



2026 CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUALIFICATIONS & INFORMATION

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Dates

QUALIFYING PERIOD BEGINS	JULY 28 TH , 2025
QUALIFYING PERIOD ENDS	AUGUST 3 rd , 2026
ENTRIES OPEN	JUNE 1 st , 2026
ENTRIES CLOSE	AUGUST 3 rd , 2026
PRE-TRIAL BEGINS	SEPTEMBER 29 TH , 2026
PRE-TRIAL ENDS	SEPTEMBER 29 TH , 2026
CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGINS	SEPTEMBER 30 TH , 2026
CHAMPIONSHIPS ENDS	OCTOBER 3 rd , 2026

 CHAMPIONS CENTER - 4122 LAYBOURNE ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, USA

Entries will be limited to 300 Dogs.

When the limit is reached, a waiting list will be started and everyone placed on the waiting list will be notified as such. We always have 5-10% of the entries pull out after the closing date so, stay prepared. We will contact you if you are being moved off the waiting list and you can choose then to opt in or out.

Elite Qualifications

- Handlers with dogs wishing to compete in the Elite Division, will be required to earn 30 points, in the current qualifying year, at the **Elite** level, in **Regular AND, either, Jumpers OR Chances.**
- Dogs 7 and 8 years old, are eligible to run in the Veteran Division.
- Dogs 10 years, or older, on the first day of Championships, are eligible to run in the Double-Digit Division.
- Dogs 9 years old or higher, are **required** to run in the Veteran Division.



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What to Expect in the Elite Division

Courses

- The average length of courses may be 21-23 obstacles.

Design Consistency

- While all NADAC courses have some element of difficulty, some may be easier (for certain dogs and handlers) than others. At Championships, the courses will all lean more towards the more difficult spectrum.

Full Sets of Equipment and Challenges

- While some rounds may have a certain theme of obstacles used, each and every round will have a full set of equipment and varied tests on course.

Distance Challenges

- Each course will contain a distance challenge. If the handler successfully completes the Distance Test, they will be awarded 10 extra points for that round.
- These tests are NOT bonus lines and are NOT required, though they will typically be a sequence of 2-5 obstacles “behind the line”, similar to Chances.
- This line will be anywhere between 10-20 feet away from the farthest obstacle in the test.

Pre-Elite Qualifications

- Handlers with dogs wishing to compete in the Pre-Elite Division, will be required to earn 30 points, in the current qualifying year, at the **Open** level in **Regular**.
- Dogs who have 30 points or more at the Elite level in **Regular**, will be required to qualify for, and compete in, the Elite Division at Championships.



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What to Expect in the Pre-Elite Division

Larger Groupings

- There are 5 divisions:
 - X-Large
 - Large
 - Medium
 - Small
 - Mini

Pre-Elite Junior Handler will only be added if enough Junior Handlers register.

Distance Challenges

- If the handler successfully completes the Distance Challenge, they will be awarded 10 extra points for that round.
- These tests are NOT bonus lines but, they will typically be a sequence of 2-5 obstacles behind the line, similar to Chances.
- This line will be anywhere between 10-20 feet away from the farthest obstacle in the test.
- The line may be less difficult than the Elite Division Distance Challenge lines.



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Scoring for both Elite and Pre-Elite

- Scoring is done on a “time plus faults” system.
- Each round will have a base number of points that everyone starts with.
 - Example: We will use 150 as our base number, but, keep in mind for the actual event, this number can **and will** fluctuate, depending on the course. When your dog runs, their time and any faults incurred, will be subtracted from this number. So, a dog that ran in 25.00 seconds with 10 course faults would have a score of 115.00. This score is what determines your placement in your division.
- The base number changes depending on the length of the course and the challenges involved. A more challenging course that takes a longer time to run, starts with a higher base number. Alternatively, a more simple course, that runs very quickly, starts with a lower base number.
- The winner of each division is whoever has the highest score over all 7 rounds combined.

Placements

- Placements up to 8th place will be awarded, for each round of competition, unless there are less than 8 dogs in that division. If there are fewer dogs, the placements will go up to the last dog in that division.
- Dogs who receive a score of 0 will **not** receive a ribbon for that round.
- If there are less than 3 dogs in any division, this division will be merged with the next closest competitive division.



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Stakes

- Please refer to page 35 in the NADAC rulebook for information on the NADAC Stakes program
- Only Bonuses/Distance Challenges from the Regular Class count towards Championship qualifying.
- ***Any dog entering stakes, must enter the highest stakes division they are qualified for, no exceptions.***

Starter Stakes

- Dogs who earn a minimum of Three (3) Bonuses **OR** Distance Challenges, of any value, from the Regular Class, in the current qualifying period, are eligible.
- Dogs who have earned more than 200 Bonus/Distance challenge points, from the Regular Class, in their lifetime are NOT eligible for Starter Stakes.

Silver Stakes

- Dogs who earn a minimum of Four (4) Bonuses (*Distance Challenges do not count*), of any value, from the Regular Class, in the current qualifying period, are eligible.

Super Stakes

- Dogs who earn a minimum of Six (6) 30-point bonuses, from the Regular Class, in the current qualifying period, are eligible.

Stakes Scoring

Scoring will be the same as the other divisions with the addition of 10 bonus points, per successful sequence, being added on after video review. Additionally, a Distance Cup is awarded to the dog and handler teams who meet the overall bonus point criteria for the event.



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Grand Champion

Grand Champion is a division based purely off height groups, with no sub-divisions. All dogs entered in Championships in, for example, the Large division (Vet, VH, Pre-Elite, Elite, etc.), compete for one Grand Champion Award. To clarify, there will only be 5 Grand Champions – Mini, Small, Medium, Large, X-Large.

- All bonus points are removed from the Grand Champion scoring so that the Stakes dogs can be included in this award.
- A team could win their sub-division (ex. Pre-Elite Small, Elite X-Large, Elite VH Medium, etc.) AND win Grand Champion.
- Per round placements, for each height group, will be done 1st – 3rd for rounds 1-6, in addition to, all of the other Pre-Elite, Elite, and Stakes divisions per round placements.
- The Grand Champion trophy and 1st Place Ribbon are the largest of the event!

Challengers

Challengers is offered, following Finals (before award ceremony), on the 4th and final day. It is intended to give everyone, that opted out of finals or did not make it to finals, one last shot at taking home a token of their hard work!

Challengers is scored much the same as Grand Champion. You are competing against all dogs in your height group (X-Large, Small, Medium, etc) on a “clean slate” basis. Using the “time plus faults” scoring, everyone walks in the ring with the same base score. The highest score, in each height group, at the end, after subtracting time and faults, is the winner in their respective height group. There is simply one winner per height and that winner is crowned at the award ceremony.



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Team Event

- There are 3 dog/handler “members” that make up a Team. **At least 2 members** of the team are required to be from the **same exact** division but, they can be from varying height groups. (This is a requirement so we know what Team Division to place you in.)
- Team takes the cumulative scores, of each team member, from rounds 1-5 and adds them together. That will be 50% of the teams overall score.
- On Saturday morning, there is the Team Relay. The 3 team members gather and run a relay round consisting of 3 different challenge courses nested into 1 large course. Each team member must run a different numbered version of the course. The timer runs from the start of the first dog to the end of the 3rd dog. That time, plus any faults the 3 team members accrued, subtracted from a base number (time plus faults scoring like the rest of Championships) then is added as the other 50% of the teams overall score.
- Teams are encouraged to be creative with their team names and costumes!

Walkthroughs and Briefings

- The morning briefing takes place at 7AM each day of the event following the national anthems.
- Walkthroughs for all groups will directly follow the morning briefing.
- Order of walkthrough groups will follow the running order for the day, in groups of 25-30, based on run order #'s. Run orders will be available on the Championships page of the NADAC website.
- Run orders will NOT change day to day. They will remain the same throughout the entire championship event.



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General/Misc. Info

- All dogs entering Championships **MUST** have a NADAC Permanent Height Card. Please visit the height card info page for information on getting measured and submitting your dog's height card. (*Dogs under 2 years of age will be exempt from this requirement.*)
- All dogs within 30 points of the 3rd place dog, in their division, will be eligible to go to Finals on Saturday. All other dogs will be automatically placed in the run order for the Challengers Round.
- **Returning Champions:** Any team that won their division in 2025 and then wins that same division again in 2026, will be awarded a "Returning Champion" addition to their trophy that signifies their awesome accomplishment! This does not include Challengers.
- Each division's height group is based on dog's wither height. There are five main height groups for Championships: X-Large, Large, Medium, Small and Mini.

The height cutoffs for each group are:

- *Over 22 Inches at the withers = X-Large*
- *Over 18 inches, up to and including 22 Inches at the withers = Large*
- *Over 14 inches, up to and including 18 inches = Medium*
- *Over 11 inches, up to and including 14 inches = Small*
- *Under 11 inches = Mini*
- For each Main Division there will likely be a sub-division with comparable teams and dog heights to yours. We do this to keep the competition comparable to the dogs competing.

Examples would be:

- *Medium Elite Veteran Handler*
- *Large Elite Veteran Dog*
- *X-Large Elite Standard Dog*
- *Mini Pre-Elite Dog*



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Possible Divisions at Championships

There are a wide variety of entry options when coming to Championships! As mentioned earlier, Pre-Elite is only split up by height group, but the Elite divisions get a much wider subset of divisions.

The possible options and criteria for Elite are as follows:

Standard: Dogs under 9 years of age.

Veteran Dog: Dogs taking the Veterans height break and entering Champs as such. If your dog is 9 years or older, on the start date of the event, It is **required** to enter this division.

Veteran Handler: Teams that are taking the Veteran Handler height break and entering Champs as such.

Double Digit: Dogs that are 10 years of age or older.

Junior Handler: Open to any handler entering the event as a Junior Handler. (Junior Handlers are those who are 17 years or younger on the start date of the event)



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