

World Agility Open Championships 2025

Northern Ireland Team Selection

The WAO World Championships will take place in the Netherlands at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo from 14th - 18th May 2025. 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.

Selecton Process

There will be a one-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 four events. The programme will consist of a jumping class followed by agility, snooker and gamblers. 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 4 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.

ELIGIBILITY

Dog: KC Grades 5, 6 or 7 by **31 July 2024**

In addition, applications will be considered from young people born on or after **1 May 2006** 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 in Ireland or 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 5th and 6th October 2024. If a competitor cannot make the trial for unavoidable reasons the management will consider their entry and will offer them a spot if they deem them beneficial to the team.

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 13th May 2025. Depending on travel arrangements handlers can expect to be away from home from 11/12th May to 18/19 May 2025.

COSTS

Entry to the selection trial will be £35 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 McCready – T:07710 607547 E: twobytwo.cm@gmail.com**

APPLICATIONS

Applications should be made to the Team Manager by **31 July 2024**