



Tryout and Selection Information

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WAO 2024 TEAM

Date:	9 th September 2023
Location:	Streamstown Farm, Malahide, Co. Dublin
Cost:	€ 25 per team
Closing date:	6th August 2023 (received)
Judge:	Stephan Schega judging courses from WAO 2024 Judges

The 12th World Agility Open (WAO) takes place from 15th-19th May 2024 at The KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands. The Opening Ceremony is planned for Wednesday 15th May. Full details about the WAO competition and rules can be found at www.worldagilityopen.com. The team for WAO 2024 will be managed by Frieda Baragwanath.

In order to facilitate the smooth running of the Tryouts, we would really appreciate if you could let Frieda know as soon as possible if you are intending to try out. Please dm **Support the Republic of Ireland WAO Team** or email roiwaoteam@gmail.com.

The Tryout competition will consist of an optional Warm Up Jumping round, which will not be scored, and then for competition, a Jumping Round followed by an Agility Round. The courses will be from two of the three WAO 2024 judges.

Tryout Schedule

10:30 Check in and guideline measuring if required.

11:00 Judges briefing
11:10 Course walking Optional Warm Up Jumping (8 minutes)
11:30 Optional Warm Up Jumping round (not scored)

Biathlon Jumping

Biathlon Agility

Please request entry form from roiwaoteam@gmail.com and return completed entry form and Paypal fee to same (selecting Payment to friends).. Email any enquiries to roiwaoteam@gmail.com or direct message the Facebook page **Support the Republic of Ireland WAO Team**.

Please like and follow the Facebook page **Support the Republic of Ireland WAO Team** for updates

Eligibility for WAO Team Ireland

At the time of team selection handlers must be an Irish citizen, or have an Irish birth certificate, have parents or grandparents born in Ireland or have permanent resident status in Ireland.

Criteria for entering Tryouts

Dogs must be competing at G6-G7 in I.K.C., I.A.D.S.A. or K.C. or Senior in UKA on 9th September 2023. You may submit an entry to the Tryout competition if you are not yet competing at G6-G7 but hope to be by 9th September.

In the case where a team is not yet competing at G6 but believe that, following outstanding performance at international events such as CSJ Agility Open, IFCS, EO or KCI AF, they expect to be able to perform to the required standard at WAO, they may submit a Tryout application form detailing their achievements and explaining why they should be included in Tryouts. This exception is limited to teams competing at G5 in I.K.C., I.A.D.S.A. or K.C.

Selection Information

A maximum of three dogs per height handled by adults (250, 300, 400, 500 and 600) will be on the team to compete in the Individual Competitions. In addition the team may include one junior handler and dog per each height. Junior handlers are those handlers with a date of birth later than 1st May 2005.

A partnership can achieve a team place in one of two ways:

1. WIN ON

There will be one WIN ON spot in each height category, for adult handlers, to be determined by a Biathlon style event. This will consist of two rounds, one jumping and one agility and the combined result of the two classes will determine the WIN ON spots. The scoring is cumulative. Least faults wins with time as tie breaker only. In the event of a tie the score for the agility takes precedence. If there is still a tie, the dogs will compete in a run-off on the Agility course. To be eligible for a win on spot, courses must be completed within the course time with a maximum of 5 faults. An elimination is 50 faults plus you will be given a time of 50 seconds regardless of standard course time. The maximum course faults a dog can accumulate is 50, whether by elimination or other combined course faults. Please consult the *Rules and Regulations* section of the WAO website for more information on Biathlon scoring. The winner of the WIN ON spot will be entitled to run in Pentathlon, Biathlon and Games at WAO.

If the team awarded the win on spot does not accept their place on the team, the win on spot at that height will not transfer to the second placed handler.

2. SELECTION ON MERIT

Teams who have not won on will be assessed on their performance at the Tryouts. The selectors will be looking for people who can demonstrate that they have the skills and ability to handle challenging international style courses and dogs who are trained to this high standard. Team selection will be carried out by **Anne Collen** and **Diana Collie**. It is hoped that the team selected will be announced before the end of October.

The following skills will be taken into account when we review your performance at the Tryouts:

Your **start line** – were you able to lead out with confidence, having placed your dog a reasonable distance from the first jump, and your dog staying where it was left?

Were you able to handle **weaves** from either side and handle weave entries and exits efficiently?

Did your dog demonstrate that it is well capable of jumping the maximum length **Spread** and **Long Jump**?

Were your dog's **contact** performances fast *and* consistent?

Were you able to go clear within the Course time?

Are you confident handling **Obstacle Discriminations**?

As well as your performance at the Tryouts, we will also take into account your performance at this year's WAO (if you were on the team) or ANY performances at a high level, in particular on International/European style courses. Team sportsmanship and the ability to perform within a team will also be taken into account.

Please state on the Entry form anything you would like us to take into account.

All rounds will be videoed to assist the selection process.

Any partnerships interested in being selected for the team are strongly encouraged to attend the team tryouts. In exceptional circumstances where a handler and dog are unable to attend the Tryout Competition, the selectors reserve the right to offer a place to the handler and dog at a later stage. These circumstances include, but are not limited to, dog or handler injury. Any handlers in these circumstances must submit an entry to the Tryout Competition stating why they should be considered for selection. Handlers who have not attended the Tryouts may be required to attend a Skills Test Session at a later date before they will be considered for the team. Management reserve the right to select travelling and non-travelling reserves.

As Bitches in season are eligible to compete at WAO they may compete at Tryouts. They will run in their assigned position in the running order, but with a notation in the running order (such as BIS) so that both other competitors and ring crew are aware. A protective mat will be used at the start line.

3. JUNIOR WIN ON SPOT

Five Junior spots are available on the team, one for each height. The highest placed junior will win on to the team, with the same criteria applying as for adult win-on spots. To be eligible for a win on spot, both courses must be completed within the course time with a maximum of 5 course faults. At WAO juniors compete against adults on the same courses and our tryout competition will be run in the same way. In the event that no junior competitors meet the criteria for the win on spot, the spots will not be filled. In the event of any team winning on to the team subsequently withdrawing, the win on spot will **not** transfer to the second placed team.

Additional Information

All juniors **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times during Tryouts and, if selected, while travelling to and from the Netherlands and during the WAO competition, at full expense to the parent/guardian. Team Ireland Managements bears no liability for Juniors in attendance at WAO.

All handlers will be required to sign an Insurance Release Form at Check in at the Tryouts.

All selected dogs must be measured officially at the World Agility Open. Management take no responsibility for dogs' official measurement.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have valid passports for you and your dog(s) to travel to the Netherlands, taking into consideration that you may travel through the UK.

All handlers selected must be in the Netherlands *at the very latest* on the morning of 14th May 2024 for check in and official team training and remain there for the duration of the competition. ***Please be aware that unofficial (outdoor) training may be scheduled for 13th May.*** Check in and training times will be confirmed shortly after the closing date for entries to WAO, probably the end of March 2024. **All handlers must attend the closing ceremony on Sunday evening.**

All handlers agree to abide by a code of sportsmanship and agree to refrain from any harsh handling of their dog. All handlers will encourage, respect and support fellow team members before, during and after the WAO competition.

This is a self-funded trip and handlers need to cover all costs associated with competing abroad including entry fees, training hire, uniforms, accommodation, ferries, vet checks and so on. We will endeavour to fundraise and it will be a requirement for all handlers to contribute to and organise fundraising activities but there may still be substantial costs involved. You will be required to attend a fundraising/team meeting in November 2023.

Handlers who are offered a place on the team will be asked for a € 100 non-refundable deposit, to be paid by 30th September 2023. This money will go towards sending the team to WAO.

All handlers must wear full Republic of Ireland uniform, as selected by management, at Official Team Training, Opening Ceremony, while competing and at the Closing Ceremony.

There may be team training days during 2023/2024. Attendance will not be compulsory and the cost will be shared between participating teams.

All decisions by management are final.