  - earning three (3) 1<sup>st</sup> place Qs in the tournament at Local Qualifying or Regional Championship Events with a qualifying score and performance time meeting the following standards:
    - 4.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 12" or less
    - 4.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 15" or less
    - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring 18" or less
    - 5.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 22" or less
    - 4.75 yards per second for dogs measuring more than 22"
- Compete in Cynosport® Finals by
  - Winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in a Regional with a qualifying score and a performance time meeting the following standards:
    - 4.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 12" or less
    - 5.00 yards per second for dogs measuring 15" or less
    - 5.25 yards per second for dogs measuring 18" or less
    - 5.50 yards per second for dogs measuring 22" or less
    - 5.25 yards per second for dogs measuring more than 22"
  - advancing from semifinals with a no-fault round and scoring within 15% of the average of the top 3 times, subject to minimum and maximum numbers as set forth in the Cynosport 2023 Test Schedule.



- **Dog Agility Steeplechase®**

- At Local Qualifying Events**

- Compete in local qualifying rounds to earn eligibility for tournament and Byes for advancement in Regionals and at Cynosport®

- At Regional Championship Event**

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

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

- At Cynosport® 2023**

- Compete for prize money and to be named Dog Agility Steeplechase® Champion, and Grand Champion

- Compete in Cynosport® Quarterfinals to advance to the Semifinals by—
      - Earning any three (3) Qs collectively among all tournaments, **or**
      - Earning any (2) Qs collectively and a 5Q Wild Card
    - Compete in Cynosport® Semifinal by—
      - advancing from the Quarterfinal by scoring within 15% of the average of the top three scores\*
      - earning a Bye at a Regional Championship
    - Compete in Cynosport® Finals by advancing from semifinals, scoring within 15% of the average of the top 3 scores\*, subject to minimum and maximum numbers as set forth in the Cynosport 2023 Test Schedule.

*\*When fewer than 7 competitors in classes with dogs measuring >15" or fewer than 5 competitors in classes for dogs measuring 15" or less, the top score rather than the average of the top 3 scores shall establish those eligible to advance.*

- **Dog Agility Masters® 2-Dog & 3-Dog Team Championships**

- Compete with one or two partners in this tournament of versatility and endurance to be named Dog Agility Masters® 2-Dog or 3-Dog Team Champion.



Either 2-dog or 3-dog team may be offered in local qualifying events. Both 2-dog and 3-dog forms of the tournament shall be offered at Regional Championships and at Cynosport 2023, at which Champions will be named.

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

***At Local Qualifying Events***

Compete to earn qualifications (Qs) for eligibility to enter the tournament at Cynosport®

***At Regional Championship Event***

Compete to earn Qs and/or to be named Regional 2-Dog or 3-Dog Team Champion

***At Cynosport® 2023***

Compete to be named Dog Agility Masters® 2-Dog or 3-Dog Team Champion by—

- earning any three (3) Qs collectively among all tournaments, **or**
- earning any (2) Qs collectively and a 5Q Wild Card

• **Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Championships**

***At Local Qualifying Events***

Compete to earn qualifications (Qs) for eligibility to enter the tournament at Cynosport®

***At Regional Championship Event***

Compete to earn Qs and/or to be named Regional Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Champion

***At Cynosport® 2023***

Compete to be named Masters Challenge Biathlon<sup>SM</sup> Champion by—

- earning any three (3) Qs collectively among all tournaments, **or**
- earning two (2) Qs collectively and a 5Q Wild Card

Separate qualification standards may apply in designated countries or territories outside the continental U.S. Only residents in those regions that do not have ready access to competitions are eligible to qualify under those special standards.

The table on the next page summarizes eligibility and advancement for the tournaments.



**Eligibility & Advancement Recap for Cynosport® 2023**

*Qualifying Season: September 6, 2022–September 5, 2023*

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

\* Two (2) Bye Vouchers must be submitted for advancement into Regional Finals.

\*\* Qualifications earned collectively among all tournaments.

\*\*\* First place special Qs have enhanced performance time requirements for a Bye as set forth in these regulations. Byes will be tracked electronically for Cynosport® 2023. Vouchers will not be issued.

**General Rules for All Tournaments**

The following general rules apply to all tournaments:

- Competitors are eligible to compete in the tournament series with any dog that is fully registered with USDAA without regard to previous accomplishments in the sport.
- Any competitor may enter any of the local qualifying trials or Regional Championships without regard to prequalification or geographic location except as otherwise stipulated herein for events held outside the continental United States.



- A person may enter more than one dog in the tournament; however, no dog may be entered by another person in the same tournament at the same event.
- Results in tournaments and titling classes offered through USDAA@Home!<sup>SM</sup> events are for title qualification only and do not satisfy tournament eligibility requirements for entry to Cynosport®.
- Should tournament events be preempted due to pandemic-related causes or any other matters beyond USDAA control, requirements for tournament eligibility and advancement are subject to change at USDAA's discretion without recourse.

### **Jump Height**

- A competitor must be entered in the same jump height and division as previously qualified in advanced rounds for which eligibility was earned.
- A competitor may enter different jump height divisions in different tournaments provided they have met the height class eligibility requirements for each tournament as provided herein.
- Any dog that has does not have a certified registered height pursuant to Appendix D or USDAA Rules & Regulations must be measured prior to competing at a Regional Championship and/or at Cynosport. If a Bye was earned at the lower height, it cannot be used at the event where the dog is measured up; the competitor must compete in any preliminary rounds.

### **Handler Substitutions**

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

### **Recordkeeping Summary**

- Qualifications (“Qs”) earned in local qualifying events and in preliminary qualifying rounds of tournaments at Regional Championship events are recorded for titling purposes for the Tournament Master<sup>SM</sup> and other titles, as well as Lifetime Achievement Awards.
- Scores earned in the Final round of a Regional Championship in Grand Prix of Dog Agility®, Dog Agility Steeplechase® and all rounds at the Cynosport® World Games are recorded for tournament advancement only and are not eligible as Qs towards earning title certificates or Lifetime Achievement Awards.



- Qualifications in the individual classes of Dog Agility Masters® classes at local qualifying events and regional championship events may be earned toward Lifetime Achievement Awards.
  - Qualification standards for each individual class shall be determined based upon scores as listed below:
    - The top three\* scores shall be averaged and for Jumpers and Standard, multiplied by a factor of 1.15 to determine the maximum qualifying score for each award class.
    - The average of the top three\* scores in Gamblers in each height class are multiplied by a factor of .85 to determine the minimum qualifying score.
    - A score in Snooker must be equal to or greater than 75% of the points available for the class (e.g., if 51 points are possible, a score of 39 is required; if 59 points are possible, then a score of 45 points must be achieved.)
- \*If fewer than five competitors compete in any height class having competitors with dogs 15” or less, or fewer than seven competitors in classes for competitors with dogs > 15”, the top score from each award class shall be used to calculate the qualifying score. In this case, the top score shall be multiplied by same factors listed above. If there is just one competitor in an award class, competitor automatically qualifies.
- Zero fault rounds meeting the titling requirements of Chapter 12 that are earned in each of the Masters Challenge/Performance Masters Challenge Biathlon tournament classes at local qualifying events or Regional Championships are recorded as qualifications for titling purposes and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

***Apparel (Dress Code) Requirements:***

- Competitors and all ring personnel must wear sports appropriate attire. Specific attire (e.g., award polo shirts or jerseys) must be worn as may be set forth in the Test Schedule for the event, and/or as posted at time of distribution at the event. Apparel or paraphernalia that event organizers in their sole discretion deem to present a poor image or representation of the sport, USDAA, or other organizations, including sponsors, shall not be exhibited at any time.
- No attire may be worn that promotes personal sponsors or companies other than USDAA and its sponsors without the express written consent of USDAA.
- Other restrictions in the spirit of these regulations may be imposed by USDAA without prior notice.

***Tournament Awards***

See the test schedules (once published) for an exact list of prizes and awards offered at each event.

**Local Qualifying Events and Regional Championship Awards**

Qualifying ribbons (or certificates) and placement ribbons or rosettes are to be awarded at local qualifying events. Additional awards may be made at Host Group’s option with approval from USDAA.

USDAA will sponsor Regional Championship placement rosettes awarded to first through third places in each height class for each tournament overall. Additional awards may be made at Host Group’s option with approval from USDAA.





All local awards and those at local, regional, and national Championship events held outside the United States shall be the responsibility of the host organization.

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

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

Examples of Award Distribution when allocated to multiple placements:

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

*\*Additional sponsored cash or noncash prizes may be offered to one or more placements based upon the nature of such prizes.*

- Amounts payable from the local qualifying round held in conjunction with a Regional Championship shall be combined with the Regional Championship awards unless otherwise stipulated (at event host’s discretion) in the Regional Championship Test Schedule.
- Prize money for Cynosport® 2023, shall be distributed among top competitors as specified in the Agility Test Schedule for the Dog Agility Steeplechase®.

### Interpretations of Rules & Disputes

These tournament rules cannot address all matters that may arise during the tournament season. Modifications may be made at USDAA’s discretion without recourse to accommodate changes made to USDAA Official Rules & Regulations that become effective during the tournament season. Further, interpretation of these regulations shall be made from time to time by judges and show officials as circumstances arise. In any case, such changes and/or interpretations shall be made in the spirit of sportsmanship and in fulfillment of the purpose of this tournament series to identify and promote top competitors in head-to-head competition for the current tournament season.

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

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

