



# Official Rules and Regulations

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North American Diving Dogs LLC

[www.northamericadivingdogs.com](http://www.northamericadivingdogs.com)

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[www.northamericadivingdogs.com/NADD-Rules](http://www.northamericadivingdogs.com/NADD-Rules)

# North America Diving Dogs

## RULES & REGULATIONS 2017

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All updated rules for the current year will be highlighted in Yellow.

## **I. PURPOSE:**

North America Diving Dogs (herby known as NADD) is an independent governing body located in North America that hosts canine diving dog trials. NADD promotes the active relationship between people and their dogs by hosting and sanctioning the fun and exciting sport of diving dogs. NADD has established rules and standards to support all trials to assure that all handlers and dogs are able to compete equally and safely in the canine sport of diving dogs. NADD will track the results, records and titles of all the dogs and handlers that enter a sanctioned trial. NADD is the exclusive dock diving organization that titles are recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). It was formed for the sole purpose to promote the growth of Diving Dog competitions which includes at this time, jumping for distance and Air Retrieve/ Vertical at approved trials as a performance event. Dogs compete for titles based on the distance they jump from a dock into a pool of water. Safety and education of the handler and dogs are the #1 priority.

## **II. JURISDICTION:**

All approved NADD facilities and mobile events shall be governed by the rules herein. NADD reserves the right to grant, withhold, or revoke an approved event at its own discretion. NADD reserves the right to change rules, policies and fees at any time without notice.

Individuals attending or participating in NADD Trials shall accept that NADD shall not be liable for direct or consequential damages resulting from lack of performance due to inclement weather, fire, earthquake, flood, act of God, strikes, work stoppages, or other labor disturbances, riots or civil commotions, litigation, war or other act of any foreign nation, power of government, or governmental agency or authority, or other emergencies including the closing of the venue, which make it inadvisable or impossible to hold the Trial. The laws of the state of Texas shall govern the validity, construction and effect of all NADD Agreements. All lawsuits arising, wherever derived, shall be resolved in Ellis County in the state of Texas.

Beginning in 2017, the jump season will end at Midnight on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

### **III. RULES OF CONDUCT/SPORTSMANSHIP:**

NADD and each independent hosting facility reserve the right to refuse service to anyone. NADD and the hosting facility trials are open to any and all persons and dogs without discrimination.

A hosting facility's decision is subject to review by the NADD, it will not be overturned except where there is strong evidence that the facility's decision is based on prohibited categories of discrimination (race, religion, natural origin, etc.) or personal disputes.

Exhibitors, spectators, and hosting facilities are expected to display good behavior and good sportsmanship on and off the dock.

Any participant showing abusive behavior towards their dog on or off the dock will be immediately dismissed from the entire trial. The decision of the hosting facility and judge will be final.

NADD reserves the right to make discretionary decisions regarding rules and procedures at events including the right to modify or alter the equipment, at any time, for safety purposes.

### **IV. ENTRY PROCEDURES:**

Preregistration for all NADD trials will be made available on the NADD website ([www.northamericandivingdogs.com/upcomingevents](http://www.northamericandivingdogs.com/upcomingevents)). Trials will be posted approximately 60 days prior to each event and preregistration will close 48 before the events begins. Splashes, Times, Schedule and specific details related to each Trial are listed at the above address. A competitor is responsible to check the Trial page online prior to attending so that they are notified of any announcements, changes, or special rules and policies specific to that Trial.

Facility Trials: It is the decision of the hosting facility for pre-registration and day of show entries. It is recommended that the hosting facility have both available for their trial. The hosting facility shall charge \$20 per splash for pre-entries. Day of Show shall be \$25 per splash. It is in the best interest to everyone that participation in NADD remains affordable. The prices above can be changed at any time. Facilities will be notified by NADD if a price change is made. The hosting facility shall be responsible for their refund and/or cancellation policy.

Mobile Dock Trials: All mobile dock events will offer pre-registration and day of show entries (DOS entries may be a limited number, but must be advertised before the event). The mobile dock event shall charge \$25 per splash

for both pre-entries and Day of Show. It is in the best interest to everyone that participation in NADD remains affordable. The prices above can be changed at any time. The mobile dock event shall follow the NADD refund and/or cancellation policy.

Splashes: Check in, pay and pick up your cards. Order is first come first serve - when you are ready to jump, turn in your card (at least 30 minutes prior to end of open dock time) to hold your place in line.

Air Retrieve and Vertical: check in 30 minutes before start time to set your starting measurement, the set Jump Order (lowest to highest) will be available after everyone has checked in.

Try-its (\$15) include up to 3 minutes on the dock for training or practice, first come first serve so sign up early to hold your place in line. The availability of Try-its will be stated for each event. Whether they start before or after the splashes are completed, or may be available during scheduled times throughout the day. Try-it costs are NOT refunded for either a dog not jumping or swimming or if the handler decides to purchase Splashes.

## V. TRIAL:

All rules of the NADD and the hosting facility must be obeyed at all times. Hosting facilities may have more rules in place. Participants must also abide by those rules during a NADD trial. They must sign the waiver before stepping onto the dock, NO exceptions.

NADD offers two basic types of events.

Open Splash events are held at mobile dock events and are run as follows:

- No set Splash times, all splashes for that day are run simultaneously. This allows the competitor to determine their jump time. Each competitor will be given a NADD Jump Card at registration. They will turn in their card when ready to compete. A competitor can only compete in the number of splashes offered for each day. It is the competitors responsibility to allow enough time to jump their dogs during the offered times each day.
- Cards must be submitted 30 minutes prior to the end of Open Splash time.
- Each competitor has the option to take 1 practice jump prior to the two competitive jumps. But they MUST inform the judge prior to this jump if they are taking the practice or not.

Closed Splash events are held at facility dock events and are run as follows:

- Set Splash times and number of competitor limitations.
- All participants must check in with the Secretary at least 30 minutes before their splash.
- When you check in a running order will be created. Any conflicts should be resolved during your check-in time.

- A judges meeting shall be held 15 minutes before the trial. It shall

include the final running order, the competition rules and any other announcements.

- Each competitor will have two competitive jumps (back to back). Each competitor will have the opportunity before the splash begins to take 1 practice jump during the practice time between splashes.

At any of the NADD Qualifying Events (Mobile or Facility) throughout the season, a dog must have a minimum of 3 jumps at that event to qualify for an invite. At the completion of the event, each dog that has a minimum of 3 jumps at the event will have all of their scores averaged. The Top 3 dogs in each division will be awarded the invites. If a dog that has already earned an invite is in the Top 3, then that dog will be skipped over. In Air Retrieve, there will be a One Splash event (on a day determined and posted) and the Top Senior, Master and Elite dogs will earn invites. Any dog earning an invite during the set season, must have a minimum of 10 jumps by Oct 15<sup>th</sup> each year in order to keep the invite.

#### REFUND POLICY:

- Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that a dog is absent, disqualified, excused, or barred from competition by the hosting facility.
- Entry fees will only be refunded for females in heat with a veterinary letter to the hosting facility or to NADD. If other circumstances are present, credits may be awarded for missed splashes.

#### INCLEMENT WEATHER

- If by the decision of the trial host, the pool must be closed at any time for inclement weather, all activities will immediately stop. Competition will resume once it is deemed safe.
- Once competition resumes, if time to complete event is restricted, try-its and open practice will stop so that competitive jumps can be completed.
- If the event is unable to be completed due to weather, refunds will be offered by the host.

## VI. GENERAL RULES:

- i. All dogs must jump off the dock or ramp on their own accord. You cannot

physically assist your dog in a forward motion in any manner. All dogs must jump freely and without being forced, dropped or tilted. The handler must have their hands completely off the dog as the dog jumps. A dog must make at least one step of forward motion; a handler setting the dog down at the very end of the dock so the dog has no choice to jump will be warned.

Violators will be given one warning if it is seen before the dog jumps. If the dog jumps after being assisted, THAT jump will be scored as a NQ and the handler will be informed immediately in a polite and respectful way. The 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence will result in the handler being NQ'd from the entire Splash, the 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence will result in handler being removed from the event and a letter being sent to NADD administration.

- ii. Dogs must be kept on 6 feet or shorter leash. Flexi leashes & long lines are not allowed at a NADD event.
- iii. No dogs shall be allowed off-leash in any part of the competition area, except for on the dock or in the water.
- iv. Dogs should be kept under close handler control. A safe distance must be kept between all dogs.
- v. Chain & choke, pinch, prong, electronic collar, head collar, harnesses or any type of special training collar must be removed **once the dog is on the dock**. (NOTE: prong collars and e-collars are **not allowed** at AKC event show grounds. While they are allowed in our area next to the dock, please know they are not allowed at AKC events, walking to the restrooms, vendors or other events, etc.) Dogs are allowed to wear a dog suit, dog vest & life vest that are fitted properly. If the dog has a collar, vest, or any other apparel that the judge deems as dangerous, it may asked to be removed.
- vi. Humans may enter the pool during Try-It sessions for training purposes to assist dogs by offering physical support, encouragement and to build the dogs confidence. Humans are not allowed in the pool during a Splash, except in an emergency.
- vii. Females in season will not be permitted in the competition area.
- viii. Everyone is responsible for picking up after your dog. Failure to comply could result in dismissing a handler/dog team from the remainder of the trial. No refunds will be issued.
- ix. Dogs that show signs of provoked or unprovoked aggressive behavior towards humans and/or other dogs will be asked to leave immediately by the hosting facility. NADD may ban the handler and/or dog permanently from any future trials. Any dog or handler that is removed from the event will not be given a refund.



## **VII. DOGS:**

- i. To enter a trial a dog must be registered and have a registration number with the NADD. (Dogs participating in “Try-Its” do not need to be registered with NADD, but they must sign up and sign the waiver.)
- ii. Any dog of any breed, size, or mix may participate in a NADD trial.
- iii. Dogs must be in good health and condition in order to compete.
- iv. Dogs must be 6 months of age or older to compete. Dogs less than 6 months old may practice and do try-its.
- v. Competing dogs must be current on vaccinations and the owner shall carry written proof of current rabies vaccinations.
- vi. Dogs that appear to be lame, injured, and ill or dogs with sutures, bandages, adhesive or any other material that is indicative of or related to any surgical or medical procedure may not compete. During the trial if the dog shows any signs of the above, they will be dismissed from the trial. Refunds will be at the sole discretion of the hosting facility or NADD event coordinator. If a dog has been under medical care, they must show a release to compete from the Vet.
- vii. Dogs that are deformed, amputee, deaf or blind may participate in the competition but must be able to safely perform jumps & exit the pool. Any dog with a special needs or attention must inform the judge prior to jumping. It is the judge’s discretion if any special allowances will be made to special need dogs.

## **VIII. JUDGES:**

- i. By entering any Diving Dogs event, the owner and handler of any dog agree to accept the decision of the Judge as final.
- ii. No person may interfere with the Judge in any way while he/she is judging a splash.
- iii. The Manual Judging System will be used. The judge will eyeball the distance that the base of the tail breaks the water’s surface. The distance of the jump scored by the judge is final. Judges must complete apprenticeship training before being certified as a NADD judge.
- iv. A dog that is owned or co-owned by the judge may jump as long as their dog is judged by a separate, certified NADD judge.
- v. The judge must judge the entire splash, unless they have a dog entered in that splash. The back-up judge will judge that dog/dogs. (Note: At mobile dock events, due to the set-up of the Open Splashes, it may not be possible

for a judge to jump every dog in an entire splash. There will be certified judges sharing the judging responsibilities at these trials.

- vi. The judge will sign each splash sheet that they judged.

## IX. HANDLER:

- i. During a Splash or judged jump, the lead handler of the dog may bring up an additional handler to restrain the dog. Maximum 2 handlers on the dock, staff may not be on the dock during a competition jump unless they are assisting as a handler. The minimum age of competitors is 5 years old. To compete alone on the dock, the handler must be 7 years old. The parent or legal guardian that is on the dock with the child accepts full responsibility. In order for a Youth Handler to be eligible for any the awards or accolades created especially for Youth, they must not turn 17 years old on or before Oct 16<sup>th</sup> of the given year.
- ii. As NADD is fully supportive in getting new dogs to jump and compete, we do allow verbal support from outside the pool. However, any support can ONLY be in the form of cheering, and calling the dog's name, waving arms, etc. It cannot involve throwing a toy from outside the pool or splashing the water. This is considering double-handling and will result in the same violation status as 'sandbagging' as listed above.
- iii. A dog has (4) four minutes to complete the optional practice and the 2 competition jumps. The (4) minute time period begins once the handler and dog are both on the dock. Time will stop when either the dog completes its 2<sup>nd</sup> jump or the judge announces TIME. If time ends before the dog is in a forward jumping movement, the jump will not count. At any Qualifier event, the dog must complete both of its jumps. They may not pass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt unless an injury has occurred.
- iv. The handler throwing the toy is considered the handler of record.
- v. Handlers may compete with multiple dogs in a splash. An individual dog may be entered in the splash only once.
- vi. A throwing object (toy) may be used to entice the dog to jump. It is not required. The object must be throw-able & floatable. The object cannot sink, cannot dissolve, cannot be living or dead animal and cannot be an edible commodity for dogs (**no food**) No food or treats are allowed on the dock at any time. It is not required that the dog retrieve the object to receive a qualifying jump. A Handler may only take 2 toys on the dock during the competition jump. If the dog does not retrieve immediately, the toy may be returned to the handler for additional throws until the dog

jumps or time expires, whichever comes first. If the toy is thrown out of the pool, it will be tossed back in the middle of the pool.

## **XI: FACILITIES:**

- i. Only approved facilities are allowed to hold NADD trials. There are 2 levels of NADD facilities:
  - a. AKC Premier facility
  - b. NADD trial hosting facility
- ii. NADD may allow a portable dock & pool at special trials. Prior approval is required for the trial.
- iii. All facilities shall have a designated crating & staging area.
- iv. Only one facility will be approved to hold a trial within approximately 100 mile radius on the same day.
- v. The hosting facility may choose to cancel or adjust the North America Diving Dogs schedule due to environmental or trial schedule issues.

## **XII. EQUIPMENT:**

- i. All equipment must be approved by NADD prior to the trial.
- ii. Pool: The walls of the pool should be 4 feet deep and the water must be at least 3.5 feet deep. The top surface of the dock should be 24" above the water level (with a +/- 2" tolerance due to water levels changing throughout the day). The pool must be at least 17' x 41' in dimensions. The water must be clean, free of debris, and clear of algae. The pool must have a safe exit ramp or steps for the dog to exit the water.
- iii. Dock: The dock used for dock jumping competitions must be of sturdy construction. The dock must be 40 feet long by 8 feet wide. The dock must have a barrier around it to prevent dogs from jumping off the ground sides of the dock. The surface must have Astro-turf, outdoor, stiff carpeting, rubber-like or an approved surface that is non-slip when wet to prevent slipping and better traction for the dog. The dock must sit 2 feet above the surface of the water.
- iv. All pools must have a measuring banner on both sides of the pool. It shall have the numerical number for feet and slashes every 3" increments.
- v. Any reports of an unsafe pool or dock may result in cancellation of a trial in progress or future trials until repairs are made. Any report of unsafe issues must be reported directly to [info@northamericadivingdogs.com](mailto:info@northamericadivingdogs.com). NADD will immediately investigate and make determinations to any reported unsafe issues.

### **XIII. DISTANCE JUMPING:**

- i. A splash consists of 2 jumps. Once the handler/dog enters the dock, they will have two opportunities to jump in that splash. The jumps will be back to back. A dog may not jump more than 1 splash at a time. There must be at least one other dog (or 1 minute) in between jumps and the dog must come off the dock during this time.
- ii. The judge will give a distance jumped for each jump. A qualifying jump is when the dog enters the water from the dock. A distance of the jump will be given by the judge. The greater of the two becomes the dog's qualifying score for that splash. The OFFICIAL score is the score written on the card or scoresheet by the judges. All other scores announced or written on ribbons on any other document are unofficial.
- iii. The dogs distance is measured from the end of the dock to where the base of the tail breaks the water's surface. The base of the tail is the point where the dog's tail meets the body.
- iv. A qualifying jump is when the dog enters the water from the dock. A distance of the jump will be given by the judge.
- v. If the dog enters the water from the ramp or stairs it will be scored as a non- qualifying jump "NQ".
- vi. The handler may not obviously try to lower their dogs score at any time to achieve a title or a placement in a division lower than their dogs ability for a Finals. This is considered 'sandbagging'. Upon the 1<sup>st</sup> violation, the handler will be warned privately and in a positive manner. The 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence will result in the handler being NQ'd from the entire Splash, the 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence will result in the handler being removed from the trial and a letter being sent to NADD administration.
- vii. Jumps are considered official once the handler cues/releases the dog to proceed with the jump. If the dog jumps prior to being cued/released or the toy being thrown, this will be considered a "practice" and the handler may continue with competition jumps. If a dog repeats this behavior it will count as an official jump and be scored accordingly.
- viii. A hosting facility or mobile trial will award each handler/dog team with a qualifying ribbon for each qualifying jump after each splash. Additional Placement ribbons may also be offered per Splash or for Finals.

## **XIV. DIVISIONS, CLASSES & TITLES:**

NADD has developed two classes of competition. Open and Lap classes.

- 1) Open class: This class is open to all dogs regardless of breed, age or sex to compete in all open divisions levels.
- 2) Lap Class: Lap Class is for all dogs under 16" or less at the withers to compete in class to achieve the recognition the same as the Open Class. If a dog is under the 16" mark they must compete as a Lap Dog. All dogs must be measured by the judge prior to jumping with a wicket to enter this class. The measurement is from the top point of the shoulder (withers) down to the ground while standing in its "natural stance". At the age of 2 years or older all dogs must be measured for a final height. The final measurement must be on file with the NADD. Qualifying jumps in the Lap Class will not transfer to the Open Class. If you have a puppy that is 14" at 1 year and jumps in the Lap Class, the qualifying jumps will not transfer to the Open Class if the dog grows over 16" at 2 years of age.

### **Open Class:**

Novice Division – 0'1" to 9'11"  
Junior Division - 10'0" to 14'11"  
Senior Division – 15'0" to 19'11"  
Master Division – 20'0" to 23'11"  
Elite Division - 24'0" and above

### **Lap Class:**

Novice Division – 0'1" to 4'11"  
Junior Division - 5'0" to 8'11"  
Senior Division – 9'0" to 12'11"  
Master Division – 13'0" to 17'11"  
Elite Division - 18'0" and above

- i. A handler/dog team can earn one qualifying jump towards a Division title based on their longest jump in a splash.
- ii. A Division title is earned by accumulative five (5) qualifying jumps within one division.

DN – Dock Novice  
DJ – Dock Junior  
DS – Dock Senior  
DM – Dock Master  
DE – Dock Elite

- iii. After the Division title is achieved additional titling levels can be earned. Advanced (A) - can be earned with an additional 25 qualifying jumps within a division. An (A) will be placed behind the Division Title. Excellent (X) - can be earned once you have earned an Advance (A) with an additional 25 qualifying jumps within a division. A (X) will be placed behind the Division Title.

DNA –Dock Novice Advanced  
DJA –Dock Junior Advanced  
DSA –Dock Senior Advanced  
DMA –Dock Master Advanced  
DEA –Dock Elite Advanced

DNX – Dock Novice Excellent  
DJX - Dock Junior Excellent  
DSX - Dock Senior Excellent  
DMX - Dock Master Excellent  
DEX - Dock Elite Excellent

- iv. Once an Excellent title is achieved an additional 25 qualifying jumps within a division will earn a numerical number after the X. Example – Dock Novice Excellent - DNX2, DNX3, etc.
- v. Qualifying jumps will accumulate within a division. You must earn the Division title before earning a higher title of Advanced (A) or Excellent (X).
- vi. The higher level titles will supersede lower titles on a dog's record.
- vii. A dog can earn two Advanced Titles such as a DNA and a DJA but the higher title will supersede the lower title.
- viii. A dog can earn an Advanced Title and an Excellent Title but the higher title will supersede the lower title.
- ix. A dog can earn two Excellent Titles such as a DNX and a DJX but the higher title will supersede the lower title.
- x. A dog that earns his second Excellent within a division, the DJX will be replaced with a DJX2 for the title of record.
- xi. This system of recording was developed so that every qualifying jump that a handler/dog team does counts towards one of the above titles.

## **XV. AIR RETRIEVE & VERTICAL:**

- i. AIR RETRIEVE:
  - a. The Air Retrieve extender is an apparatus that can be moved along the side of the pool. It must be adjustable so the bumper is hanging 2ft. over the surface of the dock and centered with the width of the dock.
  - b. The object for the Air Retrieve must be the approved NADD bumper

and have both ends to attach it to the Air Retrieve extender.

- c. The dog can start at any distance on the dock. The handler/dog can use all 40 ft. if they choose.
- d. The Air Retrieve distance will start at 6 feet out from the front of the dock and move at 1 foot increments.
- e. The handle/dog team will be scored with a Grab (X) or a Miss (0). A "Grab" is achieved when the dog grabs or completely removes the bumper from the Air Retrieve extender. The dog is not required to actually bring the bumper down with their mouth. They can grab the bumper or knock it loose from the extender. So long as the bumper comes completely free from the extender the dog moves on to the next distance. A "Miss" is when the bumper is still attached to the Air Retrieve extender.
- f. Each dog gets 2 chances at each distance until they have two misses at one distance or 3 overall misses, whichever occurs first. The handler/dog team will get two (2) attempts back to back to grab the bumper. The team will be eliminated if they are unsuccessful at the (2) back to back attempts or one their 3<sup>rd</sup> overall miss, regardless of position at the time of occurrence.
- g. The event will be run with a set running order (determined by lowest starting distance first, unless otherwise set by event coordinator). The dog and handler will compete and will stay on the dock throughout the competition until the dog has completed its Splash. Once the dog has the specified misses, the dog is finished. The handler may choose to take a 45 second break in between each successful grab.
- h. The qualifying score will be the last clean grab or knock down that the handler/dog team had at a given distance.
- i. A dog can pass as often and as many times as the handler wishes. (Except in a qualifying event or in a Finals)
- j. If there is a tie in the placements, the following tie breakers will determine placements:
  - i. The handler/dog with the less misses will be the next highest placement.
  - ii. If both handler/dog teams have the same amount of overall misses, then the tie will be broken by the team with the first miss at the longer distance.
  - iii. If both teams had misses at the same spot, then the team

with the most successful grabs will be the winner.

- k. The hosting facility may limit the entries to this trial, as it does take considerable amount of time to complete this competition. It is not required that the hosting facility include this event in their trial.

ii. VERTICAL:

- a. The Vertical rig is an apparatus that is mounted to the dock. It must be adjustable so the bumper is hanging 8ft. out from the front of the dock over the water and centered with the width of the dock.
- b. The object for the Air Retrieve must be the approved NADD bumper and have both ends to attach it to the Vertical rig.
- c. The dog can start at any distance on the dock. The handler/dog can use all 40 ft. if they choose.
- d. The Vertical height distance for Open Class will start at 4' 0" above the surface of the dock and move at 2 inch increments.
- e. The Lap Class can start at 2' 0" above the surface of the dock. Handlers will declare their individual starting height prior to splash beginning.
- f. The handle/dog team will be scored with a Grab (x) or a Miss (o). A "Grab" is achieved when the dog grabs or completely removes the bumper from the Vertical apparatus. The dog is not required to actually bring the bumper down with their mouth. They can grab the bumper or knock it loose from the rig. So long as the bumper comes completely free from the extender the dog moves on to the next distance. A "Miss" is when the bumper is still attached to the rig.
- g. The jump order will stay consistent with dogs that have made successful grabs jumping first and any new dog coming in at a distance at the end of the order.
- h. Each dog gets 2 chances at each distance until they have two misses at one distance or 3 overall misses, whichever occurs first. The competition will continue until only one dog remains with a clean grab. The qualifying score will be the last clean grab or knock down that the handler/dog team had at that distance.
- i. A dog can pass one distance at a time.
- j. The event host may limit the entries to this event, as it does take considerable amount of time to complete this competition. It is not required that the hosting facility include this discipline in their trial.



## **XVI. AIR RETRIEVE / VERTICAL TITLES:**

- i. AIR RETRIEVE:
  - a. A handler/dog team can earn one qualifying grab towards a Division title based on their longest grab in an Air Retrieve competition.
  - b. A Division title is earned by accumulative five (5) qualifying grabs within one division.
    - i. Air Retrieve Novice (AN): 6', 7', 8', 9'
    - ii. Air Retrieve Junior (AJ): 10', 11', 12', 13'
    - iii. Air Retrieve Senior (AS): 14', 15', 16, 17'
    - iv. Air Retrieve Master (AM): 18', 19', 20', 21'
    - v. Air Retrieve Elite (AE): 22' and up
  - c. After the Division title is achieved additional titling levels can be earned. Advanced (A) - can be earned with an additional 5 qualifying grabs within a division. An (A) will be placed behind the Division Title.
    - i. Air Retrieve Novice Advanced (ANA): 6', 7', 8', 9'
    - ii. Air Retrieve Junior Advanced (AJA): 10', 11', 12', 13'
    - iii. Air Retrieve Senior Advanced (ASA): 14', 15', 16, 17'
    - iv. Air Retrieve Master Advanced (AMA): 18', 19', 20', 21'
    - v. Air Retrieve Elite Advanced (AEA): 22' and up
  - d. Excellent (X) - can be earned once you have earned an Advance (A) with an additional 5 qualifying grabs within a division. A (X) will be placed behind the Division Title.
    - i. Air Retrieve Novice Excellent (ANX): 6', 7', 8', 9'
    - ii. Air Retrieve Junior Excellent (AJX): 10', 11', 12', 13'
    - iii. Air Retrieve Senior Excellent (ASX): 14', 15', 16, 17'
    - iv. Air Retrieve Master Excellent (AMX): 18', 19', 20', 21'
    - v. Air Retrieve Elite Excellent (AEX): 22' and up
  - e. Once an Excellent title is achieved an additional 5 qualifying grabs within a division will earn a numerical number after the X. Example – Air Retrieve Novice Excellent - ANX2, ANX3, etc.
  - f. Qualifying grabs will accumulate within a division. You must earn the Division title before earning a higher title of Advance (A) or Excellent (X).
  - g. A dog can earn two Advance Titles such as ANA and AJA but the higher title of ARJA will prevail. It will be the title of record.

- h. A dog can earn an Advance Title and an Excellent Title such as ANA and AJX but the higher title of AJX will prevail. It will be the title of record.
  - i. A dog can earn two Excellent Titles such as ANX and AJX. Both titles will be a title of record.
  - j. A dog that earns his second Excellent within a division, the AJX will be replaced with AJX2 for the title of record.
  - k. This system of recording was developed so that every qualifying grabs that a handler/dog team does counts towards one of the above titles.
- ii. VERTICAL:
- a. Vertical setup for titles is the same as above for Air Retrieve
    - i. Open Class:
      1. Vertical Novice (VN): 4'0"-5'4"
      2. Vertical Senior (VS): 5'6"-6'4"
      3. Vertical Elite (VE): 6'6" and up
    - ii. Lap Class:
      1. Vertical Novice (VN): 2'0"-2'11"
      2. Vertical Senior (VS): 3'0"-3'11"
      3. Vertical Elite (VE): 4'0" and up

## **XVI. PLACEMENTS:**

- i. Mobile Dock trials: At most mobile dock trials, due to the nature of the trial itself, each jump will receive a Q ribbon or a Title ribbon (if earned). Placements are not usually given at these trials. The exception is a Qualifying trails for the AKC/NADD National Championships.
- ii. Facility Trials: Each facility is responsible for its own awarding of placements and awards. They may, but are not required to, award placements for each Splash and /or for a Finals splash at the end of the trail.
- iii. At any trial, information on placements and the type of event will be defined in the event listing on the website.  
([www.northamericandivingdogs.com/upcomingevents](http://www.northamericandivingdogs.com/upcomingevents)).