

**Agility
Association of
Canada**



**Regionals / Nationals
Championships
Rules and Guidelines**



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1 Rules & Guidelines

1.1 Regional Championships

The Agility Association of Canada's Regional Championships are prestigious events unto themselves as well as a stepping stone to the AAC National Championships. Dogs must qualify at their Regional Championship, the one-day pre-qualifier or an alternative Regional (by special application only) to be eligible to enter the AAC National competition. Although Regional Championships are qualifiers for the National Championship, the intention is that this should not detract from the importance of these events.

1.2 Eligibility

All dogs that have an ID # with the AAC are eligible to compete at the Regional level. A U.S. resident wishing to attend a Regional Championship will be assigned a specific Regional Championship to attend based on the location of their home state. U.S. residents are eligible to attend only the specific Regional Championship to which they are assigned. Any competitor that, for whatever reason, misses the Regional Championship that they would normally be assigned to will be permitted to make special application to the AAC for eligibility at an alternative Regional Championship for qualifying purposes. **Except for dogs prevented from competing at their own Regional Championship due to breed-specific legislation, anyone competing in an alternative regional is competing for Nationals qualification only, cannot earn placements and must drop out of competition once they have earned the 350 points required to qualify for the National Championships.**

Regional Agility Championships are open to all dogs capable of demonstrating the elements of agility and control, and the mental and physical ability to carry out the required tests. Any dog is eligible to compete without regard for pedigree. Regional Host Clubs may, with the permission of the Nationals Steering Committee, restrict entry to a Regional on the basis of achievement.

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

All dogs eligible to enter an AAC Sanctioned Agility Trial are invited to participate in the Regional Championship events. Regional Championship events will be held between Jan 1 & June 30 (or closest weekend prior to June 30th).

Applications to host Regional Championships will be accepted starting June 30 of the prior year and granted approval, providing all requirements are met, as soon as the Nationals Steering Committee is satisfied with the application.

All dogs must run at a jump height at which they would be eligible to compete in an AAC-sanctioned trial for the class in which they are competing, to a maximum of 26" in regular classes and a maximum of 22" in specials and veterans classes.

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

1.3 Injured Handler – Regionals and Nationals

An AAC Regional and/or National Champion is a team that consists of a dog and his or her handler. In the event of injury to a dog no substitute is permitted; however, in the case of injury to a handler the injured handler may choose to completely withdraw from the AAC Regionals/Nationals as a handler for ALL dogs and may designate a substitute handler per dog. In this case the first handler to complete 50% or more of the runs which make up an aggregate score will be recorded as the handler of record for the purpose of any awards. In the case where a run-off is required, the run off is considered an additional run for the purpose of the previous calculation.

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

See Section 2.8 on an injured handler's eligibility for the 1-day qualifier.

1.4 Ring Assignments – Regional and Nationals

AAC Regionals & Nationals ring assignments are under the control and direction of the AAC Regionals and Nationals trial secretary and should be made in a random fashion. No special handling will occur for entries that arrive in a similar timeframe, in the same envelope or with the same or similar last name. The one exception to this rule will be junior handlers (16 or under): a junior handler may request in advance one other handler with whom they will be grouped.

1.5 Application to Host a Regional Agility Championship

Clubs in their respective provinces are encouraged to apply to host a Regional Championship.

Only clubs that are members of the AAC are eligible to host a Regional. A group or club wishing to host a Regional agility trial must be a member club of the AAC and must make written application to the Nationals Steering Committee for a license to hold the Regional no later than Jan 15th of the year in which it is to be held. Applications will be accepted at any time after June 30 of the prior year, with early application encouraged given the lead time needed to plan an event of this magnitude. Applications received early that meet all criteria may be approved first.

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The Nationals Steering Committee will make arrangements with the appropriate Provincial Representative to inspect the equipment and proposed show site if this is a new club hosting the event and their site and equipment has not yet been approved. Such license shall permit the group to designate the event as "Regional Championship" sanctioned by AAC, an indication that the host organization will comply with all the requirements set forth in these rules and regulations and such guidelines as may be established by the Nationals Steering Committee for conduct of such trials.

Written applications are to be submitted to the Nationals Steering Committee. Clubs must have no outstanding trial results or fees in arrears with AAC.

Furthermore, the AAC reserves the right to refuse any application for license for any reason without recourse from the requesting organization. A member club that fails to fulfill any portion of the requirements stipulated for sanctioned trials does so at the risk of loss of sanctioning of the Regional. 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.

Regional Applications

Regional Applications should include information on the following:

- Camping /hotel access to trial site
- TV coverage/sponsorship
- Ring size and footing
- Concession
- Opportunity for special events in the evening
- PA system
- Parking
- Booth space
- Washroom facilities
- Access to trial site
- Exercise area
- Spectator seating
- Security on Site

1.6 Responsibilities of Regional Hosting Clubs

The Regional Results should be sent to the Regional Results Coordinator within three days of completion of the event and **must be received no later than ten days after the Regional Championship's conclusion date.**

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

A hard copy as well as an electronic copy of the catalogue and qualifying dogs report must be sent to the AAC Nationals Results Coordinator within the allotted time.

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All host clubs 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 Results Coordinator within 10 days of mailing the results, they should call the Results Coordinator to confirm receipt of the results.

The Regional Results package shall include:

1. Contact information for the trial chairperson, secretary and score person, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses (if available). If, during the verification process, missing information or discrepancies in results are detected, the Regional Results Coordinator will contact the trial secretary using the information provided.
2. A completed copy of the Regional Catalogue signed by the officiating judge(s). This includes the complete individual results for all events as well as the aggregate results.
3. A copy of each course used in the Regional signed by the judge and on which the judge has recorded the actual measured yardage and the Standard Course Time.
4. A cheque/money order in the amount prescribed by the AAC Nationals Steering Committee (\$1.50 per run + GST).
5. A complete exhibitor listing including; AAC#, Dog Name, Breed, Owner Name, Owner Address, Owner Town, and Owner Postal Code/Zip Code.
6. Any and all soft copies of scoring information. (This includes but is not limited to any data files associated with scoring programs used for your regional). If there is any question regarding whether the information would be useful please contact the Regional Results Coordinator before your Regional Championship and they will work out with you the most effective information for you to send. Failure to provide this information will, at the discretion of the Nationals Steering Committee, result in a \$100 fee to the hosting club.

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

2008 Regional Results Coordinator: Blanche Cooper, AAC Administrator

The club shall name an Organizing Committee that shall be the governing body of the trial. The Committee is responsible for conduct of the Regional and all matters other than those responsibilities specifically empowered to the Judge pursuant to these rules and regulations.

1.7 The Organizing Committee's responsibilities

The committee's responsibilities include but are not limited to:

1. Accepting entries and registrations.
2. Preparing a Regional schedule and a detailed Regional catalogue to be offered to each competitor on the entry form at a cost no greater than \$3.00.
3. Providing knowledgeable stewarding and timing, course building, support for course building, ring support, gate stewarding and scorekeeping.
4. Providing agility obstacles that conform to AAC specifications. Because this is a prestigious event that may be televised, clubs are encouraged to update their equipment to

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the highest possible standards and to ensure all painting and quality of non-slip surfacing to be optimal.

5. Providing tools and accessories necessary to conduct a quality Regional including a dog-measuring device, height cut off wickets and a course-measuring wheel.
6. Resolving all disciplinary matters that are brought before the committee.
7. Hiring an AAC-approved Masters judge and providing the judge with a letter of confirmation. The fee paid to the judge will be the standard \$1.00 per run.
Since the Regional Championship courses will be picked at random from a pre-approved set, the club only needs to submit to the officiating judge 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 6 official Regional events.
8. Providing travel arrangements, meals, and accommodation for the Judge(s).
9. Providing the appropriate judging fee as prescribed by AAC.
10. Providing the officiating Judge(s) with a minimum of 1 AAC Regional Championship judging shirt.
11. Verifying Dog Identification Cards before the dog competes. (*Note: all dogs must have an AAC I.D. number to compete.*)
12. Providing a copy of the official rules of AAC, and the Regional Championship rules, the schedule, a first aid kit, sawdust or sand to repair footing on the course and liquid disinfectant.
13. Ensuring that a veterinarian will be on call the day(s) of the Regional.

The offering of additional prizes and awards for categories of the host club's choice, besides the mandatory placement awards, is the host club's responsibility.

1.8 Host Clubs are required to:

1. 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).
2. Supply adequate spectator seating and washroom facilities as well as an appropriate exercise area for the dogs.
3. In case of a trial covering multiple days, provide night-time on-site security.
4. Announce the Regional Championship by the publication and distribution of an "Agility Regional Schedule" (entry form). The Agility Schedule shall include:
 - The proposed date, time, locations and, if it is an outdoor event, that it will proceed rain or shine
 - Amount of entry fees
 - At the discretion of the organizing committee, a statement that there will be no refunds, cancellations or changes after the closing date
 - 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 description of the Regional rules and guidelines that are to be followed
 - A statement that all obstacles conform to AAC specifications
 - A statement that the Regional will be held under AAC Regional Championship rules and regulations

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- An official entry form that requires complete owner/handler and dog information including the dog's AAC identification card number. No dog may compete without an AAC ID number.
 - A general agreement/disclaimer that must be signed by the competitor before it is accepted (Note that children under eighteen years of age must have the agreement/disclaimer signed by a parent or guardian.)
 - An indication of the trial surface (grass, dirt, etc.)
5. Produce a Trial/Regional Catalogue, to be offered to all competitors as previously mentioned, which shall include:
- Name of Club
 - Date of Trial
 - Location of Trial
 - All rounds of Regional with height categories for each class
 - Dogs' names and their AAC Identification Numbers
 - List of Exhibitors and the names of their dogs
 - Space for course faults, course time, time faults and placements.

A familiarization period shall be optional at the discretion of the hosting club.

It is also required that a warm-up area be provided with two jumps and room for quick heeling, so that competitors can warm up their dogs immediately before competing.

Regional Championships may not be limited entry trials. If clubs are hosting AAC-sanctioned rounds on the same trial site, this (i.e., the unlimited status) does not apply to those AAC-sanctioned events as they are a separate trial and must be applied for and approved under regular AAC rules and guidelines.

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.

1.8.1 Entry Fee

Regional Championship hosts must submit budgets based on the event being, at minimum, break-even and proposed entry fees should reflect this objective. The host club will be required to pay AAC regular trial fees (plus GST) per run entered in any Regional Championship event. 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

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resolution is made to the Nationals Steering Committee or the AAC President within two weeks of the end of the trial in question.

1.8.2 Judges and Stewards

The rules and regulations shall be pursuant to section 2.3 *Judges and Stewards* of the *Official Rules and Regulations* of the Agility Association of Canada. Only AAC-certified Masters judges (i.e., those who have completed a mentorship program) will be allowed to judge a Regional Championship. Host clubs will be responsible for hiring an approved judge for their Regional.

If the Regional Championship is run on the same weekend as the Regional Championship in the judge's region of residence, the affected judge will be allowed to run in any other Regional Championship to qualify for that year's National Championship. Further, the Judge will not be required to drop out of competition once the team has earned a qualifying score, but will be allowed to compete for the Regional Championship.

1.9 Regional Championship Events

Each Regional 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 to place in the Regional 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 Regional Championships or AAC Canadian National Agility 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 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 request, that height cut-off wickets be used to determine the dogs jump height.

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

1.9.1 Regional Classes

All dogs will compete in the individual competition (two standard, two jumpers and two gamblers) over the weekend. The host club may organize and offer other classes for participants to enter as well. These will be non-qualifying games and will be designed by the Regional Judge(s). These games are not to be included in the scoring for the Regional but may have ribbons awarded separately by the host club. Clubs may also hold regular AAC-sanctioned classes in conjunction with the Regional competition; however, this will be a separate event entirely and must be applied for through the usual channels.

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Dogs shall run every round. 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 Regional Champion for each height (6", 10", 16", "22", 26") and category (Regular, Specials and Veterans) will be awarded, (i.e., a 22" Regular Champion, a 22" Specials Champion and a 22" Veterans Champion, and so on).

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 Nationals by qualifying at a one-day pre-qualifier to be held the day before the Nationals. 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 seven Regional competitions.

1.10 Prizes and Awards

Rosettes and Trophies for the Regional must be ordered through the AAC and will be invoiced at cost to the respective Regional host. Prizes of travel subsidy towards attending the National will be decided by the Regional host committee and are not guaranteed. Orders should be sent to the AAC Administrator.

2 Course Layout and Design

2.1 Ring Size and Surface

A trial area shall be no less than 10,000 square feet with no side being less than 90 feet, if held outdoors, and no less than 9,000 square feet with no side being less than 70 feet if held indoors. A show site not meeting minimum requirements must be specially approved. The course area shall be enclosed by rope or fencing to prevent spectators from interfering with the course before or during the Regional. Any trial area **must** have a firm, non-slip surface. The terrain must permit leveling of the obstacles and provide safe footing for handlers and dogs. Absolutely no hard surfaces allowed.

It is recommended that courses be designed to fit a ring measuring 70 x 130 or 100 x 100 feet. Any show site specially approved for a Regional Championship that doesn't meet AAC requirements for a regular trial will not be eligible to hold AAC-sanctioned rounds in the same venue.

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

2.2 Classes offered

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

2.3 Equipment list for AAC Regional Agility events

The following agility equipment must be available per ring:

- 1 Dog walk
- 1 A-Frame
- 1 Teeter Totter
- 2 Sets Weave poles, (6 poles each)
- 3 Flexi tunnels, 15 to 20 feet long
- 1 Collapsible tunnel (Chute). (Please allow for the possibility of a different rigid opening from standard barrel type, e.g., dog house type)
- 1 Double jump (allow for optional wings when designing courses)
- 1 Ascending spread jump (allow for optional wings when designing courses)
- 1 Tire jump (must specify whether a breakaway tire is to be used)
- 10 single bar jumps (allow for optional wings when designing courses)
- 10 Wing Jumps

2.4 Course Design criteria

The goal of these events is to test both the dog and handler's ability to maneuver through complex courses at a fast pace. The dog should easily switch from side to side at further

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distances and with greater control. Work-away sections and a repeat section may be used, but are not mandatory. The courses should be smooth and enable the team to show their working ability.

2.5 Required obstacles

Regional/National course design rules follow the current rules for AAC masters courses, except as noted otherwise in these rules.

Courses submitted for approval must meet the AAC Course Design Guidelines.

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 table shall not be permitted in any Regionals/Nationals courses. The number of obstacles varies depending on the class. In general, the minimum distance between obstacles shall be 15 feet, with 18 feet before and after all spread jumps. The course layout may require an obstacle to be taken more than once.

Breakaway Tire

Because breakaway tires may be used in some venues, the tire may be taken only once in any course. In Gamblers, at no time will dislodged bars or the breakaway tire be replaced by ring crew. If the dog displaces the tire in Gamblers, it will receive points for the first performance, but not for subsequent performances.

Regional Gamblers Courses

Regional Gamblers Courses must include two mini gambles. The available points for the two mini-gambles must be a minimum of 36 points, and a maximum of 44 points. E.g., an 8 & a 10 point mini gamble; two 10 point mini gambles; a 6 & a 14 point mini-gamble etc.

2.6 Regionals Courses

In order to populate the pool of available courses, Regionals Judges are required to submit to the AAC Championship Course Coordinator a total of **nine** courses, **three** for each Championship discipline (standard, jumpers and gamblers). Each course should be an original design (not used previously in an AAC or other agility event) with six courses (**two** each of jumpers, gamblers and standard) designed to fit within a 100' by 100' grid and three (**one each of jumpers, gamblers and standard**) to fit within a **70' by 130'** grid.

2.7 Submission procedure

Courses can be submitted to the **AAC President**, after which they will be forwarded to an available approver in your Region. If changes are required, the course approver will contact the

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designer, who can resubmit. Courses will be sealed individually and picked at random by the Course Coordinator prior to the Regional event.

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

2.8 One-Day Nationals Qualifying Event

General

A one-day Nationals qualifying event will be offered the day prior to the AAC National Championships. The event will generally be held at the National Championship site unless otherwise advised. This will be a special, limited-entry qualifying event, with a maximum number of teams participating (to be determined by the trial host). Rules of the event will be as per the AAC Regional Rules unless specified otherwise below. All height categories in Regular, Specials and Veterans classes will be offered. Dogs must have a valid AAC ID card to compete.

Entries

Entries will open the same day as the Nationals entries. All entries to this event must also include a completed Nationals entry form (including associated fees). All selected entrants to the one-day qualifier will be automatically entered in the Nationals.

Selection Criteria

Entries will be ranked and selected based on the following criteria:

- Unable to compete at the Regional due to an error in handling of a Regional entry;
- Unable to complete a Regional event due to the dog or handler being injured during the Regional event. Team was not able to complete the six rounds and did not accumulate the points necessary to qualify for the Nationals. The officiating judge must provide a letter to validate the injury. It is up to the handler to have this letter prepared by the judge on the day of the injury at the Regional event. This letter must be attached to the application for entry into the one-day Nationals pre-qualifier and sent to the NSC for approval. This application will be placed with all other applications to be reviewed by the NSC as part of the selection process. Taking the first obstacle on the first course is considered competing in the Regional event.;
- Unable to compete at a Regional championship due to breed-specific legislation;
- Unable to compete at Regional event due to an agility judging conflict;
- Unable to compete at Regional event due to illness of the handler;

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- Unable to compete at Regional event due to conflicting family commitments and/or family emergency;
- Unable to compete at a Regional due to injury or veterinary condition of dog (e.g. injury, bitch in season, whelping puppies, etc.) or medical condition of 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, as well as proof that the condition existed at the time of the applicable Regional.
- Unable to compete at Regional event due to dog not being of age at the time of the Regional;
- Others (out-of-country applicants and anyone who does not meet one or more of the above criteria).

In all of the above categories, preference will be given to AAC members over non-members. The Host committee reserves the right to ask for documentation to verify any of the above criteria. Under no circumstances will dogs that have completed all six events at a Regional championship but failed to achieve the minimum required National qualification points be considered for entry into the one-day qualifier.

In the event that all applications that meet the above criteria have been entered in the qualifier, and places are still available for the remaining applicants, a random draw 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 be supervised to ensure impartiality.

Entry Fees

Entry fees for the one-day qualifier will be the same as the Nationals entry fee, covering all six events in one day. Entries must be accompanied by a completed and paid Nationals entry, with the cheque payable to the Agility Association of Canada.

Prizes

No placings or regional championship-equivalent prizes/trophies shall be awarded. Participants who qualify with 350 points will receive a qualifying rosette. Note: participants will have the option of dropping out of remaining events once sufficient points to qualify for Nationals 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.

Non-qualifiers

Teams competing in the one-day qualifier that are unsuccessful in earning sufficient points (350) to qualify for the Nationals will have their Nationals entries pulled and entry fees refunded for the Nationals component of their entry.

3 Judging the Regional events

3.1 Judges' responsibilities

The judge's 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 AAC Regional Championship shirts provided by the host club. (The host club's responsibility is limited to providing one shirt per judge). The judge may order additional shirts through the host club or directly from the Regional/National coordinator at his or her own expense.

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

3.2 Course set up and judging

3.2.1 Course design selection

Course selection will be made before the Regional Championship events by the Regionals Course Coordinator, who will make a random selection from among sealed envelopes containing appropriate courses designed and approved by judges from outside the hosting Regional district, and forwarded to the host club by the Regional/National course coordinator by mail or courier at least five days prior to the planned events. Each envelope will contain 10 copies of the course to be run, one for posting, one for AAC, one for the host club one for the officiating judge and 6 for the purpose of course building. If course copies are to be provided to competitors, they should be made by someone who is not competing and kept strictly confidential until the day on which they are to be run.

For Regional Championship events covering 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) .

The officiating judge 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 3.6 on calculating MCT).

3.3 Judging rules for Regional Standard rounds

For a standard rounds the following modifications to the existing AAC rules for scoring a Masters Standard round apply:

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

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

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

Elimination/dismissal will result in the dog scoring no regional points for that event.

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

3.4 Judging rules for Regional Jumpers rounds

For a jumpers round the following modifications to the existing AAC rules for scoring a Masters Standard round apply:

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

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

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

Elimination/dismissal will result in the dog scoring no regional points for that event.

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

3.5 Judging rules for Regional gamblers rounds

All masters gamblers rules apply during Regional gamblers classes. All wrong / off courses after the gamble has begun (after the first gamble obstacle has been attempted) will be recorded as a failure to complete the final gamble. **There will be no refusals called in either mini gambles or the final gamble.** 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.

3.6 The Standard Course Time

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

3.7 Regional Competition Scoring

The objectives of the regional 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.

3.7.1 General

Within the AAC the basic premise for standard and jumpers rounds is that a zero score is considered a clean round and the competitor that achieves this in the shortest time is the victor. In contrast, in a gamblers round, the competitor who acquires the highest number of points and successfully completes the final gamble in the shortest time is considered the victor. To create a sort of alignment between the scoring for these two different types of events, a base value will be used to adjust the score in a standard or jumpers round (i.e., a base value of one hundred points would be assigned to a standard round that is completed with zero faults at exactly the Standard Course Time).

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

Guidelines for Judging Electronically Timed Runs

1. If the dog fails to start the time, but otherwise meets the conditions required for a "stop in front" refusal, no refusal penalty will be called.

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2. If the dog goes by the first jump, not jumping it and not breaking the beam, timers are instructed to start the electronic timing system manually and the dog will incur 5 faults for a refusal and he must come back to take the jump or incur a non-completion.
3. If the dog goes by the first jump, not breaking the beam (timers are instructed to start the electronic timing system manually), and performs any piece of equipment, the dog will incur a wrong-course penalty. The dog must come back to take the jump or it will also incur a non-completion (20 faults).
4. If the dog runs by the last obstacle without performing it, timers are instructed to stop the electronic timing system manually when the dog crosses the plane of the last obstacle where the timer is set. The dog will incur 20 faults for a non-completion.
5. If the handler interferes with the ETS in any way to either start or stop the clock, a penalty shall be assessed. If at the start line, a 5 fault penalty shall be assessed. If at the finish line, 20 faults will be assessed for a non-completion, as the dog did not cross the finish line before the time was stopped. As well, the stopped time shall be the recorded time.

3.7.2 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 competitor's course time (CT) exceeds the standard course time (SCT))
- ❑ REP - Regional Event Points (the total regional points accumulated during this event).

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

$$\text{❑ } \text{REP} = 100 + (\text{SCT} - \text{CT})$$

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

$$\text{❑ } \text{REP} = 100 - \text{CF} - \text{TF}$$

In Regional and National events, only those veteran dogs under 16" tall will be eligible for mini veteran times. Veteran dogs over 16" tall will be subject to open veteran times, regardless of the jump height (16" or 10") in which they are entered.

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

3.7.3 Calculating the Score for a Jumpers Round

For jumpers rounds the following procedure is used:

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

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

- ❑ $REP = 75 + (SCT - CT)$

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

- ❑ $REP = 75 - CF - TF$

In Regional and National events, only those veteran dogs under 16" tall will be eligible for mini veteran times. Veteran dogs over 16" tall will be subject to open veteran times, regardless of the jump height (16" or 10") in which they are entered.

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

3.7.4 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)

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- ❑ GP – Gamble Points = 35 (the points awarded for successful completion of the final gamble within the time allotted).
- ❑ REP - Regional Event Points (the total regional points accumulated during this event).

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

- ❑ $REP = CP + GP + (SCT-CT)$

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

- ❑ $REP = CP$

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

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

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

- ❑ $REP = 1.20 \times CP$

In Regional and National events, only those veteran dogs under 16" tall will be eligible for mini veteran times (if applicable for the final gamble). Veteran dogs over 16" tall will be subject to open veteran times, regardless of the jump height (16" or 10") in which they are entered.

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

3.8 Individual Regional Champion(s)

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

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

4 Regional Competition Scoring Protocol

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

4.1 An Example

In order to demonstrate the use of the regional scoring system the following sections will work through scoring a regional trial event by event illustrating the different options that may occur.

This fictitious regional trial will use the following dog / handlers:

Dog Height	Arm Band	Call Name
16 inch	1601	Jet
16 inch	1602	Fly
16 inch	1603	Seth
22 inch	2201	Ky-rie
22 inch	2202	Cobb
22 inch	2203	Able
22 inch	2204	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.

4.1.1 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 of 53 seconds and a mini standard course time of 58 seconds.

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

Event Name:	Regional Standard Event #1
Event Base Points:	100
SCT Open	53

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SCT Mini	58
Total Yards:	168
Judge:	John Wayne

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

Arm Band	Call Name	Base Points	SCT	Course Time	Time Faults	Time Bonus	Course Faults	Total Faults	Regional Event Points
10 inch dogs									
16 inch dogs									
1601	Jet	100	58						
1602	Fly	100	58						
1603	Seth	100	58						
22 inch dogs									
2201	Ky-rie	100	53						
2202	Cobb	100	53						
2203	Able	100	53						
2204	Cain	100	53						
26 inch dogs									

In a standard event the following scores will describe the possible scoring options:

4.1.1.1 Dog runs with no course faults and under the SCT.

Jet the 16” wonder dog runs with zero faults and in 54 seconds . Jet’s course time is 54 seconds, so his time faults would be Jet’s course time minus the SCT (54-58), which equals negative 4

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seconds. Because this is a negative value (zero time faults) it is recorded in the time bonus column as 4 seconds. Jet did not receive any course faults, so the course faults and total faults are zero. Jet's regional points are therefore the base points plus the time bonus ($100 + 4 = 104$).

4.1.1.2 Dog runs with course faults and under the SCT.

Fly the wonder dog takes a wrong course penalty (20), a non-completion penalty (20) and a refusal (5), but runs in 51 seconds. Fly received 45 course faults so her total faults are her time faults (zero) plus her course faults (45), which equals 45. Fly's regional points are therefore the base points (100) minus her total faults (45). Although Fly has a time bonus she does not receive it, as she did not run clean so her regional points are 55.

4.1.1.3 Dog runs with no course faults but over the SCT.

Cobb the wonder dog runs with zero course faults but in 67 seconds. Cobb's time faults are course time minus SCT or ($67-53$) equals 14. A positive number is recorded as time faults. Cobb ran clean so his total faults are just the time faults and his regional points are the base points minus his total faults or ($100-14$) equals 86.

4.1.1.4 Dog runs with course faults and over the SCT.

Able the wonder dog runs with 2 bars down (5 faults each) in 63 seconds. Able has time faults ($63-53$) equals 10 and also has 10 course faults, so her total regional points are ($100-20$) or 80.

The above scores appear like this in the regional standard event table.

Arm Band	Call Name	Base Points	SCT	Course Time	Time Faults	Time Bonus	Course Faults	Total Faults	Regional Event Points
10 inch dogs									
16 inch dogs									
1601	Jet	100	58	54.00	0	4.00	0	0	104.00
1602	Fly	100	58	51.00	0	7.00	45	45.00	55.00
1603	Seth	100	58	62.00	4.00	0	0	4.00	96.00
22 inch dogs									
2201	Ky-rie	100	53	52.00	0	1.00	10	10	90
2202	Cobb	100	53	67.00	14.00	0	0	14.00	86.00

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2203	Able	100	53	63.00	10.00	0	10	20	80.00
2204	Cain	100	53	37.00	0	16.00	0	0	116.00
26 inch dogs									

4.1.2 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.

4.1.3 Gamblers

Our fictitious gamblers round will also be judged by John Wayne, the gamblers course will have a 40 second opening with 18 seconds for the gamble for both mini and open divisions.

This fills in the top of the event score sheet as follows:

Event Name:	Regional Gamblers Event #1
Successful Gamble Points:	35
SCT Open	58 (40 sec. Opening plus 18 sec. Gamble)
SCT Mini	58
Total Yards:	
Judge:	John Wayne

The dog information would appear like this:

Arm Band	Call Name	SCT	Course Time	Time Bonus	Course Points (x 1.20 for Vets)	Gamble Points	Regional Event Points
10 inch dogs							
16 inch dogs							

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1601	Jet	58					
1602	Fly	58					
1603	Seth	58					
22 inch dogs							
2201	Ky-rie	58					
2202	Cobb	58					
2203	Able	58					
2204	Cain	58					
26 inch dogs							

The following scores will describe the possible scoring options:

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

Seth the wonder dog amasses 37 points in the opening and completes the gamble successfully in a total of 54 seconds (this includes the opening time). Seth would then receive regional points of 37 points for the opening plus 35 points for a successful gamble plus 4 points for the 4 seconds less than the SCT it took for him to complete the course for a total of 76 regional points.

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

Ky-rie the wonder dog amasses 49 points in the opening and completes the gamble but not before the whistle blows at a total time of 59 seconds. Ky-rie's regional points are therefore 49 points for the opening plus zero for the failed gamble plus a zero time bonus.

4.1.3.3 Dog runs and does not successfully complete the gamble.

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

This would result in this completed Gambler Event sheet:

Arm	Call	SCT	Course	Time	Course	Gamble	Regional
-----	------	-----	--------	------	--------	--------	----------

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Band	Name		Time	Bonus	Points	Points	Event Points
10 inch dogs							
16 inch dogs							
1601	Jet	58	52.00	6.00	28	35	69.00
1602	Fly	58	57.00	1.00	23	35	59.00
1603	Seth	58	54.00	4.00	37	35	76.00
22 inch dogs							
2201	Ky-rie	58	59.00	0	49	0	49.00
2202	Cobb	58	57.00	0	4	35	40.00
2203	Able	58	42.00	16.00	34	0	34.00
2204	Cain	58	49.00	9.00	54	35	97.00
26 inch dogs							

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 the directions of the judge/course designer. Points earned for successful completion of the gamble will be 35. (Gamble points will not be multiplied by 1.20.)

4.1.4 Aggregate Results

Points earned in each event will be transferred to the Regional Aggregate Sheet and after all events are run the total regional points will be summed for each dog.

Arm Band	Call Name	Standard Event #1	Standard Event #2	Jumpers Event #1	Jumpers Event #2	Gamblers Event #1	Gamblers Event #2	Regional Event Points
10 inch dogs								

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16 inch dogs								
1601	Jet	104.00	45.00	55.00	78.00	69.00	32.00	373.00
1602	Fly	55.00	60.00	70.00	35.00	59.00	69.00	348.00
1603	Seth	35.00	30.00	65.00	12.00	76.00	32.00	250.00
22 inch dogs								
2201	Ky-rie	90.00	35.00	70.00	35.00	49.00	29.00	308.00
2202	Cobb	86.00	25.00	55.00	55.00	40.00	24.00	285.00
2203	Able	80.00	72.00	40.00	15.00	34.00	23.00	264.00
2204	Cain	116.00	90.00	4.00	10.00	97.00	84.00	401.00
26 inch dogs								

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

1. Jet (eligible to go to Nationals)
2. Fly
3. Seth

And in the 22-inch division the placing would be:

1. Cain (eligible to go to Nationals)
2. Ky-rie
3. Cobb
4. Able

5 Attending the Nationals

Only defending champions from the previous year's National Championships (see 5.3), and dogs who have earned their Lifetime Achievement Award (see 5.4) prior to the closing date of the National Championship may bypass the Regional qualifying process. All other dogs are required to earn a minimum of 350 points over the six rounds run at a Regional Championship or one-day qualifier in order to be eligible to attend the AAC National Championships. Dogs must run all six Regional championship rounds. The exception is when a dog has already run several rounds and has enough points to qualify but is unable to run the last round(s) due to injury. This exception would also apply to bitches that come into season during the trial. For dogs competing in the one-day qualifier, handlers have the option of dropping out of competition once the required points have been earned.

5.1 French/English Translator – Nationals

A French or English language translator shall be present at each ring to address any issues regarding judges who are not fluently bilingual.

5.2 Regional Team T-Shirts

Competitors at the National Championships will not be required to purchase a Nationals Championship shirt. Competitors are expected to represent their region and wear their regional attire during the National Championships.

5.3 Defending National Champions

All 12 National Champions will receive an invitation to the following year's National Championship. This entitles them to bypass the Regional Championship event if they so choose as they are automatically qualified for the Nationals as the Defending Champion. National Champions who choose to bypass the Regional events may or may not be eligible for Regional subsidies (Regional decision). The invitation is not transferable in any way. The "team" consisting of dog and handler on record winning the National will be eligible. The dog or handler are not eligible individually but rather must attend as a team.

The 12 National Champions of the previous year's Nationals will receive an exemption from the current year's Regional Championship as well as an invitation **and free entry** (including the banquet) to the current year's Nationals Championship.

5.4 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 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 qualifying event. Normal Nationals entry fees will apply.