



What is USDAA Agility?

*and How do I Enter our Trial?*

24 April, 2023

# USDAA

- United States Dog Agility Association
  - First Agility Organization in the United States
  - Started by Ken Tatsch in 1986 after he saw a demonstration at Crufts in England
  - <https://www.usdaa.com/>



1990 first title recipients  
L to R; Sue Henry (judge), Julie Daniels, Fran Hoffman,  
Alaina Axford-Moore, Marilyn Belli, Sally Gleib

# Who Can Compete?

- Breed – any, including mixes
- Age – minimum is
  - 14 months for Intro
  - 15 months for all other levels
- Random notes:
  - Dogs MUST run NAKED!!! (Humans are preferred to be clothed)
  - NO collars are allowed while running!
  - Leave the leash at the start line, not in your pocket
  - No food/toys/treats anywhere in the ring, in your pockets or elsewhere on your body
  - If you hear the Judge's whistle, you've been disqualified, BUT you can continue to complete your course
    - EXEPTION: Snooker. In Snooker, you must exit when you hear the whistle



# Training Opportunities!

- ***FEO is non-qualifying and allows the opportunity to train/build confidence with your dog in a trial environment***
  - You MUST declare “FEO” to the Judge and Scribe when you enter the ring and leave the ring when you hear the horn!
  - FEO is allowed in any class at a local trial
    - 60 seconds for a Standard class
    - 45 seconds for a Jumpers class
    - Course time for Gamblers/Snooker Classes
- Allowed
  - Any non-audible toy
  - Do whatever you want, as long as you’re nice to your dog!
- Not allowed
  - Food
  - Collars
  - Harsh corrections
  - Unsafe actions
- ***Miscellaneous class (not offered at this trial)***
  - Usually first class of the day
  - 60 seconds open time on the course
  - Aids allowed (have a friend set up and take out)
- ***Mulligan Run is a “do-over” of a course you just ran***
  - Offered for certain classes at some trials if there is time during the day
  - Tell the Gate Steward before the class finishes
  - Put the entry \$ in the envelope at the Gate



# How High Will my Dog Jump?

Dog Size	Dog Withers Measurement	Championship Jump Height	Performance Jump Height	Veterans Jump Height
Extra Large	>22"	24"	20"	16" or 12"
Large	<=22"	20"	16"	12"
Medium	<=18"	16"	12"	8"
Small	<=15"	12"	8"	4"
Extra Small	<=12"	8"	4"	4"

- Dogs without a permanent height certification must be measured during the announced time
- **Competitors may present a dog height certification card from a recognized national kennel club**
- The Judge may contest a measurement
- Dogs may jump higher than their eligible heights within the Championship program
- Dogs must jump their eligible heights in the Performance and Veterans Programs
- Spread hurdles and the long jump span will be adapted to align with new height configuration and are posted in the updated jump height chart on usdaa.com under "Regulations"
  - Competitors competing with dogs in performance divisions and dogs jumping 12" or less in all divisions shall not have spread hurdles
- Long jump span shall be double the jumping height

# USDAA “Programs”

- Intro Program
  - Dogs 14 months and older can compete
  - Must not have any USDAA Agility titles
- Championship Program (dogs 15 months and older can compete)
  - Starters
  - Advanced
  - Masters
- Performance Program
  - Dogs jump one height lower than Championship Program
  - No spread jumps at any height
  - Extra time to complete the course
- Veterans Program (Only offered for Masters level courses)
  - Dogs must be 8 years or older
  - Dogs jump two heights lower than Championship Program



# Intro Program

- Optional program for introducing dogs to competition agility
- Starters level courses are typically used
- Dogs can qualify towards Intro Titles with 7 or fewer faults
- Standard course time is Starters time + 20 seconds
- A-frame is lower (?)



# Championship/Performance Programs

*May enter at any level (great for those proficient in another organization and just starting USDAA)*

*May mix and match between Programs at local trials*

- Starters/Performance I (PI) Level
  - 0 faults to qualify in Standard/Jumpers
  - Refusals are not judged in any class
  - Weave poles are not faulted
  - Standard includes the Table (any position allowed)
- Advanced/Performance II (PII) Level
  - 0 faults to qualify in Standard/Jumpers
  - Refusals are judged on contact obstacles only
  - If the dog enters the weaves correctly and pops out, the dog is faulted
  - Standard includes the Table (any position allowed)
- Masters/Performance III (PIII)/Veterans Level
  - 0 faults to qualify in Standard/Jumpers
  - No table!!!
  - Refusals judged on all obstacles



# What are the Classes Offered at the NEAT May 2023 Trial?

- Titling
  - Standard
  - Jumpers
  - Gamblers
  - Snooker
  - Relay Pairs
- Tournaments
  - Grand Prix
  - Steeplechase
  - Biathlon



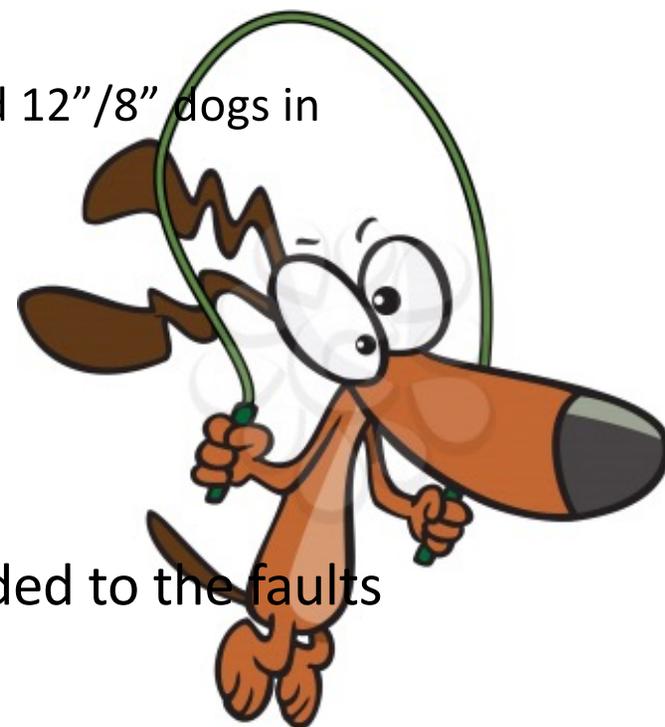
# Starters/PI Standard



- The classic agility course, which includes all the obstacles
  - A-frame, Dogwalk, Teeter, 12 weave poles, Pause Table, Tunnels, Tire, Jumps and Spread Jumps (no spreads for Performance or dogs jumping 12" or less in Championship)
- 0 Faults to Qualify
- Refusals are not Judged
- Weave poles are not faulted (but they must be completed to qualify)
- Knocked bars, missed contacts, wrong course = 5 faults
- 3 attempts to complete a contact obstacle
- Omitting an obstacle = 20 faults
- Any fraction of a second over Course Time is added to the faults

# Starters/PI Jumpers

- Course is Jumps and Tunnels
  - Includes spread jump(s), except for Performance and 12"/8" dogs in Championship
- 0 faults to Qualify
- Refusals are not Judged
- Knocked bars, wrong course = 5 faults
- Omitting an obstacle = 20 faults
- Any fraction of a second over Course Time is added to the faults



# Starters/PI Gamblers

*Object of the Game: Accumulate as many points as you can in the opening, then complete the distance challenge after the horn blows*

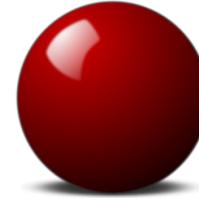
- ALWAYS listen to the Judge's Briefing, and ask any questions you have!
- Gamblers consists of two parts: The Opening and the Closing/Gamble
  - In the opening you want to accumulate at least a certain number of points, based on the obstacles successfully performed.
  - Two scoring systems (Judge's choice) – **1,3,5,7** (most common) or **1,2,3,5**
    - Jumps are always worth **1** or **1** point
    - Round things (tunnels, tire) are worth **3** or **2** points
    - Contacts and weaves are worth **5** or **3** points
    - Judge's choice contact/weaves is worth **7** or **5** points
  - Opening time is typically 25 seconds
    - **1,3,5,7** – you need **18** points to be eligible to qualify
    - **1,2,3,5** – you need **13** points to be eligible to qualify
    - You can complete each obstacle **two times for points**
  - At 25 seconds the horn sounds, and then you can complete the Closing/Gamble (a.k.a. distance challenge, a.k.a. Joker)
    - Dogs completes the numbered obstacles in sequence and crosses the finish line/obstacle within the required time while you stay behind the "Gamble Line"



***The bottom line: you can do the obstacles your dog likes best and still get a chance to qualify!***

# Starters/PI Snooker

*Object of the Game: Get at least 37 points before time runs out*



- ALWAYS listen to the Judge's Briefing, and ask any questions you have!
- Snooker consists of an opening and a closing
- Opening
  - After crossing the start line/jump, **successful completion of a RED jump earns you the opportunity to complete any other pointed obstacle/combination**
  - After attempting a pointed obstacle/combination you must complete a **DIFFERENT RED** jump, then you can attempt another or the same pointed obstacle/combination
  - Once you have attempted **three RED** jumps + pointed obstacles/combinations, proceed to the closing
- Closing
  - Complete obstacles/combinations 2 – 7 in order
- If you knock a **RED** bar in the opening, immediately go do **another RED** jump, without taking anything in between!
- If the Judge blows his/her whistle, proceed to the finish jump/line

# Combined Pairs

- Each Dog/Handler team runs ½ the course. The handlers may exchange a baton between their runs (but not always since COVID, Judge's choice)
- Dogs at all levels run on the same course
  - Scored Time + Faults
    - Missed contact, refusal, knocked bar = 5 faults
    - Wrong course = 20 faults
    - **If the sum of the dogs' time plus faults incurred are less than SCT, then both dogs Qualify**
  - Advanced Rules are used
  - **Championship and Performance run separate**
    - Any Championship dog can Pair with any other Championship dog
    - Any Performance dog can Pair with any other Performance dog
    - IF a Performance dog wants to Pair with a Championship dog, one dog must run in the other Program
- Placements are by Mini and Open division
  - But...a Mini dog can run with an Open dog using the Open Standard Course Time
- Two rounds are offered at the NEAT trial, if you enter both rounds you must run the other half of the course in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

# Tournaments

*Any dog can enter any Tournament*

- **Grand Prix**
  - Qualifier for Cynosports (USDAA Nationals)
  - Standard Course
  - Need 0 faults to Qualify
  - Masters Rules
  - Need at least one for Championship (ADCH)
- **Steeplechase**
  - Qualifier for Cynosports (USDAA Nationals)
  - Course is designed for SPEED!
  - Jumpers Course with A-frame and 12 weave poles
  - Either the A-frame or the weaves are done twice (Judge's choice)
  - Scored Time + Faults, the dog with the lowest score wins
  - Dogs with scores within 25% of the average of the three lowest scores Qualify
  - No refusals, weaves are not faulted, Off-course = elimination
  - Need at least one for Championship (ADCH)
- **Masters Challenge Biathlon**
  - Two round event consisting of International style Standard and Jumpers courses
  - Jumpers course has a long jump and weave poles
  - Event is scored Time + Faults
  - Similar to AKC Premier and UKI Masters Series



# So How do I Enter the NEAT Trial?

- <http://www.k9agilityservices.com/upcoming.php>
- Easiest way is to go to Val's website (K9AgilityServices)
- Also can find the information on the USDAA site  
<https://www.usdaa.com/events/event-calendar.cfm>
- The Test Schedule (a.k.a. Premium) has all the trial information, class schedule, and registration form
- The Entry Form is a fillable entry form for the specific trial
- Dogs must be registered with USDAA. You can either submit a registration form with your entry, or you can register online (recommended).
- Fill out the form and your check, and snail mail it to Val
- If it's close to the closing date, also e-mail a copy of the entry form to Val

Questions?

