



2023 Invitational Championship Rules

The 2023 Invitational invites the top 25 dogs in each class.

Eligibility:

Dogs must compete in the highest level they qualified in, regardless of what level they are currently competing in.

Day 1 & 2:

Teams compete in their class against other invitees in two rounds of competition. Placements for first through fourth will be awarded in each class. These teams will advance to the Semifinals on Day 3.

- Day 1: Trailing & Locating, Lost Item Recovery
- Day 2: Urban Locating, Shed Dog

Day 3:

Semifinals: The top four placing teams in each class will compete in the semifinals. This score will be added to their totals from Sunday. The top scoring team from each class will continue to the Championship round.

Championships: The semi-final winner from each level will compete with each other on one course. The top scoring team in the championship round will be crowned the National Champion.



Format:

The competition format will be the same for each sport. All levels run on the same course. All searches will be blind. Handlers are limited to one dog per competition round. Additional handlers may be used to handle dogs owned by the same person.

Scoring:

Round 1 & 2: Scores are combined for each team. The top 4 teams with the highest score and fastest combined time from each level advance to the Semifinals.

Semifinals: The highest scoring team with the fastest time from each level will advance to the Championship Round.

Championship: The highest scoring dog with the fastest time from each level will be the National Champion.

Showcase	Invitational Championship		
Round 1 & 2 Best of Breed #1-5 Reg Class #26-#50	Round 1 & 2 Invitational Qualifiers & Top 20% from Showcase	Semifinals 20 Dogs	Championship Round 5 Dogs
Level I	Level I	Top 4 Level I Dogs	The top dog from Level I, Level II, Level III, MCh and GCH classes
Level II	Level II	Top 4 Level II Dogs	
Level III	Level III	Top 4 Level III Dogs	
Master Champion	Master Champion	Top 4 Level Mch Dogs	
Grand Champion	Grand Champion	Top 4 Level GCH Dogs	



National Championship Titles

The winner of the championship round
will be awarded the following title:

**Lost Item
Recovery**

NLICH

Shed Dog

NSDCH

**Trailing &
Locating**

NTLCH

**Urban
Locating**

NULCH



Class Descriptions

Lost Item Recovery

Hides may be inaccessible in each round. At least three distraction items will be present each round. There is no minimum / maximum distance between the hide and the start line.

- Round 1: Handler Odor – 2 Items, Elevated up to 24”, Judge makes the call
- Round 2: Non-Handler Odor – 2 Items, Elevated up to 24”, Handler makes the call
- Semi Finals: Random Draw for odor, 1-5 hides, Elevated up to 36”, Judge makes the call. The number of hides are known and the same for all teams.
- Championship Round: Non-Handler Odor, 4 search areas, 1-8 hides, areas may be blank, Elevated up to 36”. Handler must call the find(s) or finish for each search area.

Shed Dog

- Round 1: Single shed retrieve within 24” of the handler.
- Round 2: Single shed retrieve within 24” of the handler.
- Semifinals: 1 – 3 sheds determined by random draw for the class, Retrieve to Hand. The number of hides are known and the same for all teams.
- Championship Round: 1-4 sheds determined by random draw for the class, Retrieve to Hand. The number of hides is unknown. The handler must call finish when they believe the field is clear.



Trailing & Locating

Hides may be inaccessible in each round. At least three distractions will be present in each round. There is no minimum / maximum distance between the hide and the start line.

- Round 1: Elevated up to 48"
- Round 2: Elevated up to 48"
- Semifinals: Elevated up to 72"
- Championship Round: Elevated up to 96"

Urban Locating

Hides may be inaccessible in each round. At least three distractions will be present in each round. There is no minimum / maximum distance between the hide and the start line.

- Round 1: Elevated up to 48", Judge makes the call
- Round 2: Elevated up to 48", Handler makes the call
- Semifinals: Elevated up to 72", Judge makes the call
- Championship Round: 3 search areas. Each area may be blank. Elevated up to 108". Handler must call the find or finish for each search area.

