



# Agility Association of Canada

Rulebook Update v. 9.4  
September 12, 2024

Please save or print this update and include it with your AAC Rulebook, v9.1a, effective April 2023. Any rule changes related to Regional and/or National competition, or to the National Team, can be found elsewhere (see [www.aac.ca](http://www.aac.ca) for links).

## **VERSATILITY PLATINUM AWARDS (VPA) – CLARIFICATION RE: REQUIREMENTS (240110)**

Rulebook Table 3.1.7- Expert Titles Required for Versatility Awards shall be amended to clarify that the awarding of a Versatility Platinum (VPA) requires 5 different expert platinum titles and the awarding of a Versatility Platinum Excellent (VPX) requires 6 different expert platinum titles.

## **Clarification for Biathlon Judging and Qualifying Scores – effective May 15, 2024 (240505)**

1. International Biathlon courses may be judged by any Masters level judges. To allow for the greatest flexibility for host clubs, the same judge does not need to judge both the Biathlon Jumpers and Biathlon Agility events. In the case where there are two different judges for the Biathlon pair the judge for the Biathlon Agility event will be the judge of record for the purpose of awarding the Biathlon Q. For example, at the same trial where a Biathlon event is offered, Bob judges JWW and Betty judges Biathlon Agility. The Biathlon Qs will be recorded with Betty as the judge of record.
2. If two (or more) Biathlon rounds are offered at a trial, Biathlon Qs must be earned in the same round.
3. Inclusion of a chart describing various scenarios of how Qs will be awarded.
4. Add the following titles: “Expert International Biathlon Platinum” (EXIB Platinum 2) - 100 International Biathlon qualifiers; “Expert International Biathlon Platinum” (EXIB Platinum 3) - 150 International Biathlon qualifiers. For the purpose of Versatility Awards, Biathlon Qs will be added to the Games total.
5. The transfer of Challenge qualifiers and the method to do so will be addressed after the pilot.

## **Changes added below in red for clarity**

### International Biathlon

To start this Stream would be introduced as a Pilot Project for 1 year. (starting July 1, 2024)

The object of the International Biathlon is to provide a new “Biathlon Agility” and a “Biathlon Jumpers with Weaves” stream, that tests the speed and handling skills of the agility dog and handler at an International level, with courses that are open, smooth, fast and flowing, but also provide appropriate challenges.

The course design for these classes should reflect various European Cup and Open level courses in their pace, difficulty, and handling requirements. The new Biathlon Stream is meant to be a unique stream with distinct course design requirements that provide for challenges at speed.

While an International Biathlon course should be more difficult than a Masters Standard/Jumpers course, the difficulties should not be insurmountable, and safety should never be compromised. Because speed is an essential element of success in these classes, the course design should present opportunities to maintain a good pace and flow as the teams

negotiate the various handling challenges. Choppy courses, with excessive compact challenges, that keep the dog in tight collection from one section to the next are to be avoided.

In order to accommodate the unique Course Design requirements for International Biathlon courses, the Design for these courses will be limited to Masters level judges who have completed AAC Board approved upgrading training and/or have International handling experience, and/or Judges from other Organizations with International Experience.

The approval of design for these courses, will also be limited to Masters level course approving judges who have completed AAC Board approved upgrading training and/or have International handling experience.

International Biathlon courses may be judged by any Masters level judges. To allow for the greatest flexibility for host clubs, the same judge does not need to judge both the Biathlon Jumpers and Biathlon Agility events. In the case where there are two different judges for the Biathlon pair the judge for the Biathlon Agility event will be the judge of record for the purpose of awarding the Biathlon Q. For example, at the same trial where a Biathlon event is offered, Bob judges JWW and Betty judges Biathlon Agility. The Biathlon Qs will be recorded with Betty as the judge of record.

International Biathlon is recommended to be offered and entered as a combined entity over TWO Rounds; the Agility and JWW classes, where a Biathlon qualifier and Standard/Jumpers qualifiers may both be obtained. But the classes may be offered or entered as individual rounds only, in which case the qualifiers would be limited to Standard/Jumpers qualifiers only. The two rounds are able to be run on one day or split over 2 or 3 days.

If two (or more) Biathlon rounds are offered at a trial, Biathlon Qs must be earned in the same round.

Qualifiers earned will be in whatever level the dog is currently competing at in Jumpers (Masters, Advanced, Starters) and Standard (Masters, Advanced, Starters).

The dog and handler team must navigate the courses as set by the Judge, judged in accordance with current Masters Standard performance rules, with a few noted exceptions.

There will also be an optional “Money Round” aspect to the new stream, where based on the number of entries of the International Biathlon event, a portion of the entry goes to the winner/winners of the classes. The objective of this addition is to add an extra element of excitement and pressure to the event.

**Eligibility:** The International Biathlon classes are “All Level”, open to all dogs eligible to compete in other AAC qualifying events at any performance level, and in any category. No pre-requisite is required. FEO runs are allowed.

### International Biathlon Course Times

The Standard Course Time (SCT) will be determined using the yards per second range for International Biathlon in Tables 2.9.1A/B (to be added) and the yardage as wheeled.

3.3 – 3.8 yards/sec in Standard and 3.8 – 4.6 yards/sec in JWW.

MCT will be calculated at 20 seconds over Mini Vet SCT.

*Table 2.10.1b - Suggested YPS Ranges to be used for each Division, including Calculation of Mini Division Times*

Class	Division		
	Mini	Medium	Open
Biathlon Agility	3.3-3.4	3.4-3.6	3.6-3.8
Biathlon Jumping	3.8-4.0	4.0-4.3	4.3-4.6

## Scoring

Because one of the goals of the Biathlon stream is to promote speed and intensity, the scoring for the International Biathlon classes will be scored as Time PLUS Faults. Faults will be judged based on the Regional/National scoring guidelines and then converted to seconds, to be added to the course time. In order to earn an International Biathlon qualifier a dog must run under the SCT after their time and faults have been combined, in both the Biathlon Jumpers AND the Biathlon Agility rounds.

At the same time, the scoring for the Individual rounds will be scored as Faults first then time, for both the Individual Jumping and Individual Standard qualifiers. For Jumping and Agility qualifiers the runs must have No faults and be under SCT to earn a qualifier. Agility Rocks will be able to automatically support this dual scoring for qualifiers, with the scorekeeper only inputting the faults and time, there will be no change for judging/inputting scores.

## International Biathlon vs Standard Agility and Jumpers Qualifiers

The AAC's International Biathlon is uniquely designed to be an Agility AND a Jumpers with Weaves class of the highest performance level available. It therefore offers three ways to qualify:

Dogs who run CLEAN under SCT in the Agility Round will earn a Standard Agility qualifier, at whatever level they are currently competing. Running without fault will be equivalent to a Standard qualifier at Masters/Advanced/Starters level.

Dogs who run CLEAN under SCT in the JWW Round will earn a Jumpers qualifier, at whatever level they are currently competing. Running without fault will be equivalent to a Jumpers qualifier at Masters/Advanced/Starters level.

To promote the unique flavour of the International Biathlon class, dogs who run BOTH the Agility and JWW rounds under SCT (Time PLUS Faults) will earn also an INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON qualifier.

A dog who has faults in Standard class may not earn a Standard qualifier and/or a dog who has faults in the JWW class may not earn a Jumpers qualifier; but that dog may still earn an International Biathlon qualifier if their faults are low enough to be able to run under (T+F) SCT for both rounds.

In trials where only 1 round is offered, or only 1 round is entered by the competitor there is only the possibility of obtaining the Agility or Jumping level qualifier. There are no 0.5 Biathlon qualifiers.

### Legend:

Biathlon jumpers with weaves = JWW

Biathlon agility = BA

Scenario	Trial Offer		JWW Results			BA Results			Trial Database		
	JWW	BA	Clean	Under SCT	Time + Faults under SCT	Clean	Under SCT	Time + Faults under SCT	Jumpers Leg*	Standard Leg*	Biathlon Leg**
1	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	-	-	-	yes	-	no
2	no	yes	-	-	-	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	no
3	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
4	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
5	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
6	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes

\* Legs for jumpers and standard will be awarded in the dog's competition level (Starters, Advanced or Masters)

\*\* Biathlon Qs are only eligible if both BA and JWW are offered at the same event.

## Titles

### Standard Agility and Jumpers Qualifiers

Standard and Jumpers qualifiers, earned in International Biathlon classes will go towards the appropriate titles at the dog's current level (Starters/Advanced/Masters)

Example: A dog in Masters Standard and Advanced Jumpers runs the International Biathlon courses. In both Biathlon Agility and JWW runs clean and under SCT. The dog earns a Masters Standard qualifier, an Advanced Jumpers qualifier AND an International Biathlon qualifier.

### International Biathlon Qualifiers/Titles

International Biathlon qualifiers (earned under at least 2 judges) will be applied toward the titles of:

"International Biathlon Dog of Canada" (IBDC)	3 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Bronze" (EXIB Bronze)	6 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Silver" (EXIB Silver)	12 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Gold" (EXIB Gold)	25 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Platinum" (EXIB Platinum)	50 International Biathlon qualifiers
<u>"Expert International Biathlon Platinum" (EXIB Platinum 2)</u>	<u>100 International Biathlon qualifiers</u>
<u>"Expert International Biathlon Platinum" (EXIB Platinum 3)</u>	<u>150 International Biathlon qualifiers</u>

For the purpose of Versatility Awards, Biathlon Qs will be added to the Game total.

### Transferring Challenge Qualifiers

Previous Challenge qualifiers will transfer over into the International Biathlon stream at a rate of 2:1, for every 2 Challenge qualifiers, you will automatically get 1 International Biathlon qualifier.

Example: If you have 25 Challenge qualifiers, 24 will transfer over to become 12 International Biathlon qualifiers, and awarded IBDC, EXIB Bronze, and EXIB Silver titles.

The question of whether to allow the transfer of Challenge qualifiers and the method to do so should be addressed after the pilot.

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## A-Rule Changes Effective July 1, 2024:

### Procedure for Judge requested Dog re-measurement addendum (240109)

#### 2.8.3 Re-Measurement and Challenges to a Dog's Final Jump Height

Handler-Requested Dog Remeasurement: Each dog is allowed one (1) handler-requested re-measurement per lifetime. To be eligible for re-measurement, the dog must be past his/her third birthday and have a signed official Regular jump height recorded on the ID card. Requests for re-measurements must be directed to the handler's Regional Director, who will help coordinate the process and submit the result of the re-measurement to the Trial Results Coordinator. The

procedure for this remeasurement shall follow the steps outlined in Section 2.8.1. Dogs are eligible to move to any jump height applicable to their official re-measurement.

The results of the remeasurement shall be effective on the first full trial day after the re-measurement has been completed (i.e., a dog may not jump two different heights on the same day, but may change jump heights from one trial day to the next). See Section 2.7.2 for other applicable restrictions on jump height changes.

*Judge-Requested Dog ID Card Verification:* A judge officiating at a trial where a dog is competing may ask to see the dog's ID card at any time if they have reason to suspect that the dog is not running in the correct height class and/or category, as indicated by the official jump height on the dog's ID card. If this is the case, the judge shall direct the handler to enter the correct height and/or category. Any qualifying legs earned at the trial in the wrong height class and/or category shall be voided.

*Judge-Requested Dog Remeasurement:* If an officiating judge has reason to question the dog's official height measurements as recorded on the dog ID card, the judge may ask that the dog be re-measured. Only an officiating judge can make this request.

If the results of a judge's request for re-measurement lead to a change in the dog's required jump height, the judge shall submit an incident report, notifying the Board of Directors of the official request for re-measurement. The incident report must be submitted immediately after the trial, and the re-measurement process must be completed within 60 days of the trial. This deadline shall be communicated to the handler. The dog may compete at their current jump height until the re-measurement process is completed. The result of this re-measurement shall be final, and no further challenges to the dog's official jump height will be allowed.

The re-measurement shall be organised through the handler's Regional Director, using the standard request for remeasurement form and submission procedure.

*Should the official remeasurement not occur within the prescribed 60-day window, the handler must explain why the remeasurement was impossible (e.g., no trials in the area, dog unable to compete) to avoid penalty. If no answer is provided and no remeasurement occurs, any Qs earned after the deadline shall be voided, no matter the jump height entered.*

## **B-Rule Changes Effective January 1, 2025:**

None