2027 World Agility Open
Team USA
Selection Document

The 2027 World Agility Open Championships will be held May 12-16, 2027 at KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands. To try out for Team USA for this event, there will be a combination of win on spots and selected spots, as summarized below and detailed later in this document.

THERE ARE CHANGES TO THE WIN ON SPOT EARNED AT THE WEST COAST OPEN INCLUDING NEEDING TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR THIS SPOT. PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT IN IT'S ENTIRETY.

Team USA's mission is to select a team of handlers and dogs who will be competitive against the rest of the world in all disciplines offered at the WAO.

Team Selection – Summary

Spots in each height will be selected as follows:

- Super Win On Spot (Earned at the US Open - November 18-22, Jacksonville, FL) – 1 win on spot per height will be selected to run in all 3 individual events – Biathlon, Pentathlon and Games at the WAO
- Biathlon and Games (Earned at the West Coast Open - October 1-4, Paso Robles, CA) – 1 win on spot per height will be selected for both the Biathlon Championship and Games Championship at the WAO
- Selected Spots – Additional spots per height will be chosen by Team Management based on criteria stated below under "Selected Spots"
- Juniors – Up to 1 junior per height will be earned through a win on spot at the US Open
- Alternates – Will be chosen by Team Management based on criteria stated below under "Selected Spots"

All handler and dog partnerships (including juniors) wishing to be considered for selection for the 2027 WAO Team USA must enter the US Open. The only exceptions to this are:

- Winners of the Biathlon and Games Spot from the West Coast Open
- Winners of the 1-TDC Invitational
- 2026 WAO medalists from Team USA
- If you earn the win on spot from the West Coast Open, or are a previous medalist, you must also attend the US Open to be considered for any additional

individual spots beyond what you have earned. You may still be considered for Team Runs.

In the event of a handler or dog not being able to enter the US Open, only veterinary or extreme personal reasons will be considered in allowing handler or dog to still be in contention for selection. This is purely at the discretion of Team Management.

Team Management reserves the right to select dogs to run in only the Team Championship event based on the criteria stated below under "Selected Spots". If this is implemented, it will be a maximum of 1 dog per height. The selected dogs may or may not have competed at the US Open and/or West Coast Open. Handlers and dogs wanting consideration for team only should still file an application.

Team USA Management reserves the right to alter the selection process should any of the events specified in this document not run for any reason.

Team Selection - Details

Only results from the 8", 12", 16", 20", and 24" height divisions at the US Open and West Coast Open will be used to determine any spots on WAO Team USA.

Super Win On Spot – Biathlon, Pentathlon and Games

Points are based on ALL dogs entered in each height at the US Open, regardless if trying out for Team USA.

Points will be earned in the following events at the US Open:
US Open Biathlon
US Open Masters Final
US Open Games Challenge
US Open National Championship Final *(Points will only be awarded for clear rounds)*

Points will be earned as follows:
1st place – 45 points
2nd place – 36 points
3rd place – 28 points
4th place – 21 points
5th place – 15 points
6th place – 10 points
7th place – 6 points
8th place – 3 points

There are no points earned for individual classes in each event (other than the US Open National Championship Final). In order to earn the Super Win On Spot, you must earn points in at least two events. The highest combined point total in each WAO selection height from the events noted above will be offered the Super Win On Spot. If that candidate does not meet the requirements, or declines the invitation, the next highest placing team applicant will be invited to fill the spot. If that person declines, the spot will not be filled (i.e., we will

not go beyond second highest placing dog & handler).

In the event of a tie for points, the results from the following events will be used in this order to break the tie: US Open National Championship Final, Masters Series, Biathlon, Games Challenge. If still tied the class results will be used in the following order: Masters Agility, Masters Jumping, Biathlon Agility, Biathlon Jumping, Gamblers, Snooker.

Teams earning the Super Win On spot will be guaranteed to run in all three individual events.

Failure to qualify for any of the above noted events does not prevent a candidate from trying out and/or being selected for Team USA.

Win On Spot – Biathlon & Games
Points are based on ALL dogs entered in each height at the West Coast Open, regardless if trying out for Team USA.

One win on spot per height will earn a spot in the Biathlon & Games Championship at the WAO by the following calculations:

Points will be earned in the following events:
West Coast Open Games Championship
West Coast Open Masters Series
West Coast Open Pentathlon

Points will be earned as follows:
1st place – 45 points
2nd place – 36 points
3rd place – 28 points
4th place – 21 points
5th place – 15 points
6th place – 10 points
7th place – 6 points
8th place – 3 points

In order to earn the Win on Spot, you must earn points in at least 2 of the 3 events. The highest combined point total in each WAO selection height from the events noted above will be offered the West Coast Open Win On Spot. If that person declines, the spot will not be filled (i.e., we will not go beyond the first place dog & handler).

In the event of a tie for points, the results from the following events will be used in this order to break the tie: Games Challenge, Masters Series, Pentathlon. If still tied the class results will be used in the following order: Gamblers, Snooker, Masters Agility, Masters Jumping, Pentathlon Steeplechase, Pentathlon Agility 1 & 2 combined, Pentathlon Jumping 1 & 2 combined.

Teams earning the West Coast Open Win On spot will not be eligible to be selected for any other individual events at the WAO other than Biathlon & Games unless they also attend the US Open (and fill out an application as a candidate). An exception to this is if the dog and handler are a 2026 WAO medalist, in which case an application is required, but entry at the US Open is not required.

Junior Spots (Must be born on or after May 01, 2008)
Team USA will take from 0-5 juniors (maximum one dog per height) selected as follows:

Points are based on ALL dogs entered in each height at the US Open, regardless of whether a junior, or trying out for Team USA.

Points will be earned in the following events:
US Open Biathlon
US Open Masters Final
US Open Games Championship
US Open National Championship Final *(Points will only be awarded for clear rounds)*

Points will be earned as follows:
1st place – 45 points
2nd place – 36 points
3rd place – 28 points
4th place – 21 points
5th place – 15 points
6th place – 10 points
7th place – 6 points
8th place – 3 points

A junior cannot earn a win on spot if zero points are earned.

Juniors will have one (1) win-on spot for each jump height. If a Junior wins one of the "win-on" spots they will run as a Junior at the WAO, which will provide them runs in each individual event at the WAO. If that person declines, the spot will not be filled (i.e., we will not go beyond the first place junior dog & handler). If no juniors win on, Team Management reserves the right to select up to one junior per height based on criteria stated below under "Selected Spots". Junior handlers may also be considered for Team runs.

A junior handler under the age of 18 MUST have a parent or guardian traveling with them to the WAO event. USA Team Management bears no liability for juniors in attendance at the WAO.

Selected Spots
Team USA will consist of three dogs per individual event in each of the five jump heights. Additional dogs beyond three will be added to the team due to prior year WAO medalists and 1-TDC Win On spots.

When applying for a position on Team USA you acknowledge and accept that other than the win on spots, you are entering a selection process that is opinion based.

The points system for the Super Win On Spot is NOT the primary source for selecting the remainder of the team. The points earned beyond the win on spot do help to form a list of dogs that will be considered. However, other factors will be *strongly* considered as listed below. The US Open is different than other USA based tryouts in that there are classes and events that do not count for points, and there are dogs competing that are not trying out. The WAO also has 5 different Championships to offer and one of our goals is to provide a balanced team in all heights.

For the remaining spots in each height, Team Management will also be using some or all of the following in our consideration (in no particular weight or order).

- Podium and event placement at the US Open
- Course times and placements at the US Open
- Level of skills demonstrated at the US Open
- Sportsmanship (this is an important factor as team dynamics are critical)
- Balancing of each jump height across individual and team events
- Previous WAO and/or other events that demonstrate similarities to WAO

Alternate Member Selections
One or two alternates will be selected in each of the five jump heights. The alternates will be selected using the process described above for selected spots.

WAO 2026 Medalists
WAO rules invite all individual podium winners to compete at the 2027 WAO in the class in which their medal was won. Team USA will be inviting all Team USA 2026 individual podium winners to a spot on Team USA. These handlers will compete in the individual class in which the medal was won. To be considered for any other individual events they must follow the application criteria stated in this document.

Dog and Handler Requirements for Application
All team members, by entering the selection events and being selected, understand and agree to the following Team USA participation requirements:

Team USA Management believes that you are proud to be trying out to represent USA, whether this results in your selection or not. This should be reflected in your behavior at all times. Any rule breaking, bad sportsmanship or any abuse to dogs, other competitors, management or show organizers/helpers either in person or on social media may result in disqualification from the try-outs, team, and future selection events for WAO.

- All team members will support any fundraising/sponsorship requirements for Team USA
- All team members will participate in any team activities with integrity, honesty and good sportsmanship
- All team members will put their dog's needs ahead of their personal aspirations

- All team members will support, encourage & respect fellow team members and management before and during the WAO competition.
- The dog must have a microchip.
- The dog must have an official WAO measurement and/or a measurement by team officials to determine that dog is not close to the height cutoff.
- All win on spots for candidates that do not have an official measurement will be measured by Greg or Laura Derrett at the US Open or West Coast Open. That measurement will be your official WAO measurement and you will not have to be measured again at the WAO.
- All candidates that don't have an official measure or have been previously measured by team officials will need to be measured at the US Open. Dogs will not be able to change jump heights once the event begins. Measuring will take place on Tuesday November 17th from 2:30pm-4:30pm.
- At the time of team selection, handlers must be a citizen of the USA, or have a birth certificate from USA, have parents or grandparents born in the USA, or have permanent resident status.
- At the time of team selection, handlers must have a valid passport or be able to obtain one in time for travel to the WAO.
- The handler who runs the dog at the UKI US Open and/or West Coast Open MUST be the same handler who ran the dog in the competitions used to qualify for those events and who will run the dog at the WAO.
- Team dogs and handlers should be in the Netherlands from Sunday May 9 through Sunday May 16, 202 and participate in all required team USA events. May 10 & 11 are expected to be training dates for all competitors.
- Team members are no longer required to stay at the team hotel. You are responsible to make arrangements for your own lodging.
- If you earn a spot on Team USA, you may be asked to sign a code of conduct and agree to abide by guidelines set out by WAO Team USA.
- No competitors earning spots through win-on or selection are guaranteed team runs, unless they are specifically selected for the Team Championship. Decisions on team runs will be made at the event by management.
- Team members understand that WAO Team USA is primarily self-funded and does not receive any direct financial support from any outside organization. WAO Team USA Management will conduct fundraising through sponsors, US Open practice ring and team application fees. In the past, this fundraising has covered entry fees, uniforms, and travel expenses for Team Management. Team USA competitors should expect to pay all of their own travel expenses out of pocket. This includes costs for a parent/guardian for juniors. For 2027, the WAO is anticipating much higher entries fees due to loss of sponsorship. We are also anticipating uniform and travel expenses will continue to increase. All traveling members of Team USA should expect to potentially need to pay out of pocket towards the team to cover entry fees, uniforms and team management travel that is not met through fundraising.

Jump Heights

Dogs will need to compete at their WAO height in all classes at the tryout event. The chart below lists the jump height and cutoffs:

Team applicants must enter the appropriate events at the UKI US Open and West Coast Open. All qualifying scores at local trials that are used for byes at the US Open and/or West Coast Open must also be earned at the WAO height. UKI jump height cutoffs have a greater range than WAO so dogs must be entered at the Open events based upon the equivalent WAO height cutoffs shown here:

WAO Jump Height in mm	WAO Jump Height in inches	WAO Dog's Height at Withers	UKI Jump height at which dog must compete at US Open
250	9.84	12.60 inches & under	8 inches
300	11.81	14.96 inches & under	12 inches
400	15.75	17.32 inches & under	16 inches
500	19.69	19.69 inches & under	20 inches
600	23.62	Over 19.69 inches	24 inches

Application for WAO Team USA

THE WEST COAST OPEN WIN ON SPOT NOW REQUIRES AN APPLICATION

IF YOU ARE ATTENDING BOTH THE WEST COAST AND US OPEN, YOU MUST FILE BOTH APPLICATIONS

Applications for Team USA are as follows:

US Open applications will be accepted online from August 1 through 11:59pm EST October 5. The application fee for the US Open is $55

2027 WAO TEAM USA APPLICATION - US OPEN

West Coast Open applications will be accepted online from August 1 through 11:59 pm on August 31. The application fee for the West Coast Open is $25

2027 WAO TEAM USA APPLICATION - WEST COAST OPEN

There are no exceptions to the deadlines stated above.

Payment for your application may be made via PayPal or personal check.

Paypal – please make sure you check the box that states "Share my name and email with this charity."

https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/4244731

Check (Payable to USA WAO Team, Inc.) mailed to:

USA WAO Team, Inc.
Karen Holik
155 Stone Lane
Walden, Vermont 05836

All payments must be received by the deadline for the corresponding event in order to be valid. Returned checks will be responsible for the application fee as well as a $35 bank fee. You will receive an automated message when your application is received. We will also follow up with you within 7 days of receiving your payment.

100% of the application fee goes towards offsetting the team's expenses, including entry fees, uniforms, and travel for team management.

Miscellaneous
WAO Team USA is a 501c3 organization.

Everything stated in this document will become a binding contract between the team member and Team Management once a spot on the team is accepted.

More information about the World Agility Open Championships can be found at www.worldagilityopen.com

Information regarding the UKI Open events is available on the UKI website: www.ukagilityinternational.com.

Questions regarding USA WAO Team, Inc may be sent to teamusawao@gmail.com