

WAO Team Canada Overview of the Team Selection Process 2026.



To be eligible for Team Canada **the handler** must earn **5 points in the last 12 months before the Canadian Open** by competing through any of the following:

- 1 point - at home trials
- 2 points - in person trials
- 3 points - UKI tournaments (any cup, classic, or festival) or Open

Trials, tournaments or opens may be held in Canada or the USA. Attendance at the previous years Canadian open will count towards UKI tournaments if more than 12 months have passed since the previous Canadian Open. Previous attendance at WAO **will not** count towards points. If the dog is under 2 an exception will be made. The team selection process is made with the assumption that events will be held as normal. The requirements may be altered based on current public health restrictions.

Three Win-On Spots are available at the UKI Canadian Open (or substitute event)

Biathlon

The dog in each jump height (8", 12", 16", 20", and 24") winning the UKI Canadian Agility Biathlon will automatically be offered a spot on Team Canada to compete in the WAO Individual Agility Biathlon. The selection process for Biathlon will be reviewed following the 2025 Canadian Open. Win-On criteria to be confirmed each year.

Games

The dog in each jump height (8", 12", 16", 20", and 24") winning the UKI Games Challenge will automatically be offered a spot on Team Canada to compete in the WAO Agility Games championship

Pentathlon

The dog in each jump height (8", 12", 16", 20", and 24") earning the most points from the following events will automatically be offered a spot on Team Canada to compete in the WAO Individual Agility Pentathlon:

The following points will be awarded for the above win-on spot.

Each of the following Final/Aggregate rounds is worth 20pts for 1st place with points awarded down to 1pt for 20th (Points are still awarded for teams who have E'd in one round, but not both rounds)

- Masters Series Aggregate
- Biathlon Aggregate
- UKI Canadian Open National Championship Final

- Speedstakes Aggregate
- Games Aggregate

(100 points available)

Each of the following Individual rounds is worth 10pts for 1st place with points awarded down to 1pt for 10th place). (For agility, jumping, and speedstakes events the dog must be within 10% of the winning dog's time to earn points. For the games class, the dog must receive a qualifying score to earn points.

Course faults are not added to the dogs' time when assigning points.)

- Masters Series Final Round 1
- Masters Series Final Round 2
- Biathlon Round 1
- Biathlon Round 2
- UKI Canadian Open Round 2
- Speedstakes Round 1
- Speedstales Round 2
- Snooker
- Gamble

(90 points available)

(Maximum points available for the Pentathlon win on spot is 190 points)

Further selections

Team Canada will therefore have 3 dogs per height qualifying from the Canadian Open. The management team will then decide:

1. If additional individual events should be given to the 3 win-on dogs
2. If additional individual events should be given to any previous year's medallists
3. If more dogs should be selected for individual events
4. If any dogs should be selected for team events
5. To nominate traveling and non-traveling alternatives.

The following will serve as a guideline but may be altered by management in any given year. The next pentathlon spot will be offered to the runner-up of the Win-on Spot. Team runs short list may be selected from: the top two pentathlon dogs, winners of the UKI invitational, the US open, WCO or the Boundless Youth Championship event. This may be adjusted based on how many events a dog is entered in, how dogs are running in team practice, and during the event.

For the Games and Agility Biathlons, the additional spots will be offered to dogs that earn the most points from the following events:

Each of the following Final/Aggregate rounds is worth 20pts for 1st place, decreasing by two points per placement, with points awarded down to 2pt for 10th (Points are still awarded for teams who have E'd in one round, but not both rounds).

- Masters Series Aggregate
- Biathlon Aggregate
- UKI Canadian Open National Championship Final

- Speedstakes Aggregate
- Games Aggregate

(100 points available)

Each of the following Individual rounds is worth 10pts for 1st place, decreasing by 2 points per placement, with points awarded down to 2pt for 5th place). (For agility, jumping, and speedstakes events the dog must be within 10% of the winning dogs time to earn points. For the games class, the dog must receive a qualifying score to earn points. Course faults are not added to the dogs' time when assigning points.)

- Masters Series Final Round 1
- Masters Series Final Round 2
- Biathlon Round 1
- Biathlon Round 2
- UKI Canadian Open Round 2
- Speedstakes Round 1
- Speedstales Round 2
- Snooker
- Gamble

(90 points available)

(Maximum points available is 190 points)

Additional WAO Team Canada Requirements

To be considered for a Win-On, selected or Junior Handler spot, you must meet the following requirements:

- At the time of team selection, handlers must be a citizen of the country they represent, or have a birth certificate from that country, have parents or grandparents born in that country or have permanent resident status.
- Junior handler DOB requirements are on or after 1st May 2007.
- The handler who runs the dog at the UKI Canadian Open will only be allowed to run at WAO.
- Must meet WAO standards for the jump height for which you are applying.
- If a dog is dismissed from the event, for any reason, application for that individual application will be nullified.
- If a handler is dismissed from the event for any reason, all applications with all dogs will be nullified.
- Must be able to meet the vet requirements for the country of WAO and international air travel.
- Participants will be responsible for all costs (estimated between \$5,000 - \$6,000 CAN), travel arrangements as well as legal documentation for themselves and their dogs entering the host country for the WAO event.
- Must have a valid credit card with the ability to pay all deposits and final bills for the entire trip for you and your dog BEFORE you leave Canada.
- It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure adherence to the WAO country of competition federal breed restrictions i.e.: cropping, docking, and dangerous dog legislation. That information will be available on the Federal animal import/export website of the country of competition.

- Team members will be required to pay a deposit of \$1000 in form of two (2) e-transfers in the amount of \$500 each. Team members will be given 10 days' advance notice of when the e-transfer(s) are required. Failure to submit payment by the due date could result in losing a spot on the Team. As this is a self-funded team, this deposit will go towards team entry fees, uniforms, management fees, etc. Team members will be responsible for a portion of the Team Management expenses up to a maximum of \$300/dog. All financial transactions will be shared with the Team every month and final accounting will be completed within 6 weeks after the event.

WAO Team Canada has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, abuse, and/or mistreatment. Individuals who are found to be bullying/abusing/mistreating will be suspended from the WAO Team Canada for 1-year from the start of the suspension. This includes in-person, electronic, or using social media to intimidate, bully, threaten, physically harm, or slander team members, host, volunteers, or other competitors within UKI, WAO, or WAO Team Canadian. Individuals are encouraged to use proper channels to resolve conflicts and to respect the resolution progress, including waiting the appropriate amount of time for a resolution to occur (weeks to months depending on the concern). WAO Team Canada also has a no abuse/mistreatment policy towards animals, which could include physical contact or neglect. Reporting is required for the mistreatment of a dog at a UKI event. Reporting is also required for individuals who witness bullying, abuse, and/or mistreatment. If individuals witness the event but fail to report, they also may face a 1-year suspension from WAO Team Canada.