

# World Agility Open Championships 2024

## Northern Ireland Team Selection

The 12<sup>th</sup> WAO World Championships will take place in the Netherlands at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo from 15th to 19th May 2024. Once again Northern Ireland will be represented at the Championships. The Equestrian Centre is some 70 miles from the ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Information about the event is available on the WAO web site - [www.worldagilityopen.com](http://www.worldagilityopen.com).

### SELECTION PROCESS

There will be a two-day qualifying competition at Hawthorn Farm. Dogs that do not have an official WAO height measurement will be measured into their appropriate WAO height categories. All dogs will compete in five events. On the first day the programme will consist of a jumping class followed by speedstakes and agility. Snooker and gamblers classes will be held on the second day. Dogs will earn points based on their placing in each class. The dog that comes first in each class will be awarded 1 point, second 2 points etc. A value will be set for an elimination based on the number of dogs entered in the selection process. Once the 5 runs have been completed the 2 dogs with lowest accumulated points total in each of the height categories will be guaranteed a place on the N.I. squad and will be entered in the biathlon, games and individual pentathlon classes at the world championships. The Team Management may select a third dog in each jumping height if, in its opinion, it would enhance the performance of the Team. The trial and subsequent practice sessions will use the jumping heights set out by WAO for the 2024 Championships.

### ELIGIBILITY

**Dog:** KC Grades 5, 6 or 7 by 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Team Management is conscious of the fact that there has been a lack of opportunities over the past few years for owners of new dogs to progress them through the grading system. Covid-19 created a backlog of new dogs in the junior grades and grade-progression is being hindered by a gradual reduction in the number of KC licensed shows available locally. Team Management is therefore prepared to consider expressions of interest from owners/handlers with previous experience of handling Grade 5 to 7 dogs whose current dogs are graded 2 to 4. Depending on numbers it may be necessary to hold a pre-trial competition which would consist of a jumping class followed by speedstakes and agility. In the event of such a pre-trial competition it would be a matter solely for Team Management to decide which dogs should go forward to the to the main trial.

In addition, applications will be considered from young people born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005 to compete in the WAO Junior World Championship. There will be one place available in each jumping height. The dog must be competing at KC Grade 2 or above. Handlers must enter their dogs in the main trial, but their performance will be compared only with other junior competitors. A dog handled by a junior handler may not otherwise be entered in the Championship with another handler,

**Handler:** Handlers must be born in, or be a permanent resident of, Ireland. In addition, Team Management is prepared to consider applications from owners/handlers who have a parent or grandparent born in Ireland.

### JUMPING HEIGHTS

Jumping Height	250	300	400	500	600
Dog Height at Withers	320mm & under	380mm & under	440mm & under	500mm & under	Over 500mm

## **AVAILABILITY**

Competitors must be available for the trial which is scheduled to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Competitors must also be available for the whole of the WAO Championships. The check-in procedure for the dogs and the official training sessions are scheduled to commence on Tuesday 14 May 2024. Depending on travel arrangements handlers can expect to be away from home from 12/13 May to 20/21 May 2024.

## **COSTS**

Entry to the selection trial will be £35 per dog. If a pre-trial session is arranged for KC Grade 2 to 4 dogs the entry fee will be £10 per dog. If any of these dogs are invited to the main trial there will be an additional charge of £25 per dog. These fees will go towards the cost of the team entry fee. The balance of the entry fee will be paid by K9Activities. The appropriate fees must be paid before the trial commences.

**In addition, once selected, a handler will be required to make a non-returnable deposit of £130 which will go towards meeting team travel/accommodation costs.**

Competitors will have to pay towards their personal travel and accommodation expenses, but everyone will be expected, collectively or individually, to engage in fund raising activities to help meet these costs.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Owners/handlers considering entry to the process should feel free to discuss the selection procedures or any other aspect of the event with Carron McCreedy 07710 607547 E: twobytwo.cm@gmail.com

## **APPLICATIONS**

Applications should be made to the Team Manager by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023