

**Agility Association of Canada**

# **AAC Regional Championships**

## **Rules and Guidelines**

June 2023: V 2.1



The AAC's Regional Rules & Guidelines is intended to be used in conjunction with the most current version of the AAC's Official Rules and Regulations.

The Regional Rules & Guidelines is an accompaniment to the AAC's Official Rules and Regulations with a focus on promoting existing rules and/or practices that are specific to AAC Regional events and/or vary from the AAC Rules and Regulations.

AAC Board of Director resolutions included to June 2023.

AAC

June 2023

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# Rules & Guidelines

## 1. Regional Championships

The Agility Association of Canada's Regional Championships are prestigious events unto themselves as well as a stepping stone to the AAC National Championships.

Dogs must qualify at their Regional Championship, the one-day pre-qualifier or an alternative Regional (by special application only) to be eligible to enter the AAC National competition.

Qualifying through a Regional Champion requires earning an aggregate score of 350 points in two Jumpers runs, two Standard runs, and two Gambler runs. Competitors requesting the Accessibility concession at time of entry may qualify with a reduced aggregate score of 300 points. No other points or time concessions will be given.

AAC sanctioned trials will not be permitted to be scheduled within a Region on the same dates of that of a Region's Regional Championships.

### 1.1. Eligibility

All dogs that have an AAC dog ID # and meet AAC competition requirements are eligible to compete at the Regional level.

A U.S. resident wishing to attend a Regional Championship will be assigned a specific Regional Championship to attend based on the location of their home state. U.S. residents are eligible to attend only the specific Regional Championship to which they are assigned. The US States - Regions Table is located in Appendix B

Any competitor that, for whatever reason, cannot attend the Regional Championship that they would normally be assigned to are permitted to submit an application to the AAC's National Steering Committee for approval for eligibility to attend an alternative Regional Championship for qualifying purposes. **Anyone competing in an alternative regional is competing for individual placements and Nationals qualification only.** The only exception to this is any dog that is prohibited from competing due to breed specific legislation in one region, has the right to compete for all placements in an alternate Region. Alternative Regional Application is located on the AAC website under forms at: ALTERNATE REGIONAL APPLICATION FORM.

Regional Agility Championships are open to all dogs capable of demonstrating the elements of

agility and control, and the mental and physical ability to carry out the required tests. Any dog is eligible to compete without regard for pedigree.

Dogs less than 18 months of age, *bitches in season*\* or in an advanced state of pregnancy, or dogs suffering from any injury or illness that affects the dog's physical or mental performance; or any dog that demonstrates signs of aggression towards people or other dogs will not be permitted to compete in a Regional Agility Championship.

All dogs eligible to enter an AAC Sanctioned Agility Trial are invited to participate in the Regional Championship events held annually between the dates of March 1 – June 30.

All dogs must run at a jump height at which they would be eligible to compete in an AAC-sanctioned trial for the class in which they are competing, to a maximum of 24" in regular classes and a maximum of 20" in specials and veterans classes.

Regional Championships are subject to all AAC rules and regulations except where indicated within these guidelines.

An AAC Judge that is contracted to officiate for any AAC sanctioned runs (non Regional event runs) held in conjunction with a Regional event is eligible to compete in that Regional event.

An AAC Regionals officiating Judge is not eligible to compete, or replace another competitor as a handler, for any of the Regional runs occurring in that event (consisting of the 2 Jumper, 2 Standard and 2 Gamble classes).

\*See Appendix C for 2024 BIS Pilot

## **1.2. Pre-Qualifier Event for AAC National Championships**

Competitors must qualify prior to June 30 of the current year to be eligible to compete in the AAC National Championship event. A limited number of competitors who did not participate in their designated Regional Championship may qualify to compete at the National Championship by qualifying at a pre-qualifier event. Application to compete in this event must be made to the Nationals Steering Committee prior to the closing date for registration for the National Championship, which will be approximately one week after the last of the Regional Championship competitions.

For information on eligibility requirements for the Pre-Qualifier event prior to an AAC National Championships refer to the National Rules and Guidelines V2.1 Section 1.1 Pre-Qualifier.

Pre-Qualifier Application form is located at: [PRE-QUALIFIER EVENT APPLICATION FORM](#).

### **1.3. Injured Handler or Dogs in Regional Events**

At an AAC Regional, a team consists of a dog and his or her handler. In the event of injury to a dog no substitute is permitted.

In the case of injury to a handler the injured handler may choose to completely withdraw from the AAC Regionals as a handler for ALL dogs and may designate a substitute handler per dog. In this case the first handler to complete 50% or more of the runs which make up an aggregate score will be recorded as the handler of record for the purpose of any awards.

Under no circumstances may special ring assignments be granted to handlers and their injury substitute. If a handler is injured in the middle of a run, a substitute handler will be permitted to rerun the dog in that class. Any faults that were incurred during the first run before the handler suffered injury or indicated that they could not continue handling will be included in the score of the second run. Faults incurred after the handler has suffered injury or indicated that they cannot continue will be waived. The judge in the ring shall be the sole authority on which faults carry over to the re-run score. The substitute handler must run the entire course. The substitute handler must continue to run the dog for the remainder of the competition.

## 2. Application to Host a Regional Agility Championship

Regional Championship events are to be held in the window of March 1 & June 30 annually.

Applications to host a Regional Championship will be accepted between 48 and 39 months prior to the Regional Championship event window. Bids received in this time frame will have:

- A notice will be posted to the AAC Website News advising that a bid has been received. The NSC will outline that the bid will be considered after a delay of 4 weeks to provide an opportunity for competing bids to be submitted to the NSC.
- Following the Notification period, bid(s) will be evaluated, compared with historical information and processed between 39-36 months prior to the event window.
- The NSC will either grant or withhold approval of the bid(s) based on the merits of the application.

If no applications are received within 36 months of the proposed event window, the application window will remain open until an application is received. In this case, the first application received may be awarded the event if they meet the National Steering Committee and Board approval.

The Nationals Steering Committee and the AAC shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for a Regional Championship.

Split Regional Championship events may be allowed in Regions where population distribution may warrant two events and applications show that the split is viable. A split will only be approved if there are two viable host applications for the Region, and that between the two events they are able to accommodate all the potential competitors.

### 2.1. Application Process

Should potential applicants require information and assistance in assembling an application they should contact the National Steering Committee for assistance.

Early applications are encouraged to give the lead time needed to plan an event of this magnitude.

Applications (bids) are submitted to the National Standing Committee who will approve or decline bids.

Only clubs that are members of the AAC are eligible to host a Regional Championship. As a Regional Championship can be a large event, multiple clubs may form a group to host the

Regional Championship, however one club, who is a member of the AAC, will be designated as the lead host club in the application to host the Regional Championship and be deemed responsible for all obligations and responsibilities set out in these Regional Championship Rules and Guidelines. The host club must not have any outstanding trial results or fee in arrears or be under suspension due to an AAC Disciplinary Committee decision.

A group of individuals may form a club for the purpose of hosting the Regional Championship event. The group must become an AAC member club with the necessary insurance.

The club or group wishing to host a Regional Championship must make written application to the Nationals Steering Committee for a license to hold the Regional Championship.

The license shall permit the group to designate the event as a "Regional Championship" sanctioned by AAC, an indication that the host organization will comply with all the requirements set forth in these rules and regulations and such guidelines as may be established by the Nationals Steering Committee.

The Host Group will make arrangements with the Regional Director of their allocated Region to inspect the equipment and proposed site if this is a new club hosting the event and their site and equipment has not yet been approved or if it has been five years or more since the equipment and/or site has been approved.

If the bid has been approved and the member club fails to fulfill any portion of the requirements stipulated for sanctioned trials, it does so at the risk of loss of sanctioning of the Regional Championship. It is the sole responsibility of the member club to adhere to the requirements stipulated by these rules and regulations and other guidelines as may be established by AAC.

Furthermore, the AAC reserves the right to refuse any application for license for any reason without recourse from a requesting Host Group.

The Application Guide is available in Section 6.1 and has been provided to assist applicants in assembling a Regional application.

The Application form is located on the AAC website under forms at: [AAC REGIONAL APPLICATION FORM](#).

## **2.2. Responsibilities of Regional Championship Hosting Clubs**

### **2.2.1. Identify a Regional Organizing Committee**

The Host Group shall name a Regional Championship Organizing Committee (from here on referred to as the Organizing Committee).



The Organizing Committee shall be the governing body of the Regional Championship. The Committee is responsible for conduct of the Regional Championship and all matters other than those responsibilities specifically empowered to the Judge pursuant to these Regional Championship Rules and Guidelines.

### **2.2.2. Organizing Committee Responsibilities**

The Organizing Committee's responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- A. Announce the Regional Championship by the publication and distribution of an "Agility Regional Championship Premium" (entry form). The Agility Regional Championship Premium shall include:
  - The proposed date, time, locations and, if it is an outdoor event, that it will proceed rain or shine and identify the trial surface. (For example: grass, dirt, artificial turf, pea shingle, sand etc.)
  - Amount of entry fees
  - A statement that there will be no refunds, cancellations or changes after the closing date without a veterinarian or doctor's note. A refund for any other reason is at the Organizing Committee's discretion. It is also their discretion to implement an administration fee to be applied in these situations
  - The closing date after which entries will no longer be accepted and a statement that entries must be "received by" or "postmarked by" the closing date
  - A statement that the Regional Championships will be held under AAC Regional Rules and Guidelines and reference to where those can be found.
  - A statement that all obstacles conform to AAC specifications.
  - An official entry form that requires complete owner/handler and dog information including the dog's AAC ID number. No dog may compete without an AAC ID number.
  - The AAC general agreement/disclaimer that must be signed by the competitor before it is accepted. Children under 18 years of age must have the agreement/disclaimer signed by a parent or guardian.
- B. Accepting entries and registrations.
- C. Ribbons and Rosettes ordering is through the AAC. The AAC will provide free of charge aggregate placement ribbons 1-6, and National Qualifying Rosettes. In the case of combined

Regionals of two or more Regions, the AAC will provide aggregate placement ribbons up to 10<sup>th</sup> place. Orders should be placed by the close of entry. Ribbon Order Form is located on the AAC website under forms at: [AAC RIBBON ORDER FORM](#)

- D. The offering of individual placement ribbons for categories is the host club's choice and is at the host club's discretion. These offerings may be ordered through the AAC and will be invoiced to the host club. Orders should be ordered by the close of entry.
- E. Trophies for winner of each category will be provided free of charge to the host club by the AAC.
- F. The offering of additional prizes and awards for categories of the host club's choice is the host group's discretion and cannot be ordered through AAC.
- G. When and if cash prizes are going to be awarded at any AAC event, it is required that the actual amounts of the cash award and/or percentage of entry money to be put toward the cash awards must be outlined in the premium, along with how the cash awards will be distributed among the various heights and/or divisions.
- H. Providing knowledgeable stewarding, timing, course building, support for course building, ring support, gate stewarding and scorekeeping.
- I. Providing agility obstacles that conform to AAC specifications, have met inspection requirements and are available in the quantities outlined in section 3.1.2.
- J. Providing tools and accessories necessary to conduct a quality Regional Championship including a dog measuring device or height wickets and a minimum of three course-measuring wheels.
- K. Hiring AAC-approved Masters judges and providing them with a letter of confirmation and informing the NSC of judges hired to complete the application form on file.
- L. The club only needs to submit to the officiating judge(s) a list of obstacles (including dimensions), map of the trial site (ring setup), classes offered (courses required), running order of the classes and any other pertinent instructions if there are other classes/games offered besides the six official Regional Championship events.
- M. Providing travel arrangements, meals, and accommodation for the Judge(s).
- N. Provide the judge(s) with a per run judging fee for judging Regional aggregate events of a minimum 1.5 times the current AAC rate stipulated by AAC for regular trials.
- O. Providing the officiating Judges with a minimum of one AAC Regional Championship shirt, one

AAC judge's shirt or one Competitor shirt per day (Check with judges for sizing requirements).

- P. Verifying Dog I.D. cards before the dog competes. (Note: all dogs must have an AAC I.D. number to compete.) If the card is not presented at time of check-in at Regional event, the dog must be measured to confirm jump height. It is allowable for ID cards to be submitted electronically for a pre-check, if card is photographed in its unfolded state so that both sides of the card are visible on the same image.
- Q. A copy of the official rules of AAC, the Regional Championship Rules and Guidelines, the schedule, a first aid kit, sawdust or sand to repair footing on the course and odor-free liquid disinfectant (preferred) be on-site.
- R. Ensuring that a veterinarian will be on call throughout the Regional Championships.
- S. Honor the terms of any long term agreements between AAC and sponsors, donors and vendors that may be in place at the time the Regionals Championship occurs.
- T. Provide night-time on-site security
- U. Washroom facilities and appropriate exercise/relief area for dogs
- V. A warm-up area is to be provided with two jumps and room for heeling around the jumps for each competition ring at the event. A familiarization period shall be optional at the discretion of the hosting club.
- W. Supply a secured competitor area.
- X. Provide a quality PA system for the purpose of updating the public and participants as well as the media of the current activities in and around the ring(s) if it is needed.
- Y. Produce a Regional Championship Catalogue, to be offered to all competitors.
  - 1. A downloadable version or printed copy will be made available at a price to be set at Host Group's discretion and shall be available prior to the start of the event;
  - 2. It is to include:
    - Name of Host Club
    - Date of Trial
    - Location of Trial
    - All rounds of Regionals with height categories for each class
    - Detailed schedule for Regional event
    - Running Orders
    - List:
      - Judges' biography

- Equipment familiarization available
- Scoring page for competitors
- Group identification (Competitor name, dog name, division, dog jump height)
- Banquet details and who to contact for tickets (if available)
- Site layout plan (crating, shade tenting, food vendors, off-leash exercise area etc.)
- List of site rules
- Identify and outline special awards
- Sponsors
- If warm-up runs are offered – warm-up rules

### 3. Optional items to be included in Catalogue

- Listing of volunteers
- Z. Scoring sheets that have a white copy for the organizer’s scoring team and a colour copy to be available to the competitor following each Jumpers, Standard and Gamble class is required. Samples can be requested from the AAC for printers.
- AA. The Board recommends that Regional Hosts request membership lists from the AAC to confirm registrants that are eligible for the AAC membership discount. It is recommended that this request be submitted 1 month prior to registration closing which would align with a Board meeting’s approval of new members.
- BB. The AAC Regional Agility Championships cannot be successful without the vital participation of persons willing to volunteer their time in a multitude of roles, such as Timer, Scribe, Entry Table Steward, Course Builders, Gate Steward, Assistant Scribe/Score Sheet Runner, Ring Crew, Leash Runners and Score Table Workers.

In order to maintain an appropriate level of appreciation and respect due to volunteers at this sanctioned AAC event, and to assist host clubs in garnering interest from individuals in becoming a volunteer at the Regionals, the following expectations must be included in the application (details to include financial/budgeting implications and site planning):

- Provision of a catered or buffet lunch for each full competition day (the planning for the provided meals should take into consideration dietary restrictions and/or food sensitivities). In recognition of the limited time allotted the volunteers for their lunch break, the meal service must be planned in such a way as volunteers are not “lining up” at the event food vendors, rather, having available a selection of items ready for consumption at the start of their break.
- Volunteers are not expected to bring their own refreshments. Host Clubs are to

provide a variety of snacks and beverages available to the volunteers throughout their morning and afternoon break periods, not just lunch service.

- Site planning for the event must include a comfortable break area (chairs/tables) for the volunteers near the lunch/snack area.

Host Clubs are encouraged to incorporate the following into their Regionals application:

- Provision of one free event t-shirt (the shirt may be specific to the task of volunteering and include labeling and sponsorship advertising, along with the Regionals logo). *Regional Hosts are encouraged to seek sponsorship from businesses/suppliers to help offset the cost of the shirts in exchange for the placement of advertising on the shirts.*
- Provision of a volunteer recognition gift. This can consist of a gift card or cash per diem for those volunteering from Friday to Sunday. It is suggested that for each day the individual volunteers, they should receive recognition ranging in value from \$25 to \$50 depending on the anticipated number of competitors attending the Regionals (longer anticipated competition days – higher recognition amounts). If the Host Club decides to provide a recognition gift to that year's volunteers, the recognition value must remain consistent amongst all the volunteers.
- However, host clubs have the discretion to adjust the value in consideration of the skill-set required of the volunteer (i.e., a Leash Runner verses a Score Table Worker). *Host Clubs are encouraged to find sponsorship for this budget item, but at no time shall AAC Regional competitors be required/requested to bring a gift or gift card for the volunteers.*

### **2.2.3. Terms for Facility Rental and Use for AAC Regionals**

The facility being rented or used for a Regional event will agree to permit all competitors to participate unless there is a legally binding reason which prevents them from doing so. Personal disputes, or discord which arises from private interactions between attendees, will not result in a competitor being refused entry by the AAC or any representative thereof. If the facility will not agree to that term in their rental or use agreement with the Regional Host Committee prior to submitting a bid to the AAC's National Steering Committee (NSC), the NSC will not permit the facility to be used for AAC's Regional events. AAC Regional Events are inclusive events which are, on principle, open to all competitors and dogs who are eligible to

compete in AAC events.

### **2.3. Appointment of an On-site Disciplinary Committee**

An on-site Disciplinary Committee is to be appointed if different from the Organizing Committee.

The AAC Standard Operating Process is available on the website at: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AT AAC TRIALS.

If additional information is needed for duties of disclosure, incident reporting and/or responsibilities of competitors, officials, spectators and hosts refer to the [AAC's Code of Conduct](#) or the AAC's Discipline Committee Policy and Procedures.

#### **Disciplinary Procedure**

If **the judge witnesses** an act of dog aggression in the ring area, the dog must be dismissed - either from the class, the day or the trial site altogether - and a judge's report needs to be submitted with the results. The judge should also inform the victim of their right to lodge a complaint to the Discipline Committee and it is highly recommended, for expediency, that the complaint & all witness reports be gathered that day (or by the end of the trial at the latest) and included with the results to be sent to the AAC Administrator.

If a competitor comes forward with a complaint about an act of aggression by another dog that **the judge did not witness**, the trial committee needs to be informed and they must investigate the complaint. The trial committee may consult with one or all of the officiating judges, with the accused and the complainant, and a decision agreed upon before the next class. A trial report must be written up and submitted to the AAC Administrator. The complainant should be notified of their right to make a formal, written complaint to the Discipline Committee and, to expedite the disciplinary procedure; the forms and witness reports should be gathered before the end of the weekend and sent to the AAC Administrator.

#### **Setting Up of Equipment or Sequences by Competitors**

Any competitor setting up equipment on the trial site, or setting up sequences (including moving designated warm-up jumps), or to mirror the judge's courses, or for warm-up or practice will be dismissed from the competition. The individual(s) and their dog(s) will be asked to leave the trial site. The individual(s) and their dog(s) will not be eligible to apply for Nationals pre-qualifier.

## **2.4. Setting Entry Fees**

Regional Championship hosts must submit a budget based on the event being profitable and proposed entry fees should reflect this objective. All AAC regular trial fees (plus GST) per run for entries in a Regional Championship event must be paid directly to AAC.

A discounted entry fee must be offered for current AAC members that is less than the entry fee for non-members.

A dog may be pulled prior to the closing date with no reason required, however it is the host group's discretion to charge and retain a reasonable admin fee if clearly stated in the premium.

In keeping with AAC rules and regulations, a full refund of entry fees will be provided to any competitor whose bitch comes into season or whose dog is injured, provided the trial secretary is informed prior to the trial date and a letter or certificate from a veterinarian or physician is provided, if required.

In the case of a dispute between the competitor and host over the validity of an injury or heat, the Nationals Steering Committee will be the final authority. Either party may forward details, including the required veterinarian or Doctor's notes to the Nationals Steering Committee for resolution, provided the request for resolution is made to the Nationals Steering Committee or the AAC President within two weeks of the end of the Regional Championship in question.

Regional Championships may not be limited entry trials. Clubs may not refuse entry to a competitor without the permission of the Nationals Steering Committee. In the case of a complaint regarding refusing entry to a group or individual, a written statement should be sent to the Nationals Steering Committee to be reviewed by an independent party. A written response from this party will be forwarded to the host club and the plaintiff. This decision will be final. If breed specific legislation requirements cannot be met, please contact the National Steering Committee for assistance.

AAC sanctioned events must be applied for and approved under regular AAC rules and guidelines.

AAC-sanctioned classes, warm-up rings and non-sanctioned classes on the same trial site and being held in conjunction with Regional events are not permitted to utilize limited entry registration and Clubs may not refuse entry to a competitor registered to compete in Regional events.

Once Regional event check-in has started, no refunds will be provided.

## 2.5. Regional Championship Results

The Regional Championship Results package is to be sent to the Regional Championships Results Coordinator (admin@aac.ca) and **must be received no later than ten (10) days after the Regional Championship's conclusion date.**

The Regional Championships Results package shall include:

- A. Contact information for the trial chairperson, secretary and score person, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses (if available). If, during the verification process, missing information or discrepancies in results are detected, the Regional Championships Results Coordinator will contact the trial secretary using the information provided.
- B. A completed copy of the Regional results. This is to include the complete individual results for all events as well as the aggregate results. If out-of-region competitors are included in the results, aggregate results must indicate clearly which competitors are not eligible for overall placements and rankings adjusted accordingly
- C. An electronic copy of the catalogue and qualifying dogs report.
- D. A completed copy of the Regional Championship Scoring Sheets signed by the Trial Secretary. This includes the complete individual results for all events as well as the aggregate results. (This includes but is not limited to any data files associated with scoring programs used for your regional). If there is any question regarding whether the information would be useful please contact the Regional Results Coordinator).
- E. A copy of each course used in the Regional Championship signed by the judge and on which the judge has recorded the actual measured yardage and the Standard Course Time.
- F. A complete exhibitor listing including; AAC ID#, Dog Name, Breed, Owner Name, Owner Address, Owner Town, and Owner Postal Code/Zip Code.
- G. Results package must be submitted electronically.
- H. Payment in the amount prescribed by the AAC National Steering Committee for Regional runs is to be submitted to the Financial Services Officer. Credit Card, PayPal or e-transfer are accepted methods of payment.

It is imperative that the result package be received within the stated time frame or a \$100 fine shall result. If after 30 days the results package has still not been received a \$500 fine shall result and AAC membership shall be suspended immediately. If due to extenuating circumstances this deadline cannot be met, contact the AAC Administrator immediately.



Furthermore, the host club must maintain a copy of the above information for a period of one year. Failure to provide all necessary results will result in a \$100 late fee levied and/or the rejection of future licenses to hold an AAC Regional Championship.

The Trial Secretary and/or Chairperson should have an e-mail address contact for the purpose of confirming that the results were received. If clubs do not receive an e-mail confirmation from the AAC Administrator within 2 days of e-mailing the results, they should contact the AAC Administrator to confirm receipt of the results.

## **2.6. Competitor Grouping and Ring Assignments**

AAC Regional Championships ring assignments are under the control and direction of the AAC Regional Championship Trial Secretary and should be made in a random fashion. Any requests for grouping may be considered at the sole discretion of the Trial Secretary. The one exception to this rule will be junior handlers (under 18): a junior handler may request in advance one other handler with whom they will be grouped. An effort should be made to vary the running order within height categories whenever possible, so that no one handler/dog team is disadvantaged by running first in every event.

## **2.7. Judges and Stewards**

The roles and responsibilities of the Regional Championship Judges and Stewards are pursuant to *the Official Rules and Regulations of the Agility Association of Canada*, chapter 2 section 2.4 *Judges and Stewards*. Only an AAC certified Masters Judges (i.e., those who have completed all aspects of certification) will be permitted to judge a Regional Championship. The host club will be responsible for hiring a certified judge for their Regional Championship.

If the Regional Championship is run on the same weekend as the Regional Championship in the Judge's region of residence, the affected judge will be allowed to run in any other Regional Championship to qualify for that year's National Championship. Further, the Judge will be allowed to compete for podium placements.

## **2.8. Non-Regional Classes**

These will be non-qualifying classes and will be designed by the Regional Judge(s). These classes are not to be included in the scoring for the Regional Championship but may have ribbons awarded separately by an AAC registered Club. (e.g. steeplechase-for-money finals limited by performance in other rounds)

Member clubs may also hold regular AAC-sanctioned classes in conjunction with the Regional Championship competition; however, this will be a separate event entirely and must be applied for through the usual trial application channels. For convenience, a separate premium is not required and entry to competitors registered for the Regional Championships may not be limited.

In recognition of the fact that many dogs who attend Regional events have travelled quite a distance to attend, and may not have had their normal opportunity to exercise prior to the start of the Regional Championship rounds, the following modification to the general AAC rule on non-sanctioned agility classes has been approved for supervised “warm-up” runs with time limitations, and other events held at these prestigious competitions:

Provided that the warm-up runs are completed PRIOR to the start of the Regional Championship rounds, they may be run at the same time as other events, sanctioned or not.

The warm-up rings must be set up in such a way as to eliminate the potential for handlers to set up or to practice sequences found in any sanctioned events.

The host may allow toys and food in the warm up rings. If allowed, both must be allowed.

- Food and toys will be allowed during warm up runs under the following conditions:
  - That allowing food does not contravene the site and/or facility rules.
  - Toys should be in a good state of repair.
  - Toys may not contain audible squeakers or other noise makers.
  - Handlers are permitted to throw toys to the dog or tug with their dogs.
  - Training aids (e.g. clickers, stride regulators, target plates) are not allowed.
  - Food may not be thrown on the ground, or to the dog, it may only be fed from the hand or container.

### **3. Regional Championship Event**

The Regional Championship will consist of six qualifying runs, which shall include two Standard, two Gamblers and two Jumpers courses. Dogs must be entered in and run all six classes to be eligible for aggregate placement in the Regional Championships. The host group may organize and offer other classes for participants to enter as well.

Scoring will be under modified Masters rules. Neither titles nor legs will be awarded for participation in any of the six qualifying events at the Regional Championships.

An overall Regional Champion for each height (4", 8", 12", 16", "20", 24") and division (Regular, Specials, Veterans and Double Drop Veterans) will be awarded, (i.e., a 20" Regular Champion, a 20" Specials Champion and a 20" Veterans Champion, and so on).

Dogs must be entered according to the official measurement on their ID card or, if their ID card is not fully signed, entered in a jump height for which they are eligible according to AAC rules and regulations. Dogs not having a fully signed ID card shall be measured in on the first day of the event by an officiating judge and this measurement shall not be used on their ID card. If a dog is close to a height cut-off, the judge may elect, or the handler may request, that height wickets be used to determine the dogs jump height.

A person may enter more than one dog, but under no circumstances may more than one person enter the same dog.

There will be no dismissing of dogs except for aggression, eliminating in the ring, leaving the ring, un-sportsmanlike behaviour or dogs out of control.

#### **3.1. Course Layout and Design**

##### **3.1.1. Ring Size and Surface**

A ring in the Regional Championships will be NOT less than 9,000 square feet, with no side being less than 70 feet.

Event sites must be inspected and meet AAC requirements for the event to be eligible for use for Regional events, and to hold AAC sanctioned rounds at the same venue.

The course area shall be enclosed by rope or fencing to prevent spectators from interfering with the course before or during the Regionals.

Should two rings have a fence in common there must be a continuous visual barrier that begins

at ground level and is no less than 3 feet high, and runs the whole length of the common fence.

Any trial area **must** have a firm, non-slip surface. The terrain must permit leveling of the obstacles and provide safe footing for handlers and dogs. If a trial is to be held on a hard surface such as cement, the ring and course area must be fully covered with a suitable shock absorbent material. Because of the nature of the sport, bare hard surfaces or slippery surfaces are not approved. The dog's safety must be paramount in selecting the trial area.

Entry and exit should be at opposite sides of the ring's base line to facilitate the start and finish procedures.

### 3.1.2. Equipment List for Regional Championship Events

The following agility equipment must be available for **EACH Standard & Gamblers ring**:

*(Contacts and weaves are required for standard and gamble rings only)*

- 1 Dogwalk
- 1 A-Frame
- 1 Teeter
- 2 Sets Weave Poles, (6 poles each, 24" spacing)
- 3 Flexible tunnels [ 2 x 20ft and 1 x 15ft]
  - Each 20ft tunnel requires a minimum of 7 sets of tunnel bags/holders
  - Each 15ft tunnel requires a minimum of 6 sets of tunnel bags/holders
- 1 Double jump\* *(with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides)*
- 1 Ascending spread/triple jump\* *(with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides)*
- 1 Tire jump (self-healing or break-away. All rings must have the same size and type of tire)
- 12 Winged single jumps
- 4 Wingless single jumps
- Broad Jump \*\*

*\*Both the spread & the double jump and the broad jump are to be replaced by a single jump for specials & veterans classes. These replacement jumps are NOT included in the 16 single jumps required for course design.*

*\*\* The Broad jump is a required obstacle for the Standard ring only.*

The following agility equipment must be available for **EACH Jumpers ring**:

- 3 Flexible tunnels [ 2 x 20ft and 1 x 15ft]
  - Each 20 ft tunnel requires a minimum of 7 sets of tunnel bags/holders

- Each 15ft tunnel requires a minimum of 6 sets of tunnel bags/holders
- 1 Double jump\* (*with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides*)
- 1 Ascending spread/triple jump\* (*with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides*)
- 1 Tire jump (*self-healing/break-away. All rings must have the same type and size of tire*)
- 15 Winged single jumps
- 4 Wingless single jumps

*\*Both the spread & the double jump are to be replaced by a single jump for specials & veterans classes. These replacement jumps are NOT included in the 19 single jumps required for course design.*

*\*\* Required to be available for use at site. Optional obstacle that may be included in course design.*

*\*\*\*The maximum number of obstacles allowed on a Regionals Jumpers course is 23.*

### **3.1.3. Course Design Criteria**

The goal of these events is to test both the dog's and handler's ability to maneuver through complex courses at a fast pace. The dog should easily switch from side to side at further distances and with greater control. Because Regionals are open to dogs of all levels of experience, courses should follow the AAC course design guidelines for Masters level, with the following exceptions: the maximum number of major challenges shall not exceed three (3), minimum two (2), major challenges. Forced work-away sections<sup>1</sup> are not permitted. The courses should be smooth and enable the team to show its working ability.

*<sup>1</sup> Forced Work Away Sections (definition): a work away section that does not allow the handler an option to run a different and/or closer path with the dog.*

Courses are to be designed for a 5 foot bar width for all jumps, with a 24" wing on each side.

### **3.1.4. Required Obstacles**

Regional course design rules follow the current rules for AAC Masters courses, except as noted otherwise in Section 4.2.

Courses submitted for approval must meet the AAC Course Design Guidelines and must follow the Regionals Equipment Check List in Section 3.1.2 for that class.

Courses that have been run at an AAC-approved trial in the past are not acceptable.

The course may have no fewer than eighteen (18) numbered obstacles and no more than twenty-three (23) numbered obstacles. The number of obstacles varies depending on the class. The Jumpers and Standard course layouts may require some obstacles to be taken more than once. The dog walk, teeter, A-Frame and tire can NOT be used more than once, **except** in the **opening** of the gamblers courses.

### **Regionals Gamblers Courses**

In order to ensure that the two Main Gamble challenges for any particular Regional event are not identical (e.g. 12 weaves with lateral distance challenge) designing judges will be instructed to design TWO gambles per ring size, and ensure that the Gamble courses they submit have different types of challenges for the Main Gamble, and will label their gamble course according to the nature of the Main Gamble: Weave poles, contact, contact and weaves, or jumps/tunnels only (no contact or weaves).

Designing judges are also encouraged to vary the type and selection of mini-gambles, in order that the widest range of skills is tested. Courses **must** include two (2) mini gambles. The available points for the two mini-gambles (that can be completed twice each) must be a minimum of 36 points and a maximum of 44 points. E.g.: an (8 + 10) x 2 point mini gamble; (2x10) x 2 point mini gambles; a (6 + 14) x 2 point mini-gamble etc.

Regional Gamblers Courses **must** include a 4 point obstacle.

#### **3.1.5. Course Selection**

Course selection will be made at the Regional Championship at a public draw using random selection from courses designed by the judges submitted to the Regionals Course Coordinator and approved prior to the event. Draw may be conducted by electronic means or by physically drawing envelopes provided by the Regional Course Coordinator. If envelopes are supplied for the draw, each envelope will contain ten (10) copies of the course to be run, one for posting, one (1) for the AAC, one (1) for the host club and one (1) for the officiating judge and six (6) for the purpose of course building. If courses are supplied to the trial secretary or designate electronically, they are responsible for printing the number of copies stated above.

To ensure that the main Gamble challenges vary, the Regional Course Coordinator during preparation will replace the Gamble type with identifying symbols or letters unique to a particular event challenge. These unique identifiers will be placed on the outside of the course envelopes. When the first draw is made for a Gamble course, all other Gamble courses with the same unique

identifying designation, if any, will be removed from the pool in order that the two Gamble courses will have different challenges.

A non-competitor is to be appointed to copy paper course maps for competitors, and to retain in a strictly confidential status until authorized to distribute paper copies of courses to all competitors simultaneously. Course copies may be made available to competitors electronically each day but competitors must also be given the option of receiving a paper copy at no extra charge.

For a Regional Championship running more than one day, courses for subsequent days will not be posted until the day on which they are to be run.

Should extra course copies need to be provided to course builders, someone who is not competing can have copies made, and both issue and collect all the copies post building.

The officiating Judge(s) will be responsible for accurately setting up the courses as close as possible to the design, and for measuring the course where appropriate and determining the SCT (Standard Course Time) for each height (open, medium, mini) and for each category, Regular and Specials and Veterans, taking into consideration the proposed yards per second given by the designing judge as well as the circumstances (weather and footing) on the day of the events and, if elected, a general MCT. See Section 4.3 on calculating MCT).

When two (or more) rings are utilized for the same course, officiating Judges should tweak together to ensure the course layout is as identical as possible. It is suggested that one Judge wheels both courses to ensure similar yardage results.

**Note:** *In the case of the host club offering other classes prior to or following the Regional event, either approved AAC standard runs or AAC-approved games, (for which approval must be obtained through regular AAC channels) or non-official games or rounds, the host club will be responsible for forwarding to the judge all pertinent information on field size, equipment, running order, etc. In the case of AAC-approved standard rounds or games, the designing judge must submit those courses through the regular approval procedures, not through the Regional Course Coordinator.*

### **3.1.6. FEO Runs**

FEO registrations and runs are not available in Regional events (2 Jumpers, 2 Standard and 2 Gamble).

## **4. Judging the Regional Championship**

### **4.1. Judges' Responsibilities**

The Judges' responsibilities will be as described in the AAC Rules and Regulations and in the AAC Judge's Handbook. In addition, the judge has the following responsibilities:

Dress code: since this will be a prestigious and possibly televised event, judges are required to wear the official Regionals Championship shirts provided by the host club. (The host club's responsibility is limited to providing one shirt per judge per day). The judge may order additional shirts through the host club at his or her own expense.

Black pants (no jeans) or black/white dress shorts in the case of hot weather are recommended.

#### **4.1.1. Course Design Requirements**

Regional Judges are required to submit original designs (not used previously in an AAC or other agility event) of jumpers, gamble and standard to the Regionals Course Coordinator. Number of each type of course to be communicated to the judge by the Regional Course Coordinator. They should be designed to fit within ring sizes specified by the Regional Course Coordinator.

In order to ensure that the two Main Gamble challenges for any Regional event are not identical (ex. 12 weave with lateral distance challenge), the designing judges will be instructed to design TWO gambles per ring size, and ensure that the Gamble courses they submit have different types of challenges to the Main Gamble; weave poles, contact, contact AND weaves, or jumps/tunnels only (no contacts or weaves). Designing judges are also encouraged to vary the type and selection of mini-gambles, in order that the widest range of skills is tested.

The penalty for late submissions of Regional courses will be a 1 year suspension from judging Regionals and Nationals for the first offense, a 3 year suspension from judging Regionals or Nationals for the second offense and a permanent suspension from judging Regional or Nationals for the third offense.

Regional Judges are required to submit courses no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the Regional Championships. Should courses not be submitted within the time period specified they will be considered a non-submission. Non-submission will include a penalty of a 3 year suspension from judging Regionals and National events. Offending judges will be notified by the President of the AAC Board of Directors.



## 4.2. Judging Rules for Regional Championships

ALL CURRENT AAC RULES MUST BE APPLIED UNLESS AN EXCEPTION IS INCLUDED IN THE REGIONALS GUIDELINES.

### 4.2.1. **Obstacle Repetition:**

Obstacle repetition, whether intentional or not, will be judged as an off course. The run will still be counted as part of the aggregate scoring.

### 4.2.2. **Gamble Issues:**

When a handler can cross a mini gamble line:

The dog shall earn full points for performing a mini gamble in the opening once the dog, on the final obstacle, has either touched the yellow down contact, or has completely exited the tunnel, weaves, jump or tire and has four feet on the ground. At this point the dog is considered “beyond faulting”. They will then be awarded the mini-gamble points, and the handler can cross the mini-gamble line. If a dog does not fully exit a contact obstacle (does not have four feet on the ground) they will not be awarded mini-gamble points the second time if doing the gamble in reverse even if all mini-gamble obstacles are performed since they did not start the second performance of the contact obstacle correctly. They will still, however, be awarded the points for the individual obstacles.

Purposely touching the dog in the **opening**

As per the current rules, if a handler purposely touches the dog as a form of encouragement or reward in the **opening sequence**, the run instantly becomes an FEO run. The judge will continue to judge appropriately for the game but for the purposes of scoring at Regionals, the dog will get **zero points**. The run will still count towards the aggregate score.

Unsportsmanlike Behaviour

As per the current rules, at any time during gamblers, if a handler maneuvers through, goes over or under equipment the action will be deemed unsportsmanlike and the handler will be dismissed from the course. For scoring purposes, **zero points** will be awarded for that run. The run will still count towards the aggregate score.

This, by no means, limits the interpretation of unsportsmanlike behaviour.

### Final Gamble

Once the gamble whistle blows, the gamble line becomes live and the handler is required to stay behind the line, even if the dog has not yet begun the closing sequence. If the handler is inside the gamble area when the whistle blows, the handler must leave the gamble area immediately.

If the handler does not hear the signal (whistle, horn bell, etc.) to start the closing gamble, the judge may inform the handler that the first signal has sounded. No additional points following the end of the opening period will be awarded unless the team completes the final gamble successfully.

A handler that attempts the gamble after the final signal (indicating allotted gamble time is up) will not complete the final gamble successfully, as they are over time, but all points earned during the 40 second opening period will be retained.

The last obstacle in the final gamble sequence will be defined as the finish line. Crossing the plane of the last obstacle will not be judged as a non-completion. As refusals are not called in the final gamble the dog may be brought back to attempt the obstacle.

If the dog does not return to take the finish obstacle, time will be stopped manually once the dog leaves the area defined by the ring boundary.

#### **4.2.3. Knocked Bars**

If a dog knocks a jump bar for a jump that they will encounter again in the course, the bar is not to be reset until the dog completes the course.

#### **4.2.4. Broken or displaced Tire**

Breaking the tire so that the two halves do not touch each other temporarily or in such a way that the tire resets or needs to be reset will be assessed 5 faults in Standard and Jumpers.

If the dog displaces or breaks open the tire in Gamblers, it will not receive points for the performance if broken in the opening. If the tire breaks open or is displaced in the closing, it is considered the same fault as a dropped bar and a successful gamble cannot be awarded.

At no time will the breakaway tire be replaced or reset by ring crew during the run. If it breaks open such that it would need to be reset, it is not available for subsequent points.

#### **4.2.5. Refusals**

Refer to AAC Rulebook section 2.10.1 or JHB section 4.1.

#### **4.2.6. Electronic Timing**

##### **Start Lines**

The dog must be lined up on the approach side of the first obstacle to start their run. The reason for this is that, should there be a timer malfunction, all dogs will have the same start line(whether they were timed with the e-timer or with the stopwatch). If the dog bypasses the first obstacle, therefore not passing through the timing eyes, the time should be started manually when the dog passes the plane of the first obstacle.

##### **Finish Lines**

The finish obstacle will be defined as the finish line. Crossing the plane of the last obstacle will not be judged as a non-completion but as a refusal (5 fault penalty) if the dog is brought back to complete the finish obstacle.

If the dog, while being brought back to complete the finish obstacle, takes it backwards - it will be judged as a “non-completion” penalty (20 faults). Having stopped the time by doing so, all further judging will cease.

If the dog is not brought back, the non-completion fault would be in effect.

If the dog does not return to take the finish obstacle, time will be stopped manually once the dog leaves the area defined by the ring boundary.

#### **4.2.5.1. E-Timer Malfunction**

##### **Standard and Jumpers Courses**

In the event that a dog completes the run clean, but cannot be assigned a time due to timer malfunction, the handler will have a choice of running again for time only OR accepting a score equivalent to a clean run at standard course time for their height/class division.

- If the handler elects to re-run for time only then they must run the entire course as it is designed without any non-completions.
- In the event that the team incurs a non-completion they will be whistled off and the score will be reverted to a score equivalent to a clean run at standard course time/ target course time.

- Should the re-run be over the SCT then the time faults will be applied.

In the event that a dog that DOES NOT run clean but cannot be assigned a time due to timer malfunction, the handler will have a choice of running again with a clean slate (all new faults & time would count) or to keep their current score with the Standard Course Time.

### **Gamblers Course**

*40 second horn, NO final gamble time*

1. In the event that the dog completes the final gamble fault free, but cannot be assigned a final gamble time due to timer malfunction, the handler will have a choice of:
  - Keeping their opening points and accepting a successful gamble with the given gamble time for their height and division (i.e.: the 35 points for a successful gamble will be awarded but there will be no bonus time points).
  - Running the opening and closing again with a clean slate – all points and time from the second run will be used for scoring purposes.
2. In the event that a dog faults the final gamble, but cannot be assigned a final gamble time due to timer malfunction, the handler will keep their opening gamble points and receive a final course time of 40 seconds plus the gamble time for their height and division.

#### **4.2.7. Wrong Course (AKA Off Course) Calls**

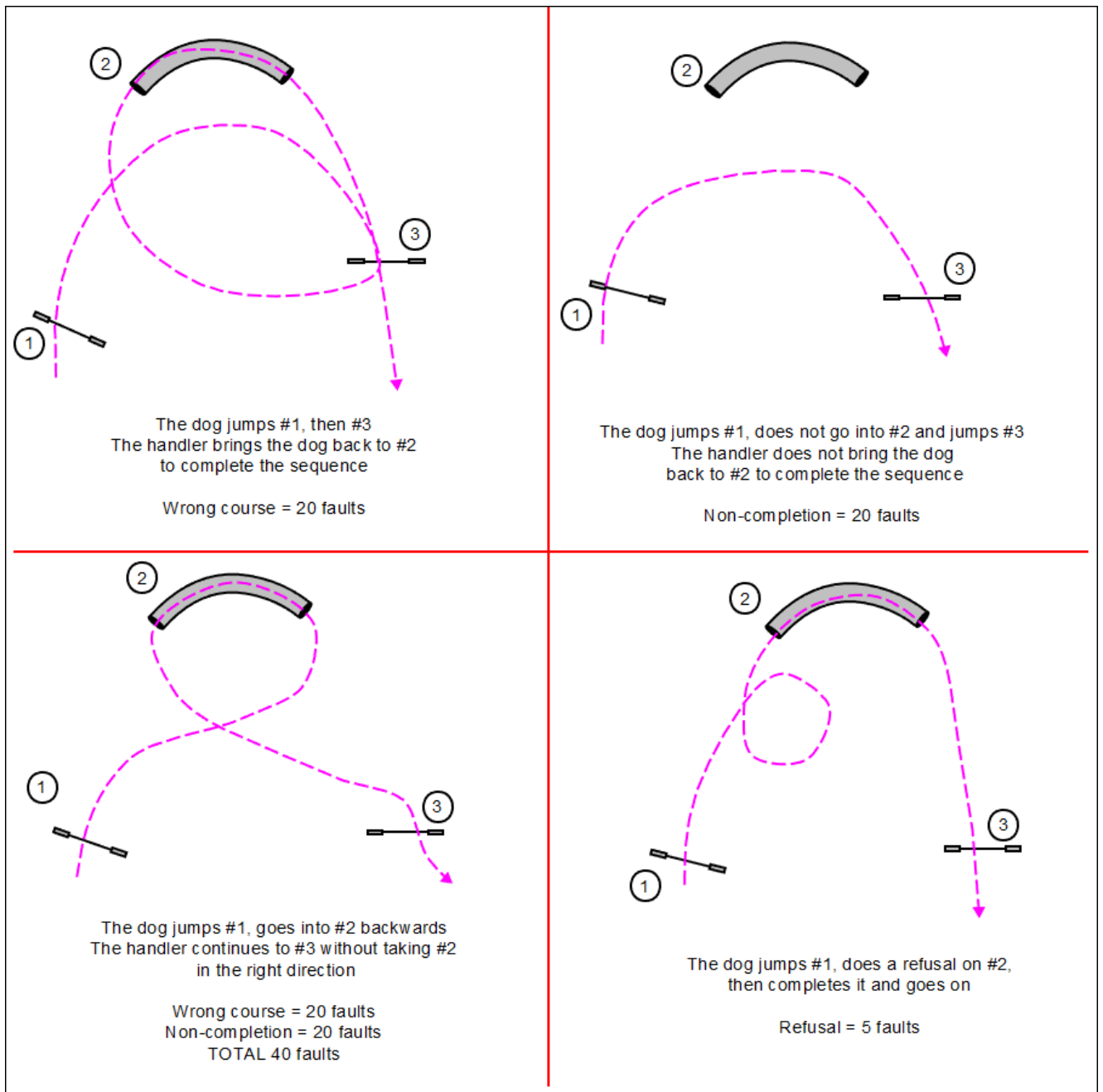
A dog will be faulted twenty (20) faults for a wrong course (AKA off course) if dog takes an obstacle out of sequence, or in the wrong direction. A wrong course penalty will also be assessed if a dog puts ONE OR MORE PAWS on or in an obstacle out of sequence. This includes a dog entering the wrong mouth of a tunnel. A wrong course penalty will also be assessed if a dog “back weaves” (travels through 3 or more poles, or two or more “holes”, against the direction of course flow) during performance of the weaves.

Once a wrong course has occurred, all scoring ceases until the dog is back on course. “On Course” is defined as the dog engaging the next correct obstacle in sequence from the correct direction. Engaging the next obstacle will include touching (with one or more paws) and/or jumping over, under or through the obstacle from the correct direction. If, in the opinion of the Judge, the handler intends to continue without returning to the missed obstacle, a non-completion penalty shall be assessed and scoring shall resume immediately. The only exception to this is, if once the dog has gone off course, **the handler deliberately directs the dog to repeat an obstacle(s) already performed in the correct sequence.** In this scenario, the Obstacle Repetition rule comes

into effect and the dog will be faulted for a wrong course.

If the dog misses an obstacle in sequence, performs an off course by taking the next obstacle in sequence, and continues without returning to the missed obstacle, only a non-completion penalty shall be assessed and scoring shall resume immediately.

However, if the dog misses an obstacle in sequence, performs an off course by taking any obstacle which is not the next obstacle in the sequence and continues without returning to the missed obstacle, both a wrong course AND a non-completion penalty shall be assessed.



No additional faults are called if a dog incurs a wrong course fault by running through a tunnel placed under a contact. That is, the dog would only be faulted 20 faults, for the wrong course and not 5 *additional* faults for running under a contact.

#### **4.2.8. Teeter**

To ensure consistency in judging calls across all regions, dogs bailing off the teeter before the midpoint (or fulcrum) will be assessed a refusal. The teeter will be considered performed if the dog is assessed faults for a fly-off (regardless if the plank passed through the horizontal). In the standard rounds, to re-attempt the teeter after a fly-off will incur a repeated obstacle penalty. To ensure the handler knows a fly-off was assessed, judges should call out that fault and hold the hand signal long enough for the handler to see it.

It is also recommended that the base and the "entrance" of the teeter be marked (see Tunnels) to ensure all dogs have the same approach, especially if fast performances have bounced the obstacle out of its original position or alignment.

#### **4.2.9. Tunnels**

Judges are encouraged to mark all tunnel shapes and exits on the ground at the Regional Championships and use a minimum of two bags (if available) on the entrance (or wherever needed) to hold tunnels for big dogs. Grass paint or golf tees with marking tape may be used. If paint is used, be sure that permission of the site management is given.

#### **4.2.10. Course Building (and Tweaking)**

If possible, Judges should tweak similar courses together to ensure similarity of course design when two rings are needed. It is suggested that one judge wheels both courses to ensure similar yardage results.

#### **4.2.11. General Faults**

Items in the Ring - Food, drink, toys or cigarettes shall not be permitted in the ring at any time, including walk-throughs and course building. Any handler any performance enhancing item (which could be any item that, in the judge's opinion, the dog is clearly focused on, and/or is aiding in the dogs performance, whether before or during the run), or having such items on their person will be given zero (0) points for the current run. The team may complete the course. Points earned in previous courses will be retained and the team may compete in any remaining runs.

Phones or other timing or communication devices are not permitted to be used in the ring during a

run.

#### **4.2.12. Leaving the Ring**

Handlers whose dogs who leave the ring or catch area NOT under control, or are NOT picked up and/or leashed to leave the ring or catch area after their run, will be given an E.

For scoring purposes, zero points will be awarded to that run. The run will still count towards the aggregate score.

#### **4.3. The Standard Course Time**

The Standard Course Time (SCT) for all Regional Championship rounds will be that of the Masters level class, i.e. See the AAC Rulebook section 2.9.

One fault or part thereof will be assessed to a dog for each second or fraction of a second over the SCT. For example, a dog taking 58.50 seconds to run a course with a SCT of 55 seconds would be assessed 3.50 time faults. The time shall be measured in units of 1/100th of a second.

A judge may at his/her discretion, set a Maximum Course Time (MCT), after which a dog and handler will be dismissed from the ring. MCT, if used, will be set at standard course time plus no less than the number of points available for the class (i.e., SCT plus 100 seconds for standard, SCT plus 75 seconds for jumpers).

#### **4.4. Regional Championship Scoring**

The objectives of the Regional Championship Scoring System are as follows:

To allow the comparison of performance across all disciplines (standard, jumpers, gamblers).

To provide the highest reward for a no fault performance in the shortest time.

To recognize standard as the core of agility within the AAC and therefore to provide an increased weight to standard rounds.

##### **4.4.1. General**

Within the AAC the basic premise for standard and jumpers rounds is that a zero score is considered a clean round and the competitor that achieves this in the shortest time is the victor. In contrast, in a gamblers round, the competitor who acquires the highest number of

points and successfully completes the final gamble in the shortest time is considered the victor. To create a sort of alignment between the scoring for these two different types of events, a base value will be used to adjust the score in a standard or jumpers round (i.e., a base value of one hundred points would be assigned to a standard round that is completed with zero faults at exactly the Standard Course Time).

In general, for any event, the competitor that earns the most Regional Championship points is the winner of that event. The competitor that achieves the highest aggregate total for all events is the Regional Champion; this can be further broken down by division and jump height.

#### **4.4.2. Scoring Rules for Regional Standard and Jumpers Rounds**

Three refusals will not result in elimination - All refusals will be faulted and five (5) fault points will be assessed with no maximum.

Wrong course will not result in elimination – All instances of off / wrong course will be faulted and twenty (20) faults will be assessed with no maximum.

Non-completion will not result in elimination – All instances of non-completion will be faulted and twenty (20) faults will be assessed with no maximum.

Elimination/dismissal will result in the dog scoring no Regional points for that event. Competitors that do not run in an event will score no Regional points for that event.

Competitors requesting the Accessibility concession are scored and placed as normal (no points/time allowance is given) but points required to qualify for Nationals are reduced to 300.

#### **4.4.3. Scoring Rules for Regional Gamblers rounds**

All masters gamblers rules apply during Regional gamblers classes. All wrong / off courses after the gamble has begun (after the first gamble obstacle has been attempted) will be recorded as a failure to complete the final gamble. **There will be no refusals called in either mini gambles or the final gamble.** During the Opening Period, the dog may perform obstacles that are part of the final gamble as long as these are performed in non-sequential order. If a dog takes two or more obstacles that are part of the final gamble in sequential order at any time before starting the main gamble, the judge will blow the whistle to stop the run. The competitor shall retain all opening points up to that time.

See Section 3.6.7 General Gamble Rules in the AAC Rulebook for additional information.

#### **4.4.4. Calculating the Score for a Standard Round**

For a standard round the following procedure is used:



- SCT – Standard Course Time (measured in seconds)
- CF – Course Faults (the faults recorded against the competitor)
- CT – Course Time (the time the competitor took to complete the course, measured in seconds to the nearest 1/100th)
- TF – Time Faults (a time fault or fraction thereof is incurred for every second or fraction thereof that the competitors course time (CT) exceeds the standard course time (SCT))
- REP - Regional Event Points (the total regional points accumulated during this event).

If the dog has zero course faults (CF) and zero time faults (TF):

- $REP = 100 + (SCT-CT)$

If the dog has either course faults (CF) or time faults (TF):

- $REP = 100 - CF - TF$

In Regional Championship events, only those veteran dogs under 12" tall will be eligible for mini veteran times. Only dogs 18" and under eligible for medium vet time. Dogs over 18" are only eligible for open vet time regardless of whether they are entered at jump height 16" or 12".

The minimum Regional Championship points any dog can earn in an event are zero. Any dog that incurs enough faults to reduce their Regional Championship points for an event below zero will be scored as having earned zero Regional Championship points.

#### **4.4.5. Calculating the Score for a Jumpers Round**

For jumpers rounds the following procedure is used:

- SCT – Standard Course Time (measured in seconds)
- CF – Course Faults (the faults recorded against the competitor)
- CT – Course Time (the time the competitor took to complete the course, measured in seconds to the nearest 1/100th)
- TF – Time Faults (a time fault or fraction thereof is incurred for every second or fraction thereof that the competitors course time (CT) is greater than the standard course time (SCT))
- REP - Regional Event Points (the total regional points accumulated during this event).

If the dog has zero course faults (CF) and zero time faults (TF):

- $REP = 75 + (SCT-CT)$

If the dog has either course faults (CF) or time faults (TF):

- $REP = 75 - CF - TF$

In Regional Championship events, only those veteran dogs under 12" tall will be eligible for mini veteran times. Only dogs 18" and under eligible for medium vet time. Dogs over 18" are only eligible for open vet time regardless of whether they are entered at jump height 16" or 12".

The minimum Regional Championship points any competitor can earn in an event are zero. That is to say, any dog that incurs enough faults to reduce their Regional Championship for an event below zero will be scored as zero Regional Championship points.

#### 4.4.6. Calculating the Score for a Gamblers Round

For gamblers rounds the following procedure is used:

- GT – Gamble Time (the time allotted for the completion of the final gamble, measured in seconds)
- OT – Opening Time (40 seconds, the time allotted for the team to acquire opening points)
- SCT – Standard Course Time (OT + GT, measured in seconds)
- CP – Course Points (the total points acquired during the opening sequence)
- CT – Course Time (the time the competitor took to complete the course, measured in seconds to the nearest 1/100th)
- GP – Gamble Points = 35 (the points awarded for successful completion of the final gamble within the time allotted).
- REP - Regional Event Points (the total regional points accumulated during this event).

If the dog successfully completes the final gamble within gamble time (GT):

- $REP = CP + GP + (SCT - CT)$

If the dog does not successfully complete the final gamble within gamble time (GT):

- $REP = CP$

If a VETERAN dog successfully completes the final gamble within gamble time (GT):

- $REP = (1.20 \times CP) + GP + (SCT - CT)$

If a VETERAN dog does not successfully complete the final gamble within gamble time (GT):

- $REP = 1.20 \times CP$

In Regional Championship events, only those veteran dogs under 12" tall will be eligible for mini

veteran times. Only dogs 18" and under eligible for medium vet time. Dogs over 18" are only eligible for open vet time regardless of whether they are entered at jump height 16" or 12".

All masters gamblers rules apply during Regional Championship gamblers with the following exception: No refusals will be called during any mini gambles on course, or the main gamble. Wrong, or off courses after the gamble has begun (after the first gamble obstacle has been performed) will be recorded as a failure to complete the final gamble.

#### **4.5. Individual Regional Champion(s)**

Using the scoring technique defined in the previous sections, a Regional Champion for each jump height and class will be determined by their cumulative Regional Championship points from all six events. The competitor with the most Regional Championship points in each jump height will be named the Regional Champion for that jump height and class.

In the unlikely event of a tie, the competitor with the lowest cumulative course time is the winner. In the event of a further tie, the lowest cumulative course time in the two Standard rounds will decide the winner.

## 5. Regional Competition Scoring System

For competitors in a Regional Championship event objectives have not changed. For standard and jumpers rounds the emphasis is first running cleanly and second running quickly. In gamblers the emphasis is on obtaining the highest number of points in the opening and then successfully completing the gamble. (One difference is there is no minimum number of points required in the opening to be eligible for the points awarded for a successful gamble).

### 5.1. An Example:

In order to demonstrate the use of the Regional Championship Scoring System the following sections will work through scoring a regional trial event by event illustrating the different options that may occur. This fictitious Regional Championship will use the following dog/handlers:

Dog Height	Arm Band	Call Name
8 inch	0801	Jet
16 inch	1601	Fly
16 inch	1602	Seth
20 inch	2001	Kyrie
20 inch	2002	Cobb
20 inch	2003	Able
20 inch	2004	Cain

The dogs and courses used here as examples are not intended as real world examples and any similarity to dogs real or fictitious is purely coincidental.

*NOTE: When calculating SCT for Standard, Jumpers and closing Gamble times, all numbers should be rounded to the nearest whole second. Also applicable to the 20% added for Veterans in all classes, the 20% additional closing gamble time for mini dogs, and the 10% additional closing time for medium dogs. The calculated time is rounded up if 0.5 sec, or >0.5 sec or down if <0.5 sec.*

#### 5.1.1. Standard

In the first standard event to be judged by John Wayne, the course has a yardage of 168 yards, which results in an open standard course time (SCT) of 54 seconds, medium SCT of 60 seconds and a mini SCT of 65 seconds.

This allows AAC to fill out the upper section of a Standard Score Sheet with the following information:

Event Name	Regional Standard Event #1
Event Base Points	100
SCT Open	54
SCT Medium	60
SCT Mini	65
Total Yards	168
Judge	John Wayne

The dog information above will be filled in beforehand and so with the information above the standard event score sheet will appear as show below (some columns have been eliminated for brevity):

Arm Band	Call Name	Base Points	SCT	Course Time	Time Faults	Time Bonus	Course Faults	Total Faults	Regional Event Points
8 inch dog									
0801	Jet	100	65						
16 inch dogs									
1601	Fly	100	60						
1602	Seth	100	60						
20 inch dogs									
2001	Kyrie	100	54						
2002	Cobb	100	54						
2003	Able	100	54						
2004	Cain	100	54						

#### Dog runs with no course faults and under the SCT

Jet, a mini 8" dog, runs with zero faults and in 54 seconds. Jet's SCT minus course time would be (65-54). As it is a positive number there are 0 time faults, and a time bonus of 11 seconds are awarded. Jet did not receive any course faults, so the course faults and total faults are zero. Jet's Regional Championship points are therefore the base points plus the time bonus.

(100 +11 = 111).

#### Dog runs with course faults and under the SCT.

Fly, a medium 16" dog, takes a wrong course penalty (20), a non-completion penalty (20) and a refusal (5), but runs in 51 seconds. Fly received 45 course faults so her total faults are her

time faults (zero) plus her course faults (45), which equals 45. Fly's Regional points are therefore the base points (100) minus her total faults (45). Although Fly has a time bonus she does not receive it, as she did not run clean so her Regional Championship points are 55.

$$(100 - 45 = 55)$$

Dog runs with no course faults but over the SCT.

Cobb, a 20" dog, runs with zero course faults but in 67 seconds. Cobb's time faults are course time minus SCT or (67-54) equals 13. A positive number is recorded as time faults. Cobb ran clean so his total faults are just the time faults and his Regional Championship points are the base points minus his total faults and equals 87.

$$(100 - 13 = 87)$$

Dog runs with course faults and over the SCT.

Able runs with 2 bars down (5 faults each) in 63 seconds. Able has time faults (63-54) equals 9 and also has 10 course faults, so her total Regional Championship points are equals 81.

$$(100 - 19 = 81)$$

Arm Band	Call Name	Base Points	SCT	Course Time	Time Faults	Time Bonus	Course Faults	Total Faults	Regional Event Points
8 inch dog									
0801	Jet	100	65	54.00	0	9.00	0	0	111.00
16 inch dogs									
1601	Fly	100	60	51.00	0	9.00	45	45.00	55.00
1602	Seth	100	60	62.00	2.00	0	0	2.00	98.00
20 inch dogs									
2001	Kyrie	100	54	52.00	0	2.00	10	10.00	90.00
2002	Cobb	100	54	67.00	13.00	0	0	13.00	87.00
2003	Able	100	54	63.00	9.00	0	10	19.00	81.00
2004	Cain	100	54	37.00	0	17.00	0	0	117.00

### 5.1.2. Jumpers

A jumpers round is scored in a manner similar to a standard round. The only difference is that the base point value for a jumpers round is 75 points. As the standard round and jumpers round are similar, no example will be provided.

**5.1.3. Gamblers**

Our fictitious gamblers round will be judged by Jean-Luc Picard. The gamblers course will have a 40 second opening. For closing times: Open: 15 seconds, Medium: Open +10% (16.5 seconds rounded up to 17 seconds), Mini: Open+20% (18 seconds). This fills in the top of the event score sheet as follows:

Event Name	Regional Gamblers Event # 1
Successful Gamble Points	35
SCT Open	55 (40 sec. opening plus 15 sec. closing)
SCT Medium	57 (40 sec. opening plus 17 sec. Gamble)
SCT Mini	58 (40 sec. opening plus 18 sec. Gamble)
Total Yards	N/A
Judge	Jean-Luc Picard

The dog information would appear like this:

Arm Band	Call Name	SCT	Course Time	Time Bonus	Course Points (x1.2 for vets)	Gamble Points	Regional Event Points
8 inch Dogs							
0801	Jet	58					
16 inch Dogs							
1601	Fly	57					
1602	Seth	57					
20 inch dogs							
2001	Kyrie	55					
2002	Cobb	55					
2003	Able	55					
2004	Cain	55					

The following scores will describe the possible scoring options:

Dog runs and completes the gamble under time (successful gamble).

Seth amasses 37 points in the opening and completes the gamble successfully in a total of 54 seconds (this includes the opening time). Seth would then receive Regional points of 37 points for the opening plus 35 points for a successful gamble plus 3 points for the 3 seconds less than the SCT it took for him to complete the course for a total of 75 Regional Championship points.

$$(37 + 35 + 3 = 75)$$

Dog runs and completes the gamble over time (failed gamble).

Kyrie amasses 49 points in the opening and completes the gamble but not before the whistle blows at a total time of 59 seconds. Kyrie's Regional Championship points are therefore 49 points for the opening plus zero for the failed gamble plus a zero time bonus.

$$(49 + 0 = 49)$$

Dog runs and does not successfully complete the gamble.

Able amasses 34 points in the opening but fails the gamble quickly so that her time is 42 seconds. Able's Regional points would therefore be 34 points for the opening plus zero for the failed gamble plus zero time bonus because she did not successfully complete the gamble, for 34 Regional Championship points total.

$$(34 + 0 = 34)$$

This would result in this completed Gambler Event sheet:

Arm Band	Call Name	SCT	Course Time	Time Bonus	Course Points (x1.2 for vets)	Gamble Points	Regional Event Points
8 inch Dogs							
0801	Jet	58	48.00	10.00	29	35	74.00
16 inch Dogs							
1601	Fly	57	55.50	1.50	23	35	59.50
1602	Seth	57	54.00	3.00	37	35	75.00
20 inch dogs							
2001	Kyrie	55	59.00	0	49	0	49.00
2002	Cobb	55	57.00	0	4	35	39.00
2003	Able	55	42.00	0	34	0	34.00
2004	Cain	55	46.00	9.00	54	35	98.00

NOTE: Veteran dogs will have their CP (points earned in the opening) multiplied by 1.20. Their opening time will be 40 seconds, but they will receive 20% more gamble time in accordance with AAC Rules. Points earned for successful completion of the gamble will be 35. (Gamble bonus points will not be multiplied by 1.20.)

#### 5.1.4. Aggregate Results

Points earned in each event will be transferred to the Regional Aggregate Sheet and after all



events are run the total regional points will be summed for each dog.

Arm Band	Call Name	Standard Event #1	Standard Event #2	Jumpers Event #1	Jumpers Event #2	Gamblers Event #1	Gamblers Event #2	Regional Event Points
8 inch dogs								
0801	Jet	111.00	45.00	55.00	78.00	74.00	32.00	395.00
16 inch dogs								
1601	Fly	55.00	60.00	70.00	35.00	59.50	69.00	348.50
1602	Seth	98.00	30.00	65.00	12.00	75.00	32.00	312.00
20 inch dogs								
2001	Kyrie	90.00	35.00	70.00	35.00	49.00	29.00	308.00
2002	Cobb	87.00	25.00	55.00	55.00	39.00	24.00	286.00
2003	Able	81.00	72.00	40.00	15.00	34.00	23.00	265.00
2004	Cain	117.00	90.00	4.00	10.00	98.00	84.00	403.00

This would mean that in the 8 inch division the placing would be:

1<sup>st</sup> Jet

This would mean that in the 16 inch division the placing would be:

1<sup>st</sup> Fly

2<sup>nd</sup> Seth

And in the 20 inch division the placing would be:

1<sup>st</sup> Cain

2<sup>nd</sup> Kyrie

3<sup>rd</sup> Cobb

4<sup>th</sup> Able

## Appendix A

### Regional Championships Guide for Application

Details are located below to assist you in completing the Application which is located at: [AAC REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING APPLICATION](#)

#### Section 1 – Regional Details

In this section, please describe the proposed event location including facility name, street address, and province if possible.

Include the proposed event date including the month, each day Regional events will be run on, and the year.

Please provide the full name of the Host Club or Group and their AAC Member ID. If the proposed host for the event is a group of clubs, please list all the participating clubs and their respective AAC Member IDs. Note that the Lead host club must be an AAC Member.

Please include the Host Club or Group's mailing address and website information if available.

#### Section 2: Organizing Committee

In this section, please provide the full names, mailing addresses, phone, number, cell number, AAC Membership number and email address for Trial Chair, Vice-Chair, Trial Secretary, Score person(s) and Ribbon Coordinator.

Please provide contact information for each other member of the Organizing Committee if available at the time of bid submission.

#### Section 3: Site Requirements

All sites must be AAC approved prior to an application to host a Regional event being approved.

If the site is an approved site, please provide when it was approved and by whom. If you need assistance acquiring this information please contact the Trial Approval Coordinator for assistance. [AAC REGISTRAR](#).

If a site is not AAC approved, please contact your Regional Director who will assist you in

arranging a site inspection for inclusion with your Regional application and for submission to the AAC Trial Coordinator. [BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST](#).

#### **Section 4: Ring Requirements**

Ring sizes must be not less than 9,000 square feet, with no side being less than 70 feet.

Surfaces must be firm, non-slip surface providing safe footing for handles and dogs.

#### **Section 5: Judges List**

In this section, please provide the full names, province of residence and an email address for each Judge.

#### **Section 6: Visual Representation and Site Details**

The Application is to include a visual representation of the site and details of the proposed site which indicates the location of each of the items listed below. Please also include a description or details where needed.

- A. A description of the site including approximate parking capacity and access to the site
- B. A description of the ring surface
- C. The number of rings to be used and the dimensions of each ring
- D. A description of the benching/crating area
- E. A description of the relief area
- F. A description of the potable water source for human and dog consumption
- G. A description of the facilities available for dog cooling purposes (pools etc.)
- H. A description of the number and type of washrooms
- I. A description of spectator areas
- J. A description of the vendor area (if any)
- K. A description of the registration and hospitality areas
- L. Indication if there is onsite camping and the number of spots available

- M. Ensure that if there is a fence common to two rings that there is a continuous solid visual barrier that begins at ground level and is no less than 3 feet high and runs the whole length of the common fence.

## **Section 7 - Other Required Details**

If required, please attach the requested documents, or provide details for the following:

- A. Details of site security arrangements both during the event and overnight.
- B. Details of special events (evenings) planned surrounding the Regional Championship. e.g. Banquet or BBQ. If yes, please include if on-site, date, if ticket sales expected to cover cost.
- C. Include event details if an AAC Sanctioned events or non-sanctioned events will be held before or after the Regional Championship (6 classes – 2 Standard, 2 Jumpers, 2 Gamble). e.g., Steeplechase classes, Snooker Class, Steeplechase final etc.
- D. Details of any TV Coverage or other potential or planned media coverage. Please note that media waivers on Premium must be signed by all competitors.
- E. Details of the insurance coverage for the Host Club(s) or Group, Regional Championship and proposed site.
- F. E-Timing equipment
- G. Include distance to access pet friendly hotels.

## **Section 8 – Regional Championship Budget**

In this section, please provide the financial details of the Regional Championship event. Regional Championship hosts must submit budgets based on the event being, at minimum, break-even and proposed entry fees should reflect this objective. In this section please discuss the basis for the anticipated number of competitors that will attend the Regional Championship as well as any other pertinent details that are necessary to explain the budget.

The Budget should be prepared in spreadsheet format with working links and formulas. Include the Budget as an Attachment to the application. The proposed budget should show:

Revenues:

- H. The anticipated number of competitors, the entry fees and the anticipated entry fee revenues including the proposed entry fee per dog
- I. Sponsorship or other like revenues (in cash or otherwise) such as vendor space rental fees (if any).
- J. Clothing or other product sales.
- K. Banquet fees.
- L. Revenues associated with warm up games (if any).
- M. Miscellaneous Revenues
- N. Clothing

Expenses:

- A. Site fee including facility rental and security costs
- B. Judges fees
- C. Judge travel, meal expenses, and accommodation costs
- D. Volunteer expenses (food, clothing and recognition gift see: 2.2.2. BB)
- E. Banquet costs
- F. AAC Fees (for Club events – Steeplechase, Snooker etc.)
- G. Clothing
- H. Trial expenses
- I. Equipment
- J. Porta Pottie Rentals
- K. Catalog, Results, and other printing
- L. Insurance
- M. Office Supplies
- N. Regional event Ribbons and prizes
- O. Ring fencing

- P. Security
- Q. Security wristbands
- R. AAC sanctioned classes Prizes/Ribbons
- S. Unsanctioned classes prizes/ribbons (Final Steeplechase etc.)
- T. Tent rentals
- U. PayPal transaction fees/domain registration
- V. Scoring program
- W. General trial expenses and miscellaneous expenses

## Section 9 – Regional Championship Host Declaration

The Chairperson must sign the Application form agreeing to and acknowledging the following:

The undersigned agree and acknowledge that by submitting and signing this Application to host an Agility Association of Canada (AAC) Regional Championship trial that they are knowledgeable of the Rules and Regulations of the AAC. They furthermore agree to the stipulations set forth in the Regional Championship Application Form, stipulated in the Official Rules and Regulations of the AAC, stipulations set forth in the Regional Championship Rules and other stipulations as may be set by the AAC Board of Directors or the Nationals Steering Committee.

Sanctioning of your application to host a Regional Agility Championships is based in part on the submitted budget, which indicates that you have taken into consideration the costs involved in hosting an event of this size and scope and that the undersigned agree they will endeavor to host an event that will not incur financial losses. Although the budget is not binding, **all claims against the Host for monies owed in relation to the event will be the responsibility of the Host organization alone, with AAC bearing no responsibility.** The profit or loss of the event is yours to keep, or bear, respectively. AAC will not be responsible to any participant for the failure of the host club to meet their obligations. If, at any point during the planning stages, deviation from the approved budget is required, the Host Club will inform the NSC immediately and work with them to address the issues and find possible solutions to get the finances back on track.

The undersigned agrees and acknowledges that the Nationals Steering Committee and the AAC shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for a Regional Championship and in the event that an approval is withheld, the proposed host club shall have no claim against the National Steering Committee or the AAC.

The undersigned agrees to not refuse entry to a competitor without the permission of the National Steering Committee. In the case of a complaint regarding refusing entry to a group or individual, a written statement should be sent to the Nationals Steering Committee to be reviewed by an independent party. A written response from this party will be forwarded to the host club and the plaintiff. This decision will be final. If breed specific legislation requirements cannot be met please contact the National Steering Committee for assistance.

The undersigned agrees that all AAC-sanctioned classes, warm-up rings and non-sanctioned classes on the same trial site and being held in conjunction with Regional events will not be limited entry registration events or refuse entry to a competitor registered to compete in the Regional events.

Each person signing this Application should review it thoroughly as their signature indicates

that they have done so and that the information is correct. The Undersigning person(s) shall be an authorized person(s) of the host club or in the case of a group of clubs, the designated lead host club.

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Signed by Chairperson

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Date



## Appendix B – US State to Region Chart

### State to Region Chart

State	AAC Regional	State	AAC Regional
Alabama	Ontario West	Montana	Alberta / North West Territories
Alaska	British Columbia / Yukon	Nebraska	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut
Arizona	British Columbia / Yukon	Nevada	British Columbia / Yukon
Arkansas	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut	New Hampshire	Quebec
California	British Columbia / Yukon	New Jersey	Ontario East
Colorado	Alberta / North West Territories	New Mexico	Alberta / North West Territories
Connecticut	Quebec	New York	Ontario East
Delaware	Ontario East	North Carolina	Ontario West
District Of Columbia	Ontario East	North Dakota	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut
Florida	Ontario East	Ohio	Ontario West
Georgia	Ontario West	Oklahoma	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut
Hawaii	British Columbia / Yukon	Oregon	British Columbia / Yukon
Idaho	British Columbia / Yukon	Pennsylvania	Ontario East
Illinois	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut	Rhode Island	Quebec
Indiana	Ontario West	South Carolina	Ontario West
Iowa	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut	South Dakota	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut
Kansas	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut	Tennessee	Ontario West
Kentucky	Ontario West	Texas	Alberta / North West Territories
Louisiana	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut	Utah	British Columbia / Yukon
Maine	New Brunswick / PEI	Vermont	Quebec
Maryland	Ontario East	Virginia	Ontario East
Massachusetts	Quebec	Washington	British Columbia / Yukon
Michigan	Ontario West	West Virginia	Ontario West
Minnesota	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut	Wisconsin	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut
Mississippi	Ontario West	Wyoming	Alberta / North West Territories
Missouri	Saskatchewan / Manitoba / Nunavut		

## Appendix C – Bitches in Season Pilot

Bitches in season (BIS) will be allowed to compete at all 2024 Regional and Nationals events.

The host's premium must state clearly that BIS are allowed to compete, and the specific rules and regulations pertaining to BIS and any additional requirements deemed reasonable by the host.

Hosts will be required to fill in a short questionnaire as part of the post-event report.

Requirements for BIS at AAC Regional and National Events:

The following conditions will apply and must be clearly stated in the club premium:

1. Handlers are required to notify the trial secretary that they will be running a BIS at the event as soon as it is known.
2. It must be stated in the club premium that handlers should minimize exposure of their BIS to other dogs and limit their movements about the grounds.
3. Competitors with dogs that come into season will be allowed to withdraw and will be offered a refund if they choose not to compete.
4. Competitors will be notified there is a BIS on site.
5. A protective mat shall be used at the start line. The host will provide the mat for all BIS to use on the start line. (Minimum of a 2'x3' mat of non-slip material)
6. BIS will be required to run in protective panties. If panties happen to come off in the middle of the run, there will be no fault.
7. BIS will run as a group at the end of each class.
8. "BIS" will be noted next to the dog's name on the gate sheet so that other competitors, ring crew and the Judge(s) are aware.
9. BIS must use a designated relief area.
10. BIS must wear protective panties when not within the designated relief area.

BIS must be allowed to compete at any events, whether sanctioned titling classes or non-sanctioned runs, held in conjunction with Regionals and Nationals on the same site.

## Change Log

### Version 2.1

	Page
Added BIS pilot appendix	51
Added Accessibility points requirement for Nationals qualification	5, 33
Allowing pre-check of dog ID cards	13
Distribution of courses	24
Clarification of wrong course / non-completion judging	30
Broken tire fault	27