

Agility Association of Canada



AAC National Championships Rules and Guidelines

June 2023: V 4.0

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

The National 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 National events and that vary from the AAC Rules and Regulations.

AAC Board of Director resolutions included to June 2023.

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Rules & Guidelines

1. Qualifying for AAC National Championship

The Agility Association of Canada's (AAC) Regional Championships are prestigious events unto themselves as well as a stepping stone to the AAC National Championships. Dogs 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 or an alternative Regional (by special application to the National Steering Committee only) may apply to compete at the National Championship by qualifying at a pre-qualifier event .

1.1. Pre-Qualifier

A Pre-Qualifier event must be offered and completed prior to the first Nationals run and will be held in accordance with Regional Championship Rules and Guidelines. The event will be held at the National Championship site unless otherwise advised. This will be a limited-entry qualifying event, with a maximum number of teams participating to be determined by the National Championship Host Committee.

One of each of the Standard, Gamblers and Jumpers classes will be run before the second class of each is run.

All jump heights in Regular, Specials and Veterans categories will be offered.

Dogs must have a valid AAC ID number to compete.

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.

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

Entries for the Pre-Qualifier will open the same day as the National Championship entries. All Pre-Qualifier entries must also include a completed Nationals Championship entry form including associated fees. All selected entrants to the Pre-Qualifier will be automatically entered in the National Championship.

1.2. Selection Criteria

Any dog or handler under suspension due to an AAC Disciplinary Committee decision cannot enter or compete. Refer to the Standard Operating Policy (SOP) disciplinary action at a trial.

Taking of the first obstacle on the first course at any Regional event is considered having competed in a Regional event.

Entries will be ranked and selected by the Nationals Steering Committee (NSC) based on the following criteria:

- Unable to compete at a Regional Championship due to injury or veterinary condition of dog (e.g.: injury, bitch in season, whelping puppies, etc.) or medical condition of the handler. To apply for the Pre-Qualifier, the applicant should be prepared to provide documentary evidence to fully describe the condition that prevented competing at the Regional event, as well as proof that the condition existed at the time of the applicable Regional event.
- Unable to complete a Regional Championship event due to the dog or handler being injured during the Regional Championship event. As a result, the team did not accumulate the points necessary to qualify for the National Championship. It is up to the handler to get the required documentation and submit it with their Pre-Qualifier entry.
- Unable to compete at a Regional Championship due to breed-specific legislation.
- Unable to compete at a Regional Championship due to an agility judging conflict.
- Unable to compete at a Regional Championship due to illness of the handler.
- Unable to compete at a Regional Championship due to conflicting family commitments and/or family emergency.
- Unable to compete at a Regional Championship due to an error in handling of a Regional Championship entry.
- Others such as out-of-country applicants or anyone who does not meet one or more of the above criteria.
- Unable to compete at a Regional Championship due to the dog not being of age at the time of the Regional Championship.

In all of the above categories, preference will be given to AAC members over non-members. The Nationals Steering Committee reserves the right to ask for documentation to verify any of the above criteria if not already provided. Under no circumstances will dogs that have competed in all six events at a Regional Championship but failed to achieve the minimum required National qualification points be considered for entry to the Pre-Qualifier event.

In the event that all applications that meet the above criteria have been entered in the Pre-Qualifier, and places are still available, a random draw from all remaining applicants will be made to fill the remaining places.

At any point in the selection process where there are more equitable entries than places available, a random draw will be used to fill the trial. The random draw will ensure impartiality.

With no exceptions, dogs entered in the Pre-Qualifier event cannot participate in any other special event (this includes warm up runs or sanctioned trials) during the Pre-Qualifying Event.

1.3. Entry Fees

Entry fees for the Pre-Qualifier event will be the same as the National Championship entry fee covering all six events.

Entries must be accompanied by a completed National Championships entry. Entries for Pre-Qualifier events are non-refundable.

Teams who do not earn sufficient points to qualify for the National Championship will have their National Championship entries pulled and the entry fees for the National Championship component of their entry refunded.

1.4. Awards

No placings or Regional championship-equivalent prizes or trophies shall be awarded to participants in the Pre-Qualifier event. Participants who qualify with the required number of points (350/300) will receive a qualifying rosette. Participants will have the option of dropping out of any remaining events once sufficient points to qualify for the National Championship are earned. No refunds will be given for events not run. One of each of the Standard, Gamblers and Jumpers classes will be run before the second class of each is run.

1.5. Non-Qualifier

Teams competing in the Pre-Qualifier event who do not earn the necessary 350 points (300 for Senior/Disabled concession) to qualify will not be permitted to compete in the National Championship event.

2. Application to Host a National Agility Championship

2.1. Application Process

National events are to be held in the window of July 31 – September 30 annually.

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 review, approve or decline bids.

Applications will be accepted between 48-39 months prior to the AAC National event window of July 31 – September 30 annually. Applications will be reviewed, compared and processed between 39-36 months prior to the event window with the best applicant being awarded the approval to host a National Championship event.

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.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BID ACCEPTANCE DATES			
PROPOSED EVENT YEAR	BID ACCEPTANCE WINDOW (48 - 39 MO.)	COMPARISON WINDOW (39-36 MO.)	OPEN WINDOW (36-0 MO.)
2024	July 31/2020 – Oct 31/2021	Oct 31/2021 - July 31/2021	July 31/2021 – July 31/2024
2025	July 31/2021 – Oct 31/2022	Oct 31/2022 - July 31/2022	July 31/2022 – July 31/2025
2026	July 31/2022 – Oct 31/2023	Oct 31/2023 - July 31/2024	July 31/2023 – July 31/2026
2027	July 31/2023 – Oct 31/2024	Oct 31/2024 - July 31/2025	July 31/2024 – July 31/2027
2028	July 31/2024 – Oct 31/2025	Oct 31/2025 - July 31/2026	July 31/2025 – July 31/2028

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

National Championships. A single club, who is a member of the AAC, will be designated as the lead host club in the application to host the National Championship and be deemed responsible for all obligations and responsibilities set out in these National Championship Rules and Guidelines. The host club must not have any outstanding trial results, fees 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 National Championship event. The group must become an AAC member club with the necessary insurance.

The club or group wishing to host a Nationals Championship must make written application to the Nationals Steering Committee for a license to hold the National Championship. The Application requirements are outlined in Appendix A which includes:

- Host Information
- Contact Information
- Proposed event dates and location
- Proposed event site details
- Other event details
- Budget
- Host declaration

The license shall permit the group to designate the event as a "National 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 outlined in the current AAC Rulebook, it does so at the risk of loss of sanctioning of the National 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.

See Appendix A for Application Requirements.

2.2. Responsibilities of National Championship Hosting Group

2.2.1. Identify a National Championship Committee

The Host Group shall name a National Championship Organizing Committee (from hereon referred to as the Organizing Committee).

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

2.2.2. Organizing Committee Responsibilities

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

- A. Announce the National Championship by the publication and distribution of an "Agility National Championship Premium" (entry form). The Agility National Championship Premium shall include:
- The proposed date, time, locations and, if it is an outdoor event, that it will proceed rain or shine and an indication of the trial surface (grass, dirt or artificial turf)
 - Amount of entry fees. (Fees are set at host group discretion)
 - 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 National Championships will be held under AAC National 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.

- The following statement is to be included in the Nationals Premium: "Please note that the Broad Jump is an optional obstacle for Standard courses and may be included in those courses. The Wall Jump and Broad Jump are optional obstacles for Jumpers courses and may be included in those courses."
 - The ribbons and trophies as provided by AAC should be ordered by the close of entry. The Ribbon Order Form is located on the AAC website.
 - The offering of additional prizes and awards for categories of the host club's choice is at the host group's discretion and must be outlined in the premium.
 - When and if cash prizes are going to be awarded, 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.
- B. Providing knowledgeable stewarding and timing, course building, support for course building, ring support, gate stewarding and scorekeeping (See Section 3.2.3 for Equipment Lists).
- C. Providing agility obstacles that conform to AAC specifications. As National Championships are prestigious events that may be televised, clubs are encouraged to update their equipment to the highest possible standards and to ensure all painting and quality of non-slip surfacing to be optimal.
- D. Providing tools and accessories necessary to conduct a quality National Championship including a dog measuring device or height wickets and a minimum of three course measuring wheels.
- E. Hiring AAC-approved Masters judges and providing them with a letter of confirmation and informing the NSC of judges hired.
- F. The club only needs to submit to the officiating judges 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 National Championship events.
- G. Providing travel arrangements, meals, and accommodation for the Judges.
- H. Provide the judges with a judging fee for judging National events of a minimum of 2 times the current AAC rate for all runs, regardless of numbers.

- I. Providing the officiating Judges with a minimum of one AAC National Championship shirt, plus one AAC judge's shirt per day.
- J. 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 for the National 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.
- K. A copy of the official rules of AAC, and the National 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.
- L. Ensuring that a veterinarian will be on call throughout the National Championships.
- M. Honor the terms of any long-term agreements between AAC and sponsors, donors and vendors that may be in place at the time the Nationals Championship occurs.
- N. Provide the top 10 junior handler overall aggregate winners in National events awards equivalent to awards to the other National Championship overall aggregate winners in the National Championship event.
- O. Provide night-time on-site security
- P. Washroom facilities and appropriate exercise/relief area for dogs
- Q. A warm-up area is to be provided with two jumps and room for heeling for each competition ring at the event.
- R. The AAC National 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 prestigious AAC event, and to assist host clubs in garnering interest from individuals in becoming a volunteer at the Nationals, 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.
- All volunteers will be provided with one free event t-shirt (the shirt may be specific to the task of volunteering and include labeling and sponsorship advertising, along with the Nationals logo). *National 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.*
- Volunteers will receive a recognition gift for **each** day they volunteer. This can consist of (for example) a gift card or cash per diem for those volunteering from Friday to Sunday. These recognition amounts are to be included in the proposed budget and should range in value from \$25 to \$50 depending on the anticipated number of competitors attending the Nationals (longer anticipated competition days – higher recognition amounts). Persons volunteering ½ days can receive ½ the recognition amount. Generally, all volunteer positions are to be treated equally with regard to recognition amounts. However, host clubs may use their discretion in proposing higher amounts for positions requiring a more advanced skill-set required of the volunteer (e.g. a Score Table Worker vs a Leash Runner). These exceptions must be detailed in the proposal.
- Host Clubs are encouraged to find sponsorship for this budget item.
- At no time shall AAC National competitors be required to bring a gift or gift card for the volunteers.

2.2.3. Appoint an On-site Disciplinary Committee

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

The AAC Standard Operating Procedures is available on the website at: [AAC TRIAL SOP](#).

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), to mirror the judge's courses, for warm-up or practice will be dismissed from the competition and the individual(s) and their dog(s) will be asked to leave the trial site.

2.2.4. Recommended Host Club Responsibilities

- A. Supply adequate spectator seating and should be outside of the secured competitor area.
- B. Produce a National Championship Catalogue, to be offered to all competitors. 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;
 - It is to include:
 - Name of Host Club
 - Date of Trial
 - Location of Trial
 - All rounds of Nationals with height categories for each class

- Detailed schedule for National 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
- Optional items to be included in Catalogue
 - Listing of volunteers
- C. 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).
- D. A familiarization period shall be optional at the discretion of the host club.

2.3. Setting Entry Fees

National Championship hosts must submit a budget based on the event being profitable and proposed entry fees should reflect this objective. All entry fees collected must be included in the National Championship budget and are 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.

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 the injury or heat, or the requirement of a veterinarian certificate, the Nationals Steering Committee will be the final authority. Either party may forward details 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 National Championship in question.

National 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 clubs are hosting AAC-sanctioned rounds on the same trial site, they are a separate trial and must be applied for and approved under regular AAC rules and guidelines. They may be open to competitors not entered in the National event, but entry cannot be denied to competitors entered in the Nationals event. Once the event has started, no refunds will be provided.

2.4. National Championship Results

The National Championship Results should be sent to the National Championships Results Coordinator (admin@aac.ca) and must be received no later than fourteen days after the National Championship's conclusion date.

The National 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 National Championships Results Coordinator will contact the trial secretary using the information provided.
- B. A completed copy of the National Championship Scoring Sheets signed by the Trial Secretary. This includes the complete individual results for all events as well as the aggregate results.
- C. A copy of each course used in the National Championship signed by the judge and on which the judge has recorded the actual measured yardage and the Standard Course Time.

- D. A complete exhibitor listing including; AAC ID#, Dog Name, Breed, Owner Name, Owner Address, Owner Town, and Owner Postal Code/Zip Code.
- E. Results package may be printed or submitted electronically as a PDF.

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 Nationals Results Coordinator immediately. Furthermore, the host club must maintain a copy of the above information for a period of one year.

The Trial Secretary or Chairperson should send the National Championships Results Coordinator an e-mail stating the day the results were mailed.

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 National Championships Results Coordinator within 10 days of mailing the results, they should call the National Championships Results Coordinator to confirm receipt of the results.

2.5. Competitor Grouping

AAC National Championships ring assignments are under the control and direction of the AAC National 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 (18 or under): a junior handler may request in advance one other handler with whom they will be grouped.

2.6. Judges and Stewards

The roles and responsibilities of the National 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 AAC certified Masters Judges (i.e., those who have completed all aspects of certification) will be permitted to judge a National Championship. The host club will be responsible for hiring a certified judge for their National Championship.

2.7. Eligibility

Dogs that have attained the required number of points (350 or 300 for Accessibility concession) at a Regional Championship or at the Pre-Qualifier event are eligible to compete in the National Championships.

All dogs entering the event must have a valid AAC Dog ID number.

Dogs must run at a jump height at which they would be eligible to compete in an AAC Sanctioned Agility 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. They do not have to compete at the same height, or in the same category that they competed in their Regional Championships. (for example, a dog qualifying as a 20" Regular dog in their Regionals may enter Nationals as a 20R, 16S, 16V or 12DDV)

National Championships are subject to all AAC rules and regulations except where indicated otherwise within these National Championship Rules and Guidelines.

2.8. National Junior Agility Stakes

The National Junior Agility Stakes must consist of either: (1) Agility Class or a combined scored derived from a combination of: (1) Agility Class and (1) Jumpers Class.

Equipment requirements for the Agility Round: single wing jumps; flexible tunnel; dogwalk; teeter; A-frame (set at 5 feet); weaves (set of 6 or 12); tire. All equipment must be AAC approved.

Equipment requirements for the Jumpers round: single wing jumps; flexible tunnel; tire (optional). All equipment must be AAC approved.

The event will be open to all junior handlers 18 years old and under on December 31 in the year of the Championship event.

Winners in each Age Division and Height or Category will receive a Rosette. Additional prizes may be given at the discretion of the host club. For the purposes of prizes, the dogs may be divided into different height categories OR into Mini, Midi and Maxi categories. If divided into Mini, Midi and Maxi categories, dogs jumping lower heights will still be categorized in their Regular height for prizes. (e.g. a dog with 20" circled on its ID card as its Regular jump height, is still a Maxi dog even if it is jumping 16" or 12" with the Junior Handler).

Awards will include top 10 Junior Handler overall aggregate winners being awarded equivalent awards to the other National Championship Overall Aggregate winners.

2.8.1. Divisions

The National Junior Agility Stakes will include two Divisions based on experience: Novice Stakes and Open Stakes.

2.8.2. Novice Stakes

This Division will be limited to the ages of 12 and under.

2.8.3. Open Stakes

This Division will be limited to the ages of 13 – 18 years of age.

2.8.4. Judging

The Novice Stakes will be judged under the AAC Advanced Junior handler rules.

The Open Stakes will be judged under the AAC Masters Junior handler rules.

2.9. Warm-up Runs

Warm up runs must be completed before National events begin.

Food and toys can 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.

2.10. National 3-Dog Team Event

2.10.1. Eligibility

- All handler/dog teams must be entered in the AAC National Agility Championship.

- Handlers must be current AAC members as of July 15th of that year.
- Entries will be received up until the close of the National Championship registration.
- Entry forms will be in the National Championship premium.

2.10.2. Team Requirements

- There will be three dog/handler pairs on each team
- One person cannot run multiple dogs on the same team
- Dogs can only be entered on one team
- Handlers can be entered on multiple teams with different dogs
- Maximum of TWO veteran dogs per team (due to the increased opportunities for points for veterans)

2.10.3. Scoring

12 individual scores from the 6 National Events (2 Standard, 2 Jumpers, and 2 Gamblers) will be combined for the team's points total.

Each member of the team MUST have at least two scores counted over the 6 events. (e.g. the first dog could contribute 2 Jumpers scores; the second dog could contribute 2 Jumpers scores and 2 Standard scores, and the third dog could contribute 2 Jumpers scores and 2 Standard scores and 2 Gamble Scores)

There must be at least one score used from each of the three disciplines (Standard, Jumpers, and Gamblers). Ex. The first dog could contribute 1 Gambler score, 2 Jumpers scores and 1 Standard score; the second dog could contribute 2 Jumpers scores and 2 Standard scores, and the third dog could contribute 2 Jumpers scores and 2 Standard scores.

Ties will be broken by a combined score of two of the teams' six jumpers rounds. The two scores may be from the same or two different jumpers rounds. But the two scores must be earned by two different dogs on the team. (The Jumpers rounds used to break a tie will be considered whether or not they were used in the original team scoring totals.) If still tied, Combined point total of Two Standards will be used, and if still tied the final determination will be the combined point total of Two Gamblers. (The two dogs used for point totals in subsequent tie breakers (Standard and Gamblers) do not have to be the same two dogs as the two dogs used in the Jumpers point total to break the tie, but must still be two dogs, one dog cannot have both scores in the Standard or Gamblers tie breakers.

2.10.4. 3-Dog Team Event Awards

Winners will be announced at the Closing Award Ceremonies.

Placement medals will be awarded for the three teams with the largest combined points.

Cash awards for the top placing National 3 Dog Teams:

- First place \$1200 (\$400 per team member).
- Second Place \$600 (\$200 per team member).
- Third Place \$300 (\$100 per team member).

Awards and prizes are part of the Nationals budget. Placement medals may be ordered through the same channels as the Nationals event ribbons.

3. National Championship Event

The National 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 National Championships.

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 National Championships.

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 over 2 not having a fully signed ID card shall be measured in on the first day of the event by the 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 exact measuring devices 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.

3.1. National Classes

All dogs will compete in the individual competition (two Standard, two Jumpers and two Gamblers) over the National Championship competition. The host group may organize and offer other classes for participants to enter as well. These will be non-qualifying games and will be designed by the National Judge(s) or Guest Judge(s) approved by the National Steering Committee. These games are not to be included in the scoring for the National Championship but may have ribbons awarded separately by the host club. Member clubs may also hold regular AAC-sanctioned classes in conjunction with the National Championship competition; however, this will be a separate event entirely and must be applied for through the usual channels.

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

- Provided that the warm-up runs are held PRIOR to the start of the 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.

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

An overall National Champion for each height (4", 8", 12", 16", 20", 24") and category (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).

An overall aggregate award will be awarded to the top 10 junior handlers in the National event. These awards are to be equivalent to other National Championship overall aggregate winners' awards.

Competitors must qualify prior to June 30 of the current year to be eligible to attend the National Championship. Invitations or premium lists (entries) will be made available on the AAC web site. 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. Application to compete in this event must be made to the Nationals Steering Committee prior to the closing date, which will be approximately one week after the last of the Regional Championship competitions.

3.1.1. FEO (For Exhibition Only)

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

3.2. Course Layout and Design

3.2.1. Ring Size and Surface

It is recommended that courses be designed to fit a ring measuring 100' x 100'. If this is not possible, the following minimum requirements are required:

- An outdoor ring shall be no less than 10,000 square feet, with no side being less than 90 feet.
- An indoor ring shall be no less than 9,000 square feet, with no side being less than 70 feet. The course would be designed to fit a ring measuring 70' x 130' should a minimum side of 70' be utilized.
- All rings used for National events must be the same size.

The course area shall be enclosed by rope or fencing to prevent spectators from interfering with the course before or during the Nationals. Any fence common to two rings must ensure that there is a continuous solid visual barrier that begins at ground level, 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 provide safe footing for handlers and dogs. If a trial is to be held on a hard surface such as cement, the trial 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.

3.2.2. Classes Offered

The following classes will be offered at the National Championship events: two Standard, two Gamblers and two Jumpers.

3.2.3. Equipment List

The following agility equipment must be available for all rings: Please Note - both the ascending spread/triple jump, broad jump & the double jump are replaced by a single jump for specials & veterans in Jumpers, Standard and Gamble courses. These replacement jumps are NOT included in the 10 single jumps required for course design.

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

- 1 Dogwalk
- 1 A-Frame
- 1 Teeter Totter
- 2 Sets Weave Poles, (6 poles each, 24" spacing)
- 3 Flexible tunnels (2 x 20ft and 1 x 15ft)
- 1 Double jump (with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides)
- 1 Ascending/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 type and size of tire*)
- 10 Wingless single jumps
- 10 Winged single jumps
- Broad Jump *

**The Broad jump is a required obstacle for the Standard but may not be used in the Gamblers ring.*

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

- 3 Flexible tunnels [2 x 20ft and 1 x 15ft]
- 1 Double jump (with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides)
- 1 Ascending/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 type and size of tire.*)
- 10 Wingless single jumps
- 10 Winged single jumps
- Broad Jump *
- Wall Jump *

**The Wall and Broad jumps are optional obstacles for the Jumpers ring. The wall jump is not removed for Special/Veteran dogs so would need to be available for all rings.*

The maximum number of obstacles allowed on a Nationals Jumpers course is 23, so it is possible that 20 of those obstacles will be individual wing or wingless jumps (as only one tunnel, one spread and a tire are also required). However, it is rare that all 20 jumps will be required.

Criteria for Use – Broad Jump

The Broad Jump is required to be on the obstacle list for the Standard rings, and an optional obstacle for the Jumpers rings.

Criteria for Use – Wall Jump

The Wall Jump is an optional obstacle for the Jumpers rings. It is not replaced for Special or Veteran dogs, so if provided on the equipment list there must be one available for all jumpers rings.

3.2.4. Course Design Criteria

The goal of these events is to test both the dog's and handler's ability to manoeuvre through complex courses at a fast pace. The dog should easily switch from side to side at further distances and with greater control. Because Nationals are open to dogs from all levels of experience, courses should follow the AAC course design guidelines for Masters level, with the

following exceptions: items noted in Section 4.2, the maximum number of major challenges shall not exceed three (3), minimum two (2), major challenges. Forced work away sections¹ are not permitted. The courses should be smooth and enable the team to show its working ability.

¹ *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 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.

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

Breakaway Tire

The tire may be taken only once in the Standard and Jumpers courses and in the closing gamble. In Gamblers.

Nationals Gamblers Courses

The main gamble in National Gamblers Courses must not have identical challenges. The main gamble shall have either weave poles, or contacts, **or** jumps and tunnels only (no contact or weaves).

Nationals Gamblers Courses **must** include two (2) mini gambles and a 4 point obstacle.

3.2.5. Course Selection

Course selection will be made at the National Championship at a public draw using random selection from courses designed by the Nationals judges, submitted to the Nationals Course Coordinator and approved prior to the event. Draw may be conducted by electronic means or by physically drawing envelopes provided by the National Course Coordinator.

To ensure that the main Gamble challenges vary, during preparation, the Regional/National Course Coordinator will replace the Gamble challenge description with unique symbols or letters on the outside of the course envelopes specifying the two types of challenges. 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 to ensure that the two Gamble courses will have different challenges.

A non-competitor is to be appointed to copy course maps for competitors, and to retain them in a strictly confidential status until authorized to distribute copies of courses to all competitors simultaneously. As the National Championship runs more than one day, courses for subsequent days will not be opened and or posted until the day on which they are to be run (unless course copies are to be provided to competitors, in which case someone who is not competing can have copies made). Course copies may be made available to competitors electronically each day but must also be given the option of receiving a paper copy at no extra charge.

Course build copies (obstacle numbering and/or mini and main gamble lines and numbers not included) will be included in draw envelopes.

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.

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 level (open, mini) and for each category, for Regular and Specials and Veterans classes, 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 on calculating MCT.

If possible, officiating 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.

Note: *In the case of the host club offering other AAC-approved classes in conjunction with the National event, (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 classes, the designing judge must submit those courses through the regular approval procedures, not through the National Course Coordinator.*

4. Judging the National Championship

4.1. Judges' Responsibilities

The Judges' responsibilities will be as described in the AAC rules and regulations. 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 Nationals Championship shirts provided by the host club. (The host club's responsibility is limited to providing one shirt per day per judge). 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.

In order to ensure that the two Main Gamble challenges for any National or National PreQualifier 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. Designing judges are also encouraged to vary the type and selection of mini-gambles, in order that the widest range of skills is tested.

National judges are required to submit courses no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the National Championships. Should courses not be submitted prior to 30 days before the Nationals 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 of suspension by the President of the AAC Board of Directors.

4.2. Judging Rules for Nationals Championships

ALL CURRENT RULES MUST BE APPLIED UNLESS AN EXEMPTION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONALS 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 as

'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 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 Nationals, 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 to 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.

In the event that 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.

4.2.3. Knocked Bars

In the event that a dog knocks a jump bar for a jump, 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 the AAC Rulebook section 2.10.1 or the Judges Handbook 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.
- If the re-run is over the SCT then 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 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 the sequence and continues without returning to the missed obstacle, only a non-completion penalty shall be assessed and scoring shall resume immediately.

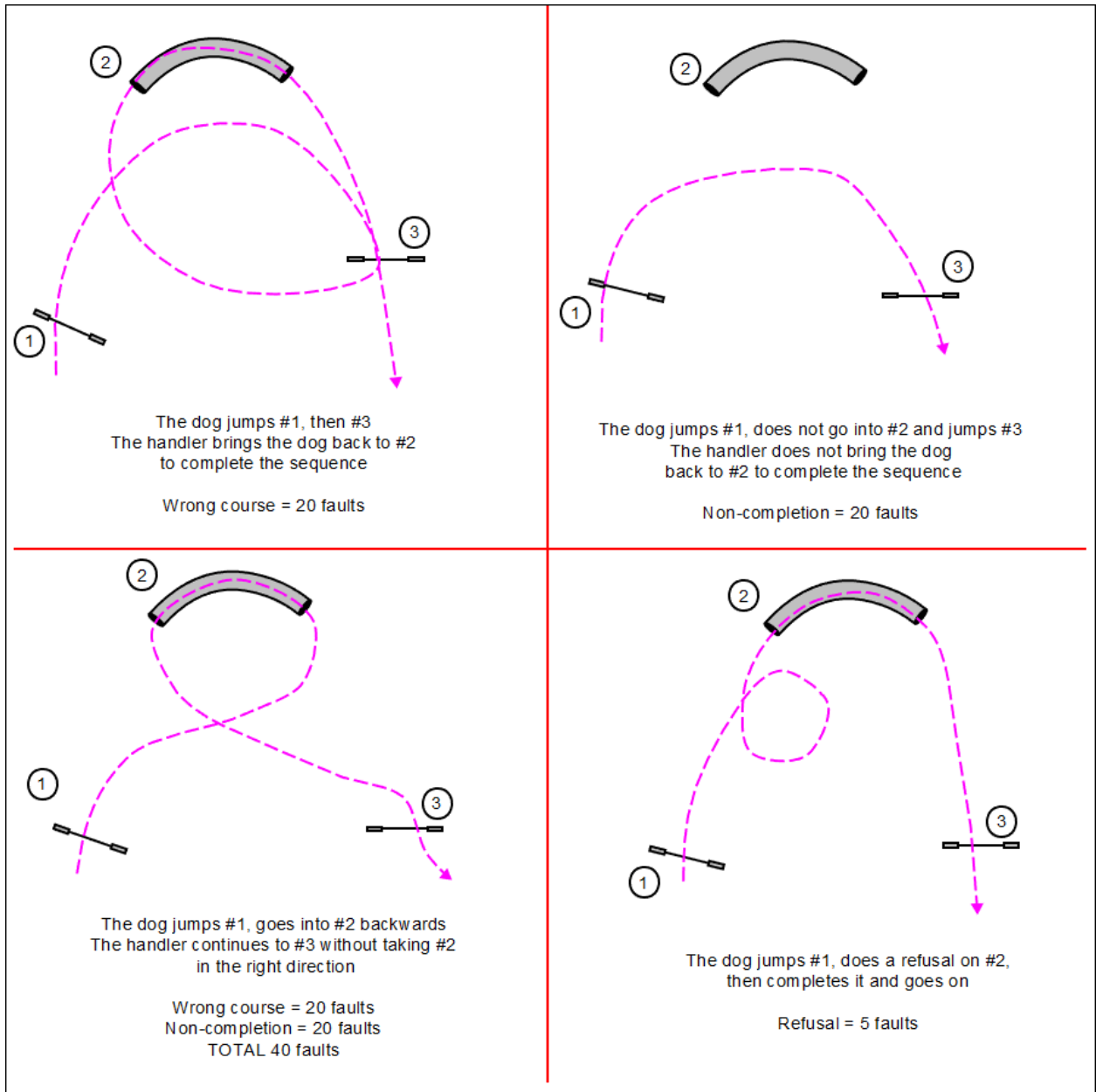
However, if the dog misses an obstacle in sequence, performs an off course by taking any obstacle which is not the next obstacle in the sequence and continues without returning to the missed obstacle, both a wrong course AND a non-completion penalty shall be assessed.

For example,

Dog takes 1,2,3 skips 4, takes 5 and continues the course correctly. 20 faults for non-completion of #4.

Dog takes 1,2,3,7, takes 5 and continues the course correctly. 20 faults for wrong course of #7 plus 20 for non-completion of #4.

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. Double Jump

All double jumps will be set with an X formation of the bottom two bars as outlined in the official AAC rulebook, 5 foot bars must be used and an approved wing on both sides.

4.2.9. 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 of whether 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.

4.2.10. Tunnels

Judges are encouraged to mark all tunnel shapes and exits on the ground at the National 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.

4.2.11. Course Building (and Tweaking)

If possible, Judges should tweak courses of the same type together to ensure similarity of obstacle placement when two rings are needed. It is suggested that one judge wheels both courses in order to obtain course yardage results as close as possible.

4.2.12. 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 utilizing such items, or 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 dog's 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 similar devices are allowed to be on the handler's person but cannot be set in any way to assist in the run.*

4.2.13. Leaving the Ring

Handlers whose dogs who leave the ring or catch area NOT under control, and 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.

4.2.14. Disciplinary Procedure

If **you witness** an act of dog aggression in your 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.

If a competitor comes forward with a complaint about an act of aggression by another dog that **you did not witness**, the trial committee needs to be informed and they must investigate the complaint.

4.3. The Standard Course Time

The Standard Course Time (SCT) for all National Championship rounds will be that of the Masters level class, i.e., 2.8 - 3.3 yards/sec in Standard and 3.5 – 4.3 yards/sec in Jumpers.

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. National Championship Scoring

The objectives of the National 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 try to create an 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 National Championship points is the winner of that event. The competitor that achieves the highest aggregate total for all events is the National Champion; this can be further broken down by division and jump height.

4.4.2. Scoring Rules for National 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 National points for that event.

Competitors that do not run in an event will score no National points for that event.

4.4.3. Scoring Rules for National Gamblers rounds

All Masters gamblers rules apply during National Championship gamblers with the following exception:

There will be no refusals called in either mini gambles or the final 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.

If a dog takes two gamble obstacles in sequential order in the opening sequence the judge shall blow the whistle and the competitor shall retain all opening points up to that time.

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))
- NEP - National Event Points (the total national points accumulated during this event).

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

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

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

- $NEP = 100 - CF - TF$

In National 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 National Championship points any dog can earn in an event are zero. That is to say any dog that incurs enough faults to reduce their National Championship points for an event below zero will be scored as having earned zero National 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))
- NEP - National Event Points (the total national points accumulated during this event).

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

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

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

- $NEP = 75 - CF - TF$

In National 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 National Championship points any competitor can earn in an event are zero. That is to say any dog that incurs enough faults to reduce their National Championship for an event below zero will be scored as zero National 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).
- NEP - National Event Points (the total national points accumulated during this event).

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

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

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

- $NEP = CP$

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

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

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

- $NEP = 1.20 \times CP$

In National 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".

4.5. Individual National Champion(s)

Using the scoring technique defined in the previous sections, a National Champion for each jump height and category will be determined by their cumulative National Championship points

across all events. The competitor with the most National Championship points in each jump height will be named the National Champion for that jump height and category.

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.

Using the scoring techniques defined in the previous sections, a Junior National Champion aggregate will be determined by their cumulative National Championship points across all events. The Junior Handler with the most National Championship points will be named Junior National Champion.

5. National Competition Scoring System

For competitors in a National Championship event, objectives have not changed. For standard and jumpers rounds the emphasis is first running clean and second running quickly. In gamblers the emphasis is on obtaining the highest number of points in the opening and then successfully completing the closing 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 closing gamble).

5.1. A Scoring Example

In order to demonstrate the use of the National Championship Scoring System the following sections will work through scoring a National event, class by class illustrating the different options that may occur. This fictitious National Championship will use the following dogs/handlers:

Dog Jump 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. (using yps of 3.1 for Open and 2.8 for Medium)

Event Name	National 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. Adding in the information above, the standard event score sheet will appear as shown below (some rows/columns have been eliminated for brevity):

Arm Band	Call Name	Base Points	SCT	Course Time	Time Faults	Time Bonus	Course Faults	Total Faults	National Event Points
8 inch dogs									
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 National 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 National 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 National 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 National 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 National Championship points equals 81.

(100 – 19 = 81)

Arm Band	Call Name	Base Points	SCT	Course Time	Time Faults	Time Bonus	Course Faults	Total Faults	National Event Points
8 inch dogs									
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:

Arm Band	Call Name	SCT	Course Time	Time Bonus	Course Points (x1.2 for vets)	Gamble Points	National 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 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 National 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 National 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 National 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 National 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 National 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	National 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 points will not be multiplied by 1.20).

5.1.4. Aggregate Results

Points earned in each event will be transferred to the National Aggregate Sheet. Once all events are completed, the total national points will be summed up 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	National 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 Regular division the placing would be:

1st Jet

The 16 inch division placing would be:

1st Fly

2nd Seth

The 20 inch division placing would be:

1st Cain

2nd Kyrie

3rd Cobb

4th Able

6. Attending the Nationals

6.1. Defending National Champions

All 19 National Champions will receive an invitation to the following year's National Championship. This includes free entry and one free banquet ticket. They are also entitled to bypass the Regional Championship event if they so choose as they are automatically qualified for the Nationals as the Defending Champion. Competitors with a bye who choose to support their Regionals and do not achieve the minimum points required to qualify to attend Nationals are still eligible to enter Nationals.

The invitation is not transferable in any way. The "team" consisting of dog and handler on record winning the Nationals only will be eligible. The dog or handler are not eligible individually but rather must attend as a team.

6.2. Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

In recognition of outstanding achievement in Sanctioned AAC agility trials, the AAC encourages those handlers whose dogs who have achieved their Lifetime Achievement Award or Lifetime Versatility Award to participate in the National Championships. Any dog that has achieved this milestone in their agility career prior to the closing date of the National Championships will be eligible to enter the National Championships without the need to qualify via any Regional Championship qualifying event. Normal National Championship entry fees will apply.

6.3. AAC National Team Members

Any handler and dog team wishing to take advantage of an AAC National Team IFCS Medal spot must compete in the AAC National Championships. The dog must compete in their IFCS height category.

For details on selection or eligibility criteria for the AAC National Team see the AAC National team website

Handler/Dog teams competing at IFCS WAC events may be awarded a bye to the AAC National Championship event for the same year by the National Team Management Committee based on a year-by-year assessment, depending on the timing of the event.

6.4. Regional Chair

A Regional Chair will be eligible for a Bye to the Nationals in the year that their Regionals was hosted.

A single bye will be available for the individual identified as Chair on the Regional bid application forms submitted to the NSC.

There will be no limitation on dogs the bye would apply to, other than the dogs would be required to be registered with AAC as residing in the residence of the bye recipient.

6.5. Others

All other dogs are required to earn a minimum number of points (350) over the six rounds run at a Regional Championship or achieve 350 points in the Pre-Qualifier event in order to be eligible to compete the AAC National Championships. The exception to 350 points is allowed for handlers entering their Regionals Championships under the Accessibility concession for senior or disabled handlers. Points required to qualify in this case is 300.

6.6. French/English Translator

A French or English language translator shall be present on site for announcements, briefings and to answer any questions or address any issues arising.

6.7. National Merchandise

National merchandise may be available and is optional for participants to purchase.

7. Appendix A - Reference Information for National Applications

7.1. National Championship Host Information

In this section, please describe the proposed host club.

- Provide the Club information including Club Name and AAC Member ID.
- If the proposed host of the National Championship is a group of clubs, list all participating clubs and their respective AAC Member IDs (if they are AAC Members). Also, indicate which club is designated as the lead host club. Note: the lead host club must be an AAC Member.
- In addition, please describe how long the proposed host club (or group of clubs) have been in existence and holding AAC Sanctioned events.
- Also, describe how many members the host club(s) has and how many events they put on per calendar year.

7.2. Contact Information

In this section, please provide the pertinent details of the Host Group's appointed National Championship Organizing Committee. Information required:

- Contact information for the Chair including name, address and e-mail address.
- Contact information for the Vice Chair including name, address and e-mail address.
- Contact information for the Trial Secretary including name, address and e-mail address.
- Contact information for the Ribbons Coordinator including name, address and e-mail address.
- Contact information for the Chief Site Manager including name, address and e-mail address.
- Contact information for the Volunteer Coordinator including name, address and e-mail address.

7.3. Proposed Event Dates and Location

In this section, please provide the pertinent details for the proposed National Championship site, event dates, schedule, location and proximity to pertinent services such as hotels and restaurants.

Information Required:

- A description of the site including approximate parking capacity and access to the site.
- A description of the ring's surface (grass, dirt, turf).
- The number of rings to be used and the dimensions of each ring (a minimum of 6 rings required).
- Include an official site inspection or the date that one is scheduled.
- A description of the benching area (indoor/outdoor, tent rentals required etc.)
- A description of the dog relief area (size, location, dimensions, fenced or unfenced).
- A description of the potable water source for human and dog consumption.
- A description of the facilities available for dog cooling purposes (pools etc.).
- A description of the number and type of washrooms or porta-potties available or to be rented.
- A description of spectator areas.
- A description of the proposed vendor area.
- A description of the registration and hospitality areas.
- Indicate if there will be RV parking and onsite camping permitted. If yes, outline the number of spaces available and rates for use.
- A description of fencing for each ring, including colour, height and identifying what fencing is constructed of e.g. metal, wood, plastic, mesh, rope etc. Provide a competitor-only area between rings if possible. If two rings have a fence in common, outline what will be used to provide a continuous visual barrier that begins at ground level, is no less than 3 feet high, and runs the whole length of the common fence.
- Provide a visual representation of the site which indicates the location of each ring, parking, benching area, vendor area (if any), hospitality area(s), registration area, relief area, concession area, washrooms, volunteer- and judge-only areas and spectator seating. This visual representation can be embedded in the application itself or as an appendix or attachment.
- Proximity and availability of restaurants and pet friendly accommodations.

7.4. Items for Enclosure in Budget and Planning Event

In this section identify the requirements, contracts, and details for the components below for planning and assembling a budget.

- Contract terms and rates for daytime and overnight site security arrangements.
- List and schedule of sanctioned events intended for pre-National event or post- National event so revenue can be calculated.

- Outline expenses and plans for Banquet, beer tent and food vendors. (Location, catering, service, and ticket prices etc.)
- Non-sanctioned Steeplechase final (% of sanctioned run registration fees to be used for prize cheques, what are qualifier requirements etc.
- Sponsorship proposals.
- Judges
 - Identify the number of Judges required for sanctioned classes, non-sanctioned classes, Pre-Qualifier event, Junior Stakes event, Final Steeplechase and National event.
 - Identify names of Judges to be offered contracts.
 - Estimate all Judge's proposed expenses for travel, transportation, meals, attire and accommodation.
 - Estimate of Judges fees
- Volunteer recruitment and schedule planning.
- Contracting of a Scoring Team including computers, printers/ supplies and allocated work space.
- Media planning including logo creation, advertisement, posters, passes, security bands, and catalogue design, premium design, printing, website etc. Details for any TV coverage or other media coverage.
- Merchandise planning including clothing for competitors, volunteers, judges and organizers.
- Outline expense for securing AAC approved equipment for National Team tryouts, warm-up rings, warm-up jumps, Junior Handler Stakes, sanctioned classes, Pre-qualifier event, National event and Steeplechase Final across a minimum of four (4) days.
- Secure insurance coverage for the club, National Championship event and proposed site.
- A Provincial event licence for alcohol if a beer tent or banquet is planned and the site doesn't have a license in place.
- Requirements for office and administration.
 - Photocopying (e.g. course maps, build maps, results for binders, running orders etc.)
 - Purchase of trial software Agility Rocks
 - Order scribe sheets for all events
 - Office supplies (most available in the AAC container)
 - Technical support
 - Printer (must be able to print NCR sheets)
- Prizes and awards for Pre-Qualifier qualification ribbons, Junior Stakes awards, National event individual and aggregate ribbons and trophies, 3-Dog Team medals and cheques, Steeplechase Finals cheques etc. (National Steering Committee will provide estimate and manage orders and delivery).

- Arrangement for medical personnel to be on site during event (contract or volunteer).
- Porta Pottie, wash stations, wheelchair accessible facility, cleaning, sanitizer units
- Portable sound system rental.
- Public barrier fencing rental to restrict competitor-only area between rings.
- Golf carts for organizers as needed (rental and insurance)
- Purchase of Agility Rocks National software package for online registration, event scoring, 3 Dog Team scoring, results, and trial package for online submission post event.
- Equipment for a minimum of 6 rings
- Timing equipment for 6 rings with a spare if possible.

7.5. National Championship Budget

In this section, please provide the financial details of the National Championship event. National 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 National 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 or Appendix to the application. The proposed budget should show:

Revenues:

- A. The anticipated number of competitors, the entry fees and the anticipated entry fee revenues including the proposed entry fee per dog
- B. Sponsorship or other like revenues (in cash or otherwise) such as vendor space rental fees (if any).
- C. Clothing or other product sales.
- D. Banquet fees.
- E. Revenues associated with warm up games (if any).
- F. Miscellaneous Revenues
- G. Benching fees.
- H. RV or on-site camping fees.

Expenses:

- A. Site and facility rental fees

- B. Estimated Judge travel and meal expenses
- C. Anticipated judging fees at a rate of 2x the current AAC rate for regular trials.
- D. Volunteer expenses
- E. Banquet and or catering costs
- F. PayPal fees for online registrations.
- G. Rental of fencing, tenting, equipment, timing equipment, sound system etc.
- H. Prizes and awards for Pre-Qualifier qualification ribbons, Junior Stakes awards, National event individual and aggregate ribbons and trophies, 3-Dog Team medals and cheques, Steeplechase Finals cheques etc. (National Steering Committee can provide estimate based on previous year).
- I. Rental of vehicles (golf carts, transport for judges etc.).
- J. Rental of Porta-potties, cleaning, wash stations with sanitizer and toilet paper
- K. Office and Administration fees
- L. Insurance for site, event, golf carts, and vehicles rented etc.
- M. General trial expenses and miscellaneous expenses
- N. Media and graphic design expenses
- O. Contracts for scoring team, software, site, facilities, media, clothing, sponsorship etc.

Applicants should not worry that they don't have experience in bidding for this event, as the National Steering Committee (NSC) will work closely with applicants to ensure that all revenue and expenses are identified based on past successful events. It is common for joint efforts between NSC and applicant on budgets to have several iterations.

7.6. National Championship Host Declaration

The following declaration must be included with the bid application:

The Chairperson and or Vice-Chairpersons must sign the application to host the National Championship 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) National Championship trial that they are knowledgeable of the AAC's Rules and Regulations, Code of Conduct, Trial Standard Operating Procedures and National Rules and Guidelines. They furthermore agree to the stipulations set forth in the National Host Group policy and procedure, National financial guidelines and other stipulations as may be set by the AAC Board of Directors or the Nationals Steering Committee.

The undersigned agree they will endeavour to host an event that will not incur financial losses. 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 mutually agreed upon solutions to get the finances back on track.

The undersigned agree that any economic profit earned through the hosting of the National Championship event, including any special events held surrounding the National Championship event, will accrue to the AAC. If the AAC determines that the event was successful and a profit was made, then the AAC will reward the Host for a fiscally responsible and successful event in the form of profit sharing as outlined in the National Financial Guidelines document.

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 National events will not be limited entry registration events and that they not will refuse entry to a competitor registered to compete in the National events.

The undersigned agree and acknowledge that the Nationals Steering Committee and the AAC shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for a National 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.

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.

Signed by Chairperson _____ Date _____

Signed by Co-Chairperson _____ Date _____

8. Appendix B – 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.

9. Change Log

Version 4.0

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Copied wording of pre-qualifier application requirements to match those in the Regionals Guidelines	5
Updated Bid Acceptance dates to 2028	9
Allowing pre-check of dog ID cards	13
Changes to 3-Dog Team sponsorship	22
Distribution of courses	28
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Clarification of wrong course and non-completion scenarios	33
Added changes to bye eligibility for National Team members and Lifetime Versatility Award holder.	47
Added Accessibility points requirement for Nationals qualification	19, 48
Added BIS pilot appendix	56