

World Agility Open Championships 2020

Northern Ireland Team Selection

The tenth WAO World Championships will take place in the Netherlands at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo from 14 to 17 May 2020. 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.

SELECTION PROCESS

There will be a 2-day qualifying competition at Cooper Hill on 31 August/1 September 2019. Dogs that do not have an official WAO height measurement will be measured into their appropriate WAO height categories. On both days all dogs will compete in four events. On day one the programme will consist of a snooker round followed by jumping, speedstakes and agility. On the second day the programme will start with jumping followed by speedstakes, agility 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 8 runs have been completed the dog with lowest accumulated points total in each of the 4 height categories will be guaranteed a place on the N.I. squad and will - as a minimum - be entered in the biathlon and individual pentathlon classes at the world championships. **The Team Management will select and announce a second dog in each jumping height at the end of the second day of the trial, and may further increase the number of dogs in any jumping height category if, in its opinion, it would enhance the performance of the team. The trials and subsequent practice sessions will use the jumping heights set out by WAO for the 2020 Championships.**

ELIGIBILITY

Dog: KC Grades 5, 6 or 7 by 31 August 2019.

Handler: Handlers must be born in, or be permanent resident of, Northern Ireland. In addition applications will be considered from handlers who have a least one grandparent born in Northern Ireland. Handlers must be available for the trial unless excused by team management and must also be available to commence travel to the venue on Sunday evening 10 May 2020 in transport arranged by the team management. The Team will return to Belfast around 07:00 on Tuesday 19 May 2020.

In addition applications will be considered from young people born on or after 16 May 2001 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 3 or above. Handlers must enter their dogs in the qualifying competition on 31/August and 1 September 2019 but their performance will be compared only with other junior competitors. Exceptionally relatively experienced junior handlers may be considered for selection if they are bringing on new dogs which have not yet reached KC Grade 3. A dog handled by a junior handler may not otherwise be entered in the Championship with another handler,

COSTS

Entry (to the selection process) will be £30 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.

In addition, once selected, a handler will be required to make a non-returnable deposit of £120 which will go towards meeting team travel/accommodation costs.

Competitors will have to pay towards their personal expenses for the WAO event but everyone will be encouraged, collectively or individually, to engage in fund raising activities to 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 David Duncan – T: 028 9182 2265 E: david@cooperhill.net.

APPLICATIONS

Applications should be made to the Team Manager by 5 August 2019.