

World Agility Open Championships 2019

New Zealand Handler Selection

The ninth WAO World Championships will take place in the Netherlands at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo from 17 to 19 May 2019. The official practice day will take place on 16 May. Information about the event is available on the WAO web site - www.worldagilityopen.com.

Eligibility to compete at WAO

Criteria - Open to members of Dogs NZ agility Senior or A Jumpers handlers who have trained and handled a dog to obtain at least two challenge certificates (agility or jumpers).

Rationale - courses at international events are set at world championship level, and may well be more technical than our New Zealand Senior courses. Handlers will not be able to take their own dogs, so will have to be able to quickly adapt to running a new dog which may be used to a very different handling system. It is important that NZ handlers are of a reasonable standard to ensure that overseas owners are willing to lend their dogs for future events, and have confidence in the level of the person who will be handling their dog.

To compete at the WAO 2019 you must meet the following requirements:

- Competitors must have resided in New Zealand for at least one year prior to the event (must be New Zealand residents) and have a current passport (with at least 6 months before expiry)
- Overseas applicants must comply with WAO Rule 1.7.2. At the time of team selection, handlers must be a citizen of the country they represent, or have a birth certificate from that country, or have permanent resident status and be a member of Dogs NZ.
- Handlers must be available to travel to Europe at least one week prior to the WAO competition dates to allow time to train with their substitute dog(s).
- Handlers must be 18 years or over or be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the parent or guardian's expense.

- In addition, all handlers will be expected to comply with all WAO rules, procedures and conduct.
- All handlers are responsible to ensure that their host dog is eligible to travel to and from the Netherlands from their home country.
- For those wishing to apply please email Suemckee2001@yahoo.com by 31st October 2018

Selection of competitors

If the situation arises where more handlers want to attend the WAO 2019 than there are places for (or dogs available), then a selection process will apply. Selection will be based on handler results at the 2 most recent NZDAC competitions from Intermediate/Senior/Jumpers A and B. In the event of handlers not having competed at that level for those events, application can be made to the selection panel. It is envisaged that this would be when a handler has retired their dog that met the criteria of 2 challenge certificates, or when a handler has had previous international experience. The results will be collated by and handler selection decided by a panel consisting of the 2 appointed managers, 2 members of the International Sub-committee, and 2 members of the Dogs NZ Agility Committee.

Requirements of competitors

Competitors will need to make themselves available for any pre-event training - this may be as a group or individually done. The managers shall provide information on pre-event training.

After the event, each handler shall provide a report to the Dogs NZ AC International Sub-committee summarising their experience, how they thought the event ran, detailing their results and provide any ideas that can be applied for future events.

Handler responsibilities

Handlers are responsible to pay for their share of expenses including (but not limited to) flight, host dog vet fees, hotel, car hire, event fee, uniform and team operating expenses.

Each handler must be able to self-fund their trip overseas to compete. There may be opportunity for fundraising activities prior to the event, but funds raised would be a bonus. Each handler is responsible to arrange/organise the following (at a minimum):

- International travel from New Zealand to the host dog's country
- Travel from the host dog's country to Ermelo, Netherlands
- Accommodation in Ermelo or nearby if not staying at the host dog's place of residence
- All their own airport transfers
- Travel from airports to the host dog's place of residence
- Travel from their WAO accommodation to the WAO venue at Ermelo
- Participate in the WAO FaceBook group where the bulk of handler information will be provided.

Host Dogs - Handlers are encouraged to attempt to source their own host dog for the event to ensure they have an animal to run. If you are unable to source your own dog, every effort will be made to source dogs from within Europe for the New Zealand competitors. Any costs associated with the care and travel of the host dog (and possibly owner) will lie with the individual handler.

Selection for any team events

It is to be recognised that the team event is normally one additional event at the show. The team event might be first, last or in the middle of other classes, and the timing of when the team needs to be entered can vary. Because of this, the decision of the composition of the team will be unique to each event. If the team event is last, results from other classes at the event will count.

Manager selection & responsibilities

Selection

It has been agreed by the Dogs NZ AC International Sub-Committee that Sue McKee will be the Team managers and Michelle Jopson Assistant team manager, who are travelling to the WAO.

Key attributes for a manager:

- Previous overseas experience
- Organised
- Able to function under pressure
- Ideally not competing at the event
- Able to communicate with a wide range of people
- Be an experienced agility competitor
- Be able to understand rules and regulations from other countries, and be assertive when required
- Be able to attend manager meetings and relay information from the meetings back to the team

Manager Responsibilities:

- Attend manager meetings
- Organise the team at the event - ensure everyone is at the right place and at the right time