



NORTH AMERICAN CANICROSS

CANICROSS TITLING PROGRAM

VERSION 6

AMENDED MAY 2025
FIRST DRAFTED NOVEMBER 2020



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CANICROSS

Canicross, or cross-country trail running with dogs, came about when the dog sledding community needed a way to cross-train their teams in the off-season. Because of this, the original canicross dogs were more traditional mushing breeds, but as canicross has become more popular as a stand-alone sport, the breed variety has greatly increased to include pure and mixed breeds of all shapes and sizes.

Canicross grew first in popularity in Europe, with the United Kingdom really leading the movement to legitimize the sport. The first canicross event staged in the UK took place in 2000. In March 2008, over 100 runners and their dogs joined CaniX UK at the first ever canicross event held at Crufts, the largest dog show held in the world. In October 2012, CaniX UK hosted the first ECF European Canicross Championships in the UK in Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Typically canicross falls under Sled Dog and Mushing Sports Organizations, such as the International Sled Dog Federation founded in 1985, and the United States Federation of Sleddog Sports founded in 1988 for sanctioned events.*

* North American Canicross is in no way affiliated with, authorized by, maintained by, sponsored by or endorsed by any federation or organization mentioned or in existence at this time.

CONTENTS

: ORGANIZATION PURPOSE & GOALS	4
: GENERAL REGULATIONS	5
2.1 DOGS & HANDLERS IN COMPETITION	5
2.1 DOGS & HANDLERS IN COMPETITION	5
2.3 COMPETITION DELINEATIONS	6
: NACC TITLING PROGRAMS	7
3.1 LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES	7
3.2 RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLES	8
3.3 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES	10
: PRIZES & AWARDS	12
: REGISTRATION OF DOG TEAMS	13
5.1 REGISTRATION APPLICATION	13
5.2 REGISTRATION OF MULTIPLE DOGS.....	13
5.3 JUNIOR RUNNER REGISTRATION	14
5.4 FUTURE MUSHER CERTIFICATION	14
: TITLE SUBMISSION	15
6.1 RUN AND RACE SUBMISSIONS AND LOGS	15
6.2 TITLING DISPUTES AND SUBMISSION ERRORS	16
6.3 ADDITIONS MADE TO THE PROGRAM	16
: FINAL THOUGHTS	17

1

: ORGANIZATION PURPOSE & GOALS

North American Canicross (NACC) was founded in June of 2019 for the purpose of promoting canicross as a competitive sport in the United States. Its rules and regulations were derived from rules in practice by the International Sled Dog Federation and have evolved into a framework that offers multiple title programs to meet the demands of a growing sport. NACC's titling program seeks to maintain and promote the highest standards of competition in canicross for dog and human running teams and canine sports enthusiasts at all levels. NACC's competition standards are in place to ensure a safe activity for dogs and humans who are properly conditioned for the demands of the sport.

North American Canicross defines canicross as the sport of cross country trail running with dogs. Canicross can be run with one or two dogs, always attached to the runner. The dog(s) wear a non-restrictive, free-motion harness that attaches near the base of the dog's tail to a bungee cord or elastic line. The line reduces shock to both human and dog(s) when the dog(s) pull. The line must be the minimum of five feet in length and not exceeding nine feet when fully extended. The human teammate is attached to the dog(s) by a hands-free waist belt.

In the summer of 2022, North American Canicross expanded the canicross community with the introduction of the NACC Ambassador Program. Ambassadors play a pivotal role in connecting fellow canicross enthusiasts in their respective regions, facilitating group runs, providing equipment education, fostering socialization, and promoting the growth and understanding of the sport.

North American Canicross Race Competitions Standards Board

Alexis Karpf

Officer, Marketing and Operations

alexis@naccanycross.com

Jacqui Johnson

Officer, Resources & Administration

jacqui@naccanycross.com

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Web Address: www.northamericancanicross.com

Email Address: support@naccanycross.com

Mailing Address: 447 E Pharr Road Decatur GA 30030



2

: GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.1 DOGS & HANDLERS IN COMPETITION

The North American Canicross titling program and all events are open to any and all persons without discrimination who shall exhibit good sportsmanship and uphold the standards set forth in these rules and regulations.

All persons, by enrolling in the canicross titling program, agree to comply with all aspects of these regulations (including appendices). These regulations are intended to facilitate a reasonable governance of the sport of canicross and the titling program and are not intended to violate any law in any geographic jurisdiction. Should it be determined that these regulations not be permissible in the local jurisdiction, these regulations shall be modified to conform to local law.

Competitors may compete with any dog(s), purebreds or mixed breeds, twelve (12) months or older. The goal of the sport is to demonstrate the competitor's skill in training and performance.

Canicross is meant to highlight the fundamental elements of a dog(s) and human running team: strength, confidence, speed, communication, and all-around athleticism. All who want to compete in the North American Canicross titling program must register a dog with NACC.

2.1 DOGS & HANDLERS IN COMPETITION

To protect the welfare of dogs participating, dogs having the following conditions shall not be permitted to compete for as long as the condition exists:

- Dogs under twelve (12) months of age in all programs
- Dogs suffering from any deformity, injury, or illness that may put the dog at risk of injury or further injury by participating in the title program

2.3 COMPETITION DELINEATIONS

CANICROSS - North American Canicross defines canicross as the sport of cross country trail running with dogs. Canicross can be run with one or two dogs, always attached to the runner. The dog(s) wear a non-restrictive, free-motion harness that attaches near the base of the dog's tail to a bungee cord or elastic line. The line reduces shock to both human and dog(s) when the dog(s) pull. The line must be the minimum of five feet in length and not exceeding nine feet when fully extended. The human teammate is attached to the dog(s) by a hands-free waist belt. Dog(s) must run either in front of or beside human, never behind.

QUALIFYING RACE - Qualifying races must be in-person, scheduled events that provide proof of time and take place on a trail setting with an unpaved surface. Races must be cross-country, meaning they occur on open-air courses over natural terrain such as dirt or grass or non-paved surfaces.

A race does not need to be designated as a canicross event; however, the competitor submitting the race must have participated in canicross appropriate gear, as defined above.

The official race distance is determined by the race director's advertised distance, not personal GPS measurements.

The race surface classification follows the race director's description. A race advertised as a "trail race" remains a trail race, even if part of the course is on pavement. Miles completed during an in-person, scheduled race may count toward both Lifetime Achieved Miles Titles and Race Dog Distance Titles. **amended MAY 2025*

VIRTUAL RACING - A virtual race is a race that allows participants to complete a designated distance or canicross challenge on their own schedule, at a location of their choosing, rather than at a fixed in-person event. Participants track their performance using GPS-enabled devices or application tracking methods.

Only North American Canicross (NACC) Virtual Challenges and Events are eligible to count towards the NACC Titling Program to maintain program integrity and prevent unauthorized challenges created solely for title acquisition.

Miles completed during a NACC virtual challenge count toward both Lifetime Achieved Miles Titles and Race Dog Distance Titles. If a North American Canicross virtual challenge includes multiple race distances, the registrant may count one distance per registration to the challenge. **amended MAY 2025*

3

: NACC TITLING PROGRAMS

North American Canicross' competitive programs include the LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES, RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLES, and CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES which have similar structures, but different competition standards as outlined in this section.

3.1 LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES

Program emphasizing conditioning and training for the dog and runner alike. LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES will include all miles that the registered dog has accumulated over the lifetime of the dog in the canicross setting. Recognition awards will be awarded as outlined in **Section 4**.

LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES are broken down into the following milestones and are awarded as such:

50 Miles

100 Miles

250 Miles

500 Miles

1000 Miles

2000 Miles **amended MAY 2025*

3000 Miles **amended MAY 2025*

4000 Miles **amended MAY 2025*

5000 Miles

Miles are logged and calculated by the registered dog owner using a fitness tracker and/or application with a GPS. Miles include all training and race distances that are tracked in a canicross setting as defined in **Section 2.3**.

To have miles counted toward the Lifetime Achieved Miles titles, registered competitors must submit each run log through their personal member portal submissions form. Upon reaching a milestone, the titling member will be notified of their achievement via email and recognized on NACC's social media pages. **amended MAY 2025:*

A **Title Review Fee** must be paid at each milestone to receive the official titling certificate and milestone challenge coin.

For more details on title submission, refer to **Section 6**.

3.2 RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLES

Program with emphasis on speed, endurance, and athleticism. Titles are broken down into four (4) distance classes and are awarded based on completion of qualifier races, as defined in **Section 2.3**, for each distance class. Recognition awards will be awarded as outlined in **Section 4**. A race distance is determined by how the race director has advertised the race. Not by personal GPS equipment. See **Section 2.3** COMPETITION DEFINITIONS: *QUALIFYING RACE*

RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLES are broken down into the following distance classes and are awarded as such:

- Sprint Distance Class : 1 mile (1.6k) - 3 miles (4.8k)
- 5k Distance Class : 3.1 miles (5k) - 6.1 miles (9.6k)
- 10k Distance Class: 6.2 (10k) miles - 13 miles (20.9 k) **amended MAY 2025*
- Marathon Distance Class 13.1 Miles (21k) - 26.2 miles (42.2k) **amended MAY 2025*

Each Distance class offers four competitive “levels” for certification (“titling”) purposes, based upon the degree of training and competitive skills demonstrated. The class levels are broken down as such: **Novice, Advanced, Master, and Elite.**

A competitor does not need to complete distance CLASSES consecutively and can work on different distance class titles simultaneously. Levels within each class, however, must be completed in the **Novice, Advanced, Master, Elite order.**

Distance titles are outlined below and require the stated number of *Qualifying Races* in order to achieve the title and move onto the next level title in that distance class.

Sprint Distance Class

Qualifying races for this class measure a minimum of 1 mile (1.6 Kilometers) maximum 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) in distance.

- Accumulate five (5) qualifying races: NOVICE SPRINT CANICROSS DOG (NSCD)
- Accumulate ten (10) qualifying races: ADVANCED SPRINT CANICROSS DOG (ASCD)
- Accumulate twenty (20) qualifying races: MASTER SPRINT CANICROSS DOG (MSCD)
- Accumulate forty (40) qualifying races: ELITE SPRINT CANICROSS DOG (ESCD)

5k Distance Class

Qualifying races for this class measure a minimum of 3.1 miles (5 kilometers) and a maximum of 6.0 miles (9.6 kilometers) in distance.

- Accumulate five (5) qualifying races: NOVICE 5K CANICROSS DOG (NCD)
- Accumulate ten (10) qualifying races: ADVANCED 5K CANICROSS DOG (ACD)
- Accumulate twenty (20) qualifying races: MASTER 5K CANICROSS DOG (MCD)
- Accumulate forty (40) qualifying races: ELITE 5K CANICROSS DOG (ECD)

10k Distance Class

Qualifying races for this class measure a minimum of 6.1 miles (10 kilometers) and a maximum of 13 miles (20.9 kilometers) in distance.

- Accumulate five (5) qualifying races: NOVICE 10K CANICROSS DISTANCE DOG (NCDD)
- Accumulate ten (10) qualifying races: ADVANCED 10K CANICROSS DISTANCE DOG (ACDD)
- Accumulate twenty (20) qualifying races: MASTER 10K CANICROSS DISTANCE DOG (MCDD)
- Accumulate forty (40) qualifying races: ELITE 10K CANICROSS DISTANCE DOG (ECDD)

Marathon Distance Class

Qualifying races for this class measure a minimum of 13.1 miles (21 kilometers) and a maximum of 26.2 miles (42.4 kilometers) in distance.

- Accumulate three (3) qualifying races: NOVICE CANICROSS MARATHON DOG (NCMD)
- Accumulate six (6) qualifying races: ADVANCED CANICROSS MARATHON DOG (ACMD)
- Accumulate twelve (12) qualifying races: MASTERS CANICROSS MARATHON DOG (MCMD)
- Accumulate twenty (20) qualifying races: ELITE CANICROSS MARATHON DOG (ECMD)

See **Section 2.3** for what delineates a *Qualifying Races* in the titling program.

In order for a race to be included towards the RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLES, registered competitors must submit each run and racelog through their personal member portal submissions form. Upon reaching a milestone, the titling member will be notified of their achievement via email and recognized on NACC's social media pages. **amended MAY 2025*

A **Title Review Fee** must be paid at each milestone to receive the official titling certificate and milestone challenge coin.

For more details on title submission, refer to **Section 6**.

3.3 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

Program which further challenges the dog and runner to be versatile in competitive distances. Championship Titles are awarded to dogs who have completed a variety of race distances and acquired RACE DOG DISTANCE and LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES TITLES. CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES are recognized as Bronze through Gold as achievements are made. Recognition awards will be awarded as outlined in **Section 4**.

CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES are awarded based on completing a combination of class distances in the RACE DOG DISTANCE and LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES TITLE programs, in addition to *Qualifying Races* of longer distances.

The championship class offers three (3) competitive levels for titling purposes, based upon the degree of training and competitive skills demonstrated. The class levels are broken down as such: **Champion Bronze, Champion Silver, and Champion Gold**.

Championship Titles are listed below and require a number of accumulated titles and *Qualifying Races* in order to achieve each title and move onto the next title in the Championship Class.

Championship Titles must be earned in sequential order.

Champion BRONZE Canicross Dog (CHBCD)

- Achieve a NOVICE RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLE in any distance class
- Achieve a 50 Mile LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES TITLE
- Accumulate three (3) qualifying races of a minimum distance of 6.2 miles (10 kilometers) maximum 13 miles (20.9 kilometers)

Champion SILVER Canicross Dog (CHSCD)

- Achieve a NOVICE RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLE in any distance class
- Achieve a 100 Mile LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES TITLE
- Accumulate five (5) qualifying races of a minimum distance of 6.2 miles (10 kilometers) maximum 13 miles (20.9 kilometers)
- Accumulate one (1) qualifying race of a minimum distance of 13.1 miles (21 kilometers or half marathon)

Champion GOLD Canicross Dog (CHGCD)

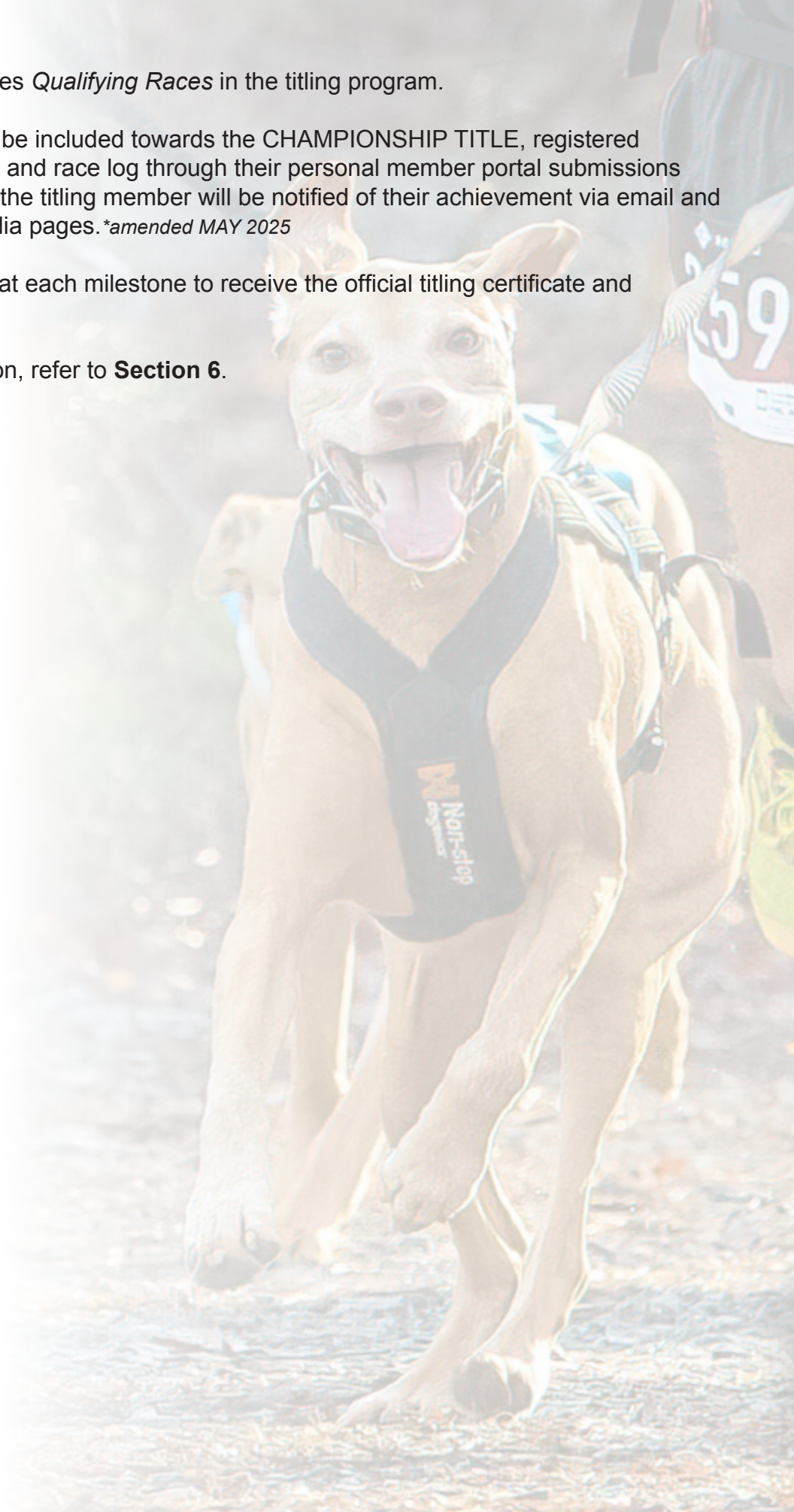
- Achieve a NOVICE RACE DOG DISTANCE TITLE in any distance class
- Achieve a 250 Mile LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES TITLE
- Accumulate ten (10) qualifying races of a minimum distance of 6.2 miles (10 kilometers) maximum 13 miles (20.9 kilometers)
- Accumulate two (2) qualifying races of a minimum distance of 13.1 miles (21 kilometers or half marathon)

See **Section 2.3** for what delineates *Qualifying Races* in the titling program.

In order for a race and mileage to be included towards the CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE, registered competitors must submit each run and race log through their personal member portal submissions form. Upon reaching a milestone, the titling member will be notified of their achievement via email and recognized on NACC's social media pages. **amended MAY 2025*

A **Title Review Fee** must be paid at each milestone to receive the official titling certificate and milestone challenge coin.

For more details on title submission, refer to **Section 6**.



4

: PRIZES & AWARDS

North American Canicross awards its competitors a series of challenge coins at each title achievement, as outlined in this document. Each challenge coin is unique and reflects the discipline in training, and athletic ability of the canicross team. Challenge coins will range in size between 1.5” to 3” and include a variety of metal and colored finishes.

Title specific and limited release challenge coins become available on a set schedule. The schedule for challenge coin release can be located on the North American Canicross website. Titles can be submitted and achieved prior to the release of the corresponding challenge coin. As soon as the challenge coin is released, all participants who have previously met all the requirements for the title and paid the Title Review Fee will receive the challenge coin and corresponding titling certificate. Those who qualified for the title prior to the challenge coin’s release will be notified via email when it becomes available and will be given the option to submit payment to receive the challenge coin and titling certificate.

North American Canicross is based in the United States of America. All Awards and Prizes being shipped outside the USA will have an additional charge of \$20.00 **amended MAY 2025* shipping and handling fee that will be paid by the registered competitor prior to shipment of prizes. The titling member must submit payment through the North American Canicross website under the [“PAY TITLE REVIEW FEE”](#) link. Additionally, a payment request will be sent via email. **amended MAY 2025*

**Please allow 2–4 weeks for delivery of the Title Certificate and Challenge Coin.*



5

: REGISTRATION OF DOG TEAMS

A dog must be registered with North American Canicross in order to compete in NACC sanctioned events and titling programs.

A dog must meet eligibility requirements outlined in **Section 2.2** to be registered with NACC.

5.1 REGISTRATION APPLICATION

A dog team can be registered by completing the online application through the North American Canicross website under the "[Team Registration](#)" tab. **amended MAY 2025*

An entry fee of \$50.00 must be paid upon registration and will automatically cover the title fee for the 50 mile LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES award. The titling member must submit payment through the North American Canicross website under the "[Team Registration](#)" tab. If the registrant fails to submit payment, a payment request will be sent via email.

If a dog is not recognized by a major breed registry and cannot be definitively identified as a breed or birth date, the dog shall be classified as an "All Breed" and an estimate of the dog's birth date is allowed for entry.

Upon completing the Team Registration Form and submitting the \$50 Team Registration Payment, North American Canicross will issue a digital registration card containing the information provided on the registration application. Each dog will be assigned a unique registration number.

Any errors on the card must be reported to NACC for correction to ensure the accurate issuance of title certificates.

**Please allow 2–4 weeks for delivery of your physical registration card*

5.2 REGISTRATION OF MULTIPLE DOGS

A runner may register multiple dogs in the North American Canicross Title Program. Registration and entry fee must be completed per dog registered as written in **Section 5.1**

Registration is based on the dog named in the Registration Application, not the runner submitting the registration. As a result, the same dog cannot be registered by multiple runners.

However, a non-registered runner may run a registered dog for titling purposes, as the titles are awarded based on the dog's achievements. **amended MAY 2025*

A runner may count the same miles and qualifier races towards titles for up to **two (2) dogs at a time**. A runner may have registered more than two (2) dogs who are working to achieve titles simultaneously, but more than two (2) dogs cannot use the same mileage or *Qualifying Races* towards their title accumulation. This is in order to adhere to the Canicross rules and definition as defined in **Section 2.3**.

5.3 JUNIOR RUNNER REGISTRATION

The North American Canicross Junior Runner Program is for children twelve (12) years old to eighteen (18) years old. It was designed to encourage youth involvement in canicross as a fun, family-friendly sport and to promote responsible pet ownership. Dogs and junior runners may compete in the Junior Runner Program the same as registered members in the North American Canicross Titling Program.

A junior runner need not be the owner of the dog; however, a dog and junior runner must be registered as a team in order to participate in the Junior Runner Program. In this instance, **if a dog is already registered to an adult handler and a junior handler wishes to compete with the same dog, the dog may be assigned a second registration number under the junior handler's name**. This allows the junior handler to pursue their own titling achievements and encourages youth participation in canicross. **amended MAY 2025*

A digital registration card bearing the information included on the registration application will be issued based on the name of the Junior Runner and the dog since accomplishments are measured and awarded to the dog and handler as a team. Any errors on the card must be reported to NACC for correction to assure correct issuance of title certificates. Junior Runner Registration requires the NACC waiver be signed by a parent or guardian eighteen (18) years or older.

Once a junior runner reaches adulthood, they will not need to re-register in the titling program, and their achievements will carry over. However, if a new dog is to be registered, they must follow the rules outlined in **Section 5: REGISTRATION OF DOG TEAMS**.

A dog shall not be permitted to be entered on the same day in the same class with two different handlers for in-person events.

The Junior Runner competitor may be accompanied by an adult eighteen (18) years or older in order to help them manage the dog during the run. The adult who accompanies may secure the child with a double leash that is longer than the leash of the child. The task of the adult is to ensure the security of the child and to intervene if a problem arises.

5.4 FUTURE MUSER CERTIFICATION

The North American Canicross FUTURE MUSER CERTIFICATION is for children twelve (12) years old and younger. It was designed to encourage youth involvement in canicross as a fun, family-friendly sport and to promote responsible pet ownership. Future Musers have a one time \$30 registration fee and receive an digital educational canicross pamphlet. Interested youth, complete a series of activities in canicross, and submit their answers via email to: support@nacanicross.com

Once completed they receive an official Future Musher patch and Future Musher Certificate. Future Musers are typically twelve (12) years old and younger, although people of all ages can participate.

6

: TITLE SUBMISSION

6.1 RUN AND RACE SUBMISSIONS AND LOGS

North American Canicross assigns each titling member a unique registration number for logging both individual runs and race logs. Once assigned, the member will receive a link via email to access their private logging portal for run and race submissions. This portal is secure and does not share personal information with other members or third parties.

Instructions for Logging a Run or Race

1. Visit the North American Canicross website: www.nacanicross.com.
2. Navigate to the **Titling Program** tab.
3. Click on “[Log A Run or Race](#).”
4. Under the heading “Log a Run or Race,” locate the subheading: “**A submission form will be sent to your email.**”
5. Select your registration number in the submission form.
6. A link to your private logging portal will be sent to your email.
7. Open the email and click the link to access your logging portal.
8. Enter the required information based on your run or race as prompted.
9. Click **Submit** to finalize your log entry.

LIFETIME ACHIEVED MILES must be entered separately from RACE DOG DISTANCE entries. RACE DOG DISTANCE Titles are awarded based on a specific range of qualifying miles/kilometers. To ensure full recognition for both titles, each category must be logged independently.

The North American Canicross system automatically tracks all logged runs and races, notifying titling members when they reach a milestone and earn a title achievement across all programs. Milestones are reviewed by the North American Canicross Race Competition Standards Board before the member is notified via email and recognized on NACC’s social media pages. **amended MAY 2025*

A \$40 Title Review Fee must be paid at each milestone to receive the official titling certificate and milestone challenge coin. The titling member must submit payment through the North American Canicross website under the “[PAY TITLE REVIEW FEE](#)” link. If payment is not submitted, a payment request will be sent via email. **amended MAY 2025*

6.2 TITLING DISPUTES AND SUBMISSION ERRORS

Titling achievements are reviewed by the North American Canicross Race Competition Standards Board. If duplicate runs are discovered or races do not meet the *Qualifying Races* definition (see **Section 2.3** COMPETITION DEFINITIONS, the Titling Member will be notified via email from support@nacanicross.com.

If a member believes there is an error in their title achievement status, they may submit a dispute request by contacting North American Canicross (NACC) support via email to support@nacanicross.com

All disputes must be submitted within 30 days of the title notification. The Race Competition Standards Board will review the dispute and issue a decision within 14 business days. For submission errors, such as incorrect mileage, missing race logs, or inaccurate details on a titling certificate, members must notify NACC support as soon as possible to request corrections by emailing support@nacnaicross.com.

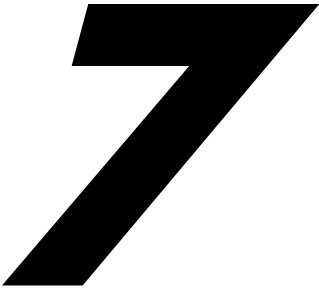
All decisions made by the Race Competition Standards Board regarding disputes are final.

6.3 ADDITIONS MADE TO THE PROGRAM

North American Canicross is committed to evolving and expanding its Titling Program as the sport of Canicross grows. When new titling programs are introduced, titling achievements will be applied retroactively to a member's registration date.

Members may submit past races and runs that meet the updated titling criteria at any time. As long as the race or run was completed after the member's registration date and the registration fee has been paid, the log entry may be submitted for title consideration.





: FINAL THOUGHTS

As Canicross is an ever changing and developing sport, it is inevitable that new information, whether related to general regulations or health and safety, will come to light. North American Canicross will continue to evolve and adapt it's titling program as the sport of Canicross grows. We hope that all participants in the program will keep this in mind as the NACC Titling Program matures with the sport.

The North American Canicross Titling Program was established in November of the year 2020.

North American Canicross Race Competitions Standards Board

Alexis Karpf

Officer, Marketing and Operations

alexis@naccanycross.com

Jacqui Johnson

Officer, Resources & Administration

jacqui@naccanycross.com

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Web Address: www.northamericancanicross.com

Email Address: support@naccanycross.com

Mailing Address: 447 E Pharr Road Decatur GA 30030



**NORTH AMERICAN
CANICROSS**