

Summary of new USDAA rule changes, courtesy of Roger Ly:

1. New jump heights! USDAA has settled into jump heights that align more with other venues like AKC and UKI. Note that there is no longer a 10", 14" or 22" height, and a 4" Performance height has been added. So, you are looking at Championship heights of 8, 12, 16, 20, 24. Performance heights are 4" shorter: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20. Cut-offs are similar to that of AKC with the exception of the two smallest heights which have cut offs of 15" and 12"
2. If you have a recorded measurement in USDAA, it SHOULD get updated in the system to reflect your new jump height
3. If you don't have a USDAA measurement, but you have a kennel club measurement, you CAN use that one. So, you can use your AKC measurement if you'd like. Note this ONLY applies to your national kennel club measurements, not all other organizations.
4. You CAN jump higher in your Championship height. You CANNOT jump higher than your Performance height.
5. Spreads will only be available for C16" or higher dogs. That means if you jump lower than 16" or you are in Performance, you will not see a spread.
6. Only ascending spreads now (getting verification). And the spreads CAN be built with two sets of wings if desired.
7. Long jump distances are now simply double the height the dog is jumping: 24" jumping dogs get a 48" long jump span, for example
8. There is an 8" table for 8" and smaller jumping dogs.
9. Minimum age for competition has been changed to 15 months.
10. Dogs can start at any level. If you think you are ready for Masters, you can enter Masters without going through Starters/Advanced. Whether you SHOULD do that is a decision you'll need to make for yourself.
11. In the original announcement for Cynosport 2023 rules, it was indicated that the winner of GP at a "super" Regional Final would automatically get a bye into Cynosport GP Finals. That has been updated to say that the winner of GP at ANY Regional will get a bye into GP Finals at Cynosport
12. New rules go into effect on 12/1. Clubs can opt into these new rules sooner if they would like by contacting the office.

2023 Tournaments & Regulations

Effective December 1, 2022; adoption of new regulations on jump heights for earlier events may be permitted with office approval.

Tournament Regulations for the 2023 tournament season were published last month, with qualification requirements for Cynosport remain unchanged, while new “Bye” rules have been put in place based upon qualitative performance standards:

- The Regional Grand Prix Champions (1st Place) in each height class at all Regional Championship events in 2023 (amended from initial publication) may qualify for a Bye to the Grand Prix of Dog Agility Finals by meeting the published time standards in the tournament regulations, which reflect that of past Grand Prix finalists.
- Byes into Cynosport Semifinals may be earned through local qualifiers by meeting published performance standards, as well as by qualifying pursuant to published tournament rules for the Regional Championship finals.
- Awards in individual tournaments are by jump height within their respective size divisions.

Dog Measurement and Jump Heights

Following is the schedule of new dog measurement and jump height requirements:

Dog Size	Dog Withers Measurement	Championship Jump Heights	Performance Jump Heights	Veterans Jump Heights
Extra Large	> 22"	24"	20"	16" or 12"
Large	≤ 22"	20"	16"	12"
Medium	≤ 18"	16"	12"	08"
Small	≤ 15"	12"	08"	04"
Extra Small	≤ 12"	08"	04"	

- Dogs may jump higher than the eligible heights within their size division within the Championship program.
- Qualifications in tournaments will satisfy title requirements for either titling program regardless of jumping height.
- 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

Time Standards for establishing Standard Course Time in the titling classes have been realigned with the jump heights as shown in the table below:

Dog Withers Measurement	Championship Jump Height	Masters Standard Class Time Standards*	Masters Jumpers Class Time Standards*
> 22"	24"	3.15 - 3.65 yps	3.80 – 4.30 yps
≤ 22"	20"	3.25 – 3.75 yps	4.00 – 4.50 yps
≤ 18"	16"	3.15 - 3.65 yps	3.80 – 4.30 yps
≤ 15"	12"	3.10 - 3.50 yps	3.75 – 4.25 yps
≤ 12"	08"	2.75 - 3.15 yps	3.40 – 3.90 yps

- ***In Standard classes***, an additional 5 and 10 seconds are added to the Standard Course time for Performance and Veterans classes, respectively.
- ***In Jumpers classes***, an additional 4 and 8 seconds are added for Performance and Veterans classes, respectively.
- ***Advanced class time standards*** are approximately ½ yard per second less than Masters, and
- ***Starters class time standards*** are ½ yard per second less than Advanced s.

General Program Rules

- **Dog Measurements** – Dogs' heights recorded in our system will be automatically updated.
 - For dogs not previously certified, competitors may continue with the measurement process, or if available, may present a dog height certification card from a recognized national kennel club.
 - Consistent with current USDAA regulations, measurements may be contested by a judge. Dogs appearing to be taller than their entered height category may be remeasured by the judge to confirm the actual height.
- **Minimum Age** – The minimum age of a dog for competition shall be fifteen (15) months of age for the regular programs and tournaments, while the minimum age of a dog for entering the Intro Program shall remain unchanged at fourteen (14) months of age.
- **Judge of Record** – The distinction between a Course Designer judge and an Officiating Judge is permanently approved, allowing a group, in cooperation with an officiating judge, to engage a separate judge for design of courses. The Course Designer shall be the judge of record. This enables a group to reduce travel costs for officiating judges while continuing to provide a variety of course designs.
- **Apprentice Judges** – A judge who has demonstrated ability through other organizations may make application to become a USDAA judge. Requirements may vary depending on an assessment of the nature and degree of their experience.
- **Judging Clinics** – Judging clinics are continuing to be offered for those who wish to become a judge and do not qualify based on experience. These have been done virtually for the past two years. We are now conducting virtual judging clinics in small groups for anyone wishing to become a judge or to understand the finer aspects of judging and the sport.
- **Rapid Title Advancement** – Competitors may enter Advanced or Master levels if they believe they have the requisite skills to succeed. Once the requirements for a title are met at a chosen level, they may continue to progress at the next higher level and may not revert to a lower level.

Titling Classes, Top 10, and Lifetime Achievement Recognition

- Top 10 recognition for 2023 will begin December 1, 2022. Points earned prior to December 1st will be included in 2022 rankings. Distribution of 2021 and 2022 awards is expected to begin in January.
- Lifetime Achievement Award recognition continues and have been updated to reflect points available according to rules adopted in and subsequent to 2020.
- New LAA plaques are now in production. Distribution of awards earned in 2020 and 2021 will begin upon receipt from the manufacturer, with first shipments anticipated in late December or January. Plaques for 2022 will follow shortly thereafter.
- Class and Tournament title awards are being recoded to recognize transition from one program to another by recognizing Performance titles based on combined qualifications from the two programs. Titles at a level within the Performance Program will no longer be awarded if the same level in the Championship program has been previously recognized. When crossing over to the Championship program from Performance, a Performance title will be recognized at a level with the addition of Championship program qualifications, and the Championship title will be awarded once the Championship qualifications have been earned.

2023 Proposed Rule Changes - FAQs & Answers

Questions not addressed in this document should be directed to: competitorservices@usdaa.com

This document may be updated as a result of those inquiries. While we know questions may be raised in discussions on social media platforms, for official responses, please direct all inquiries to the above email address.

Q: What will the A-frame heights be for small dogs?

A: Dogs jumping 8" and lower will have a 5' A-Frame.

Q: Are the terms Championship and Performance going to continue to be used?

A: Yes; Open and Regular terms that appeared in the secretary software are being discontinued.

Q: Are titling classes going to be combined for scoring?

A: No. Classes continue to be scored by individual jump heights in each program, except in cases of pairs relay or team, where dogs run as a pair/team.

Q: Are tournament classes going to be combined for scoring?

A: No. Tournaments include each jump height from each program separately. There will be 10 height classes (5 championship heights and 5 performance heights) within each individual tournament under the new height structure.

Q: I have been running in Masters Performance 8", I would like to run in Championship at 8". How do the lateral moves work? Do I need to start over at Starters?

A: Lateral moves will continue to be allowed between programs without starting over at the Starters Level as noted in the rule amendment 1/1/2020. Performance Titles will continue to be awarded on a combined basis with the combination of Championship and Performance Qs, AND awards completed in the Championship program will also generate a Championship title when the Championship title requirements are met.

For example, a competitor has earned two Qs in Masters Performance Jumpers and switches to Championship and earned three more Qs. At that time, a Performance Jumpers Master title would be awarded. Once two more Qs are earned in Championship, a Jumpers Master (championship) title would be awarded.



Q: Similarly, I've been running in Masters Championship, and have earned 23 Qs, earning the Jumpers Champion and Bronze titles. Do I need to start over if I switch to the Performance Program?

A: No. The 23 Qs will combine with 2 Performance Qs to award the Performance Jumpers Champion - Silver title. Similarly, if a competitor had earned 2 Performance Master Jumpers Qs in performance, and subsequently 23 Masters Jumpers Qs (championship), a Performance Jumpers Master - Silver would be awarded. After two more Masters Jumpers Qs are earned, the Jumpers Master - Silver title would be awarded because the 25 Q requirement had then been met in the Championship program.

Q: Dogs may jump above their minimum jump height in championship, what about performance?

A: With the new height cutoffs, dogs may no longer jump higher than their division in the Performance Category. Dogs jumping "up" must do so in the Championship program.

For example, a dog measuring 17½" is jumping 16" in the championship program. The competitor wants to jump the dog at 20", so they must jump the dog in 20" Championship, not 20" Performance, which is for dogs > 22". Similarly, the dog is jumping 12" in the Performance program, and the competitor wants to jump their dog at 16". They must jump 16" Championship within their size category; they may not jump 16" in Performance.

Q: How soon could a club adopt these changes?

A: Starting 12/1/2022 the new jump height cutoffs will be in effect for local shows. Adoption of new regulations on jump heights for earlier events may be permitted with office approval. As the culminating event of the 2022 season, Cynosport will be run at the jump heights available during the qualifying period for 2022.

Q: Can you please clarify whether or not spread jumps will be used in Performance?

A: There continue to be no spreads in performance. The new regulations also provide that all dogs jumping 12" or less will not have spreads.

Q: If I have chosen to run my dog at 20" performance and they now measure into 20" championship. Would the performance legs I have already earned carry over to championship or stay in performance?

A: Performance Qs earned for titling purposes will retain their character as "Performance", however, Performance Titles will continue to be awarded on a combined basis with the combination of Championship and Performance Qs. Championship titles will be generated as the Championship title requirements are met within the Championship program.

Q: Will Qualifications earned prior to December 1, be valid for Cynosport® 2023?

A: Yes; qualifications earned at any height will be valid for titling and for entry to Cynosport in 2023. For the purposes of Byes, Qs must be utilized in the program height in which they were earned.

For example, a 17 ½" dog qualifying in Performance 14", the Q will be valid for their new Performance height under the new structure at 12".

Q: Rapid Title Advancement. Does that mean you start in Starters and IF the competitor believes they can skip Advanced they can go straight to Masters? Or does it mean They can completely skip Starters?

A: Rapid Title Advancement is available for competitors to begin competing at any level they feel appropriately qualified for. A dog may be entered and earn titles in Advanced or Masters without prequalification at the lower level(s), as applicable. This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis for a six-month period to address any unforeseen issues that might arise.

Q: With "Rapid Title Advancement", once you start at a level do you need to complete it and progress upward, or can you skip a level? That is, can you start at Starters then go to Masters? Or if you start at Starters or Advanced but don't finish the title, can you skip ahead to Masters when you feel you are ready? Or if you start in Masters, and realize you aren't ready, can you drop back down?

A: Rapid Title Advancement provides flexibility in choosing levels. So selective move-up is possible without completing a lower level title. Once a title is earned in a class at a given level, a competitor may not revert to a lower level for that class.

Q: What are the yards-per-second values for qualification in Grand Prix with the new jump height cutoffs?

A: Time standards for the basic Qualification will remain generally unchanged for 2023, with only adjustment of the cutoffs for sizes of dogs, as follows:

- *Small: 2.95 to 3.45 yards per second (4" and 8" height classes)*
- *Medium: 3.10 to 3.60 yards per second (12" & 16" height classes)*
- *Large: 3.50 to 4.00 yards per second (20" & 24" height classes)*



Q: If a competitor wins their height class in a Regional Championship Grand Prix Finals, how does one know if they have earned a Bye into the Cynosport Semifinals or Finals?

A: Tournament regulations provide that a Semifinal bye is earned by competitors who have Qualified (as defined) and placed 1st through 3rd in their height class in the final round, or if they qualify and place within the top 50% of finalists in their height class, whichever is greater. This provision is unchanged from prior years.

If the 1st place winner in their height division Qualifies and meets or exceeds the specially defined time standards for yards per second as specified in the 2023 tournament rules, they will earn a Bye into the Cynosport Finals. Scorekeeping software will mark the score as a “S”pecial Qualification, which can be seen at the Regional event as well as in recorded show results.

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USDAA Competition Classification and Equipment Standards Grouped by Size Category and Program (Reflecting updated withers height cutoffs (highlighted in yellow) effective December 1, 2022)										
Size Category	Dog Withers Measurement	Program	Jump Height (Includes Tire and Wall Jump)	Regular Ascending Spread ¹	Extended Spread ² 2 Bar 3 Bar		Long Jump (and number of boards)	Parallel Spread ⁴	Table (Starters/Level 1 & Advanced/Level 2 only)	A-Frame
EXTRA-LARGE	> 22"	Championship	24"	Front 20", Back 24" (width 15"-20")	Front 16" or 20", Back 24" (width 20"-24")	16" & 20" & 24" (width 20"-24")	48" (5 boards)	N/A	20"	5' 6" (104°)
		Performance	20"	N/A	N/A	N/A	40" (4 boards)	N/A	20"	
LARGE	> 18" – 22"	Championship	20"	Front 16", Back 20" (width 15"- 20")	Front 12" or 16", Back 20" (width 20"-24")	12" & 16" & 20" (width 20"-24")	40" (4 boards)	N/A	20"	5' 6" (104°)
		Performance	16"	N/A	N/A	N/A	32" (3 boards)	N/A	16"	
MEDIUM	> 15" – 18"	Championship	16"	Front 12", Back 16" (width 12"-15")	12" & 16" (width 15"-16")		32" (3 boards)	N/A	16"	5' 6" (104°)
		Performance	12"	N/A	N/A	N/A	24" (2 boards)	N/A	12"	
SMALL	> 12" – 15"	Championship	12"	N/A	N/A	N/A	24" (2 boards)	N/A	12"	5' 6" (104°)
		Performance	8"	N/A	N/A	N/A	16" (2 boards)	N/A	~8"	5' (112.5°)
EXTRA-SMALL	≤ 12"	Championship	8"	N/A	N/A	N/A	16" (2 boards)	N/A	~8"	5' (112.5°)
		Performance	4"	N/A	N/A	N/A	6-8" (1 board)	N/A		5' (112.5°)

USDAA Veterans Program Equipment Standards (Effective December 1, 2022)										
Size Category	Dog Withers Measurement	Program	Jump Height (Includes Tire)	Ascending Spread Double	Extended Spread 2 Bar 3 Bar		Long Jump (and number of boards)	Parallel Spread	Table	A-Frame
LARGE and XL	> 18"	Veterans	16" (optional)	N/A	N/A	N/A	32" (3 boards)	N/A	N/A	5' (112.5°)
			12"	N/A	N/A	N/A	24" (2 boards)	N/A		

MEDIUM	> 15" – 18"	Veterans	8"	N/A	16" (2 boards)	N/A	N/A	5' (112.5°)
SMALL	≤ 15"	Veterans	4"	N/A	8" (1 board)	N/A	N/A	5' (112.5°)

USDAA Intro Program Equipment Standards (Effective December 1, 2022)										
Size Category	Dog Withers Measurement	Program	Jump Height (Includes Tire)	Ascending Spread Double	Extended Spread 2 Bar 3 Bar		Long Jump (and number of boards)	Parallel Spread	Table	A-Frame
Any	Any	Intro	24"	N/A	N/A	N/A	48" (4 boards)	N/A	20"	5' 6" (104°)
			20"	N/A	N/A	N/A	40" (4 boards)	N/A	20"	
			16"	N/A	N/A	N/A	32" (3 boards)	N/A	16"	
			12"	N/A	N/A	N/A	24" (2 boards)	N/A	12"	5' (112.5°)
			8"	N/A	N/A	N/A	16" (2 boards)	N/A	8"	
			4"	N/A	N/A	N/A	8" (1 board)	N/A	8"	

Notes:

Note 1: When setting a 2-bar ascending regular spread, the front bar may be set 4" to 6" lower than the height of the back bar.

Note 2: When setting a 2-bar or 3-bar extended spread, the front bar may be set 4" to 8" lower than the height of the back bar. Items shown above are suggested settings for bars.

Note 3: Width between bars on an ascending or extended spread is the horizontal distance between the middle of the front bar to the middle of the back bar. When spreads are created using two jumps, the front jump may be winged or wingless and the jump in back must be winged.

Note 4: Angled ground bars on ascending or extended spreads are not required but may be used.

Note 5: All non-spread hurdles shall have a single horizontal top bar. Any bars set below the top bar must rest on the cup directly below the top bar and be angled to the ground.