



## 2020 World Agility Open Championships Team USA



Thank you for your interest in joining Team USA for the 2020 World Agility Open Championships that will be held May 15- 17, 2020 at KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands.

**Attendance at the 2019 UKI U.S. Open is mandatory for any handler wishing to try out for the team.** This event will be held on November 7 - 10, 2019 in Jacksonville, Florida, and is open to all dogs and handlers. Information regarding this event will be available on the UKI website: [www.ukagilityinternational.com](http://www.ukagilityinternational.com).

Team applicants must enter the appropriate events at the UKI US Open as well as enter any local Masters heats necessary to qualify for the Masters Final held at the UKI US Open. UKI jump height cutoffs have a greater range than WAO so dogs must be entered in UKI 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
300	11.81	12.60 inches & under	12 inches
400	15.75	16.14 inches & under	16 inches
525	20.66	19.69 inches & under	20 inches
600	23.62	Any	24 inches

Included here are the Team USA selection criteria and requirements. Please read them carefully.

Team USA applications will be accepted between August 1, 2019 and October 15, 2019 (post marked). Alternatively, you may submit the application and payment in person to Mike Murphy at the US Open (higher application fee applies). Applications **MUST** be submitted before the first dog runs at the US Open. Please note that neither points, nor a win-on team spot, can be earned at the US Open unless you have submitted your application by the deadline.

Team USA's mission is to select a squad of handlers and dogs that will be competitive against the rest of the world in all disciplines offered at the WAO. Team USA will consist of a minimum of three dogs in each of the four jump heights. Additional dogs may be added to the team at the team management's discretion.

## Application Fee

The application fee is \$45.00 and is due at the time you submit your application.

The application fee is \$75.00 for applications submitted in person at the US Open (before the first dog runs)

100% of the application fee goes towards offsetting the team's expenses.

## Dog & Handler Requirements for Application

All dogs and handlers applying for Team USA must meet the following requirements, whether they earn a win-on spot or are selected to the team:

- The dog must have a microchip.
- The dog must have an official WAO measurement and meet the requirements of the WAO height for which the handler is applying. Dogs that do not have an official measurement must be measured by Greg or Laura Derrett at the 2019 UKI US Open. **Measuring will be on Wednesday afternoon, (Nov 6) before 5 pm.** We recommend all candidates be measured before the event begins if you don't already have a previous measurement as dogs will not be allowed to change jump heights if they measure over once the event begins.
- This measurement will be your official WAO measurement. If you make the team, you will not have to be measured again at the WAO.
- All other prior measurements, except an official WAO measurement, cannot be used for Team applicants
- The handler must be a citizen of the United States or a resident alien, and be able to travel internationally with the team by the time of the team's departure and return. Please note that your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of travel and have at minimum two blank pages left inside.
- The handler who runs the dog at the UKI US Open **MUST** be the same handler who ran the dog in the competitions listed on the application form and who will run the dog at the WAO.

## Team USA Financial Information

The average cost for a handler and dog to attend the WAO as a part of Team USA is in the \$4000 to \$5000 neighborhood. The cost for a parent/guardian would be additional for Juniors. These expenses typically include (but are not limited to) flight, dog's flight, transfers, vet fees, hotel, ground transportation, meals and uniforms. WAO Team USA is entirely self-funded, and does not receive any direct financial support from any outside organization. WAO Team USA Management will conduct some level of baseline fundraising through team sponsorships and other similar activities. This baseline fundraising will be used to cover the operating expenses of the team, as well as possibly providing a small amount to each of the travelling team members. The team members, once chosen, will have the option to participate in additional fundraising to further help to offset their expenses.

## Team USA Policies

If you earn a spot on Team USA, it is important for you to understand the expectations of team management as well as the official team policies:

- The #1 rule for Team USA: Don't do anything stupid! If we all follow this simple rule, we will all be just fine.
- You are responsible for paying for all of your own expenses including (but not limited to) flight, dog's flight, transfers, vet fees, hotel, bus (or other ground transportation), meals, uniforms, and team operating expenses. This includes costs for a parent/guardian for juniors
- You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to the Netherlands and while at the event.
- Team management will secure lodging for the team. For reasons of organization, communication and general teamliness, it is mandatory that all team members stay at the selected team hotel. You will be responsible for making a deposit and final payment directly to the hotel.
- Your dog must be in good health and fit to fly at the time of the team's departure. You are solely responsible for obtaining all of the veterinary paperwork that is required to fly internationally and to enter the Netherlands with a dog (see the WAO website).
- You must arrive in the Netherlands by Monday, May 11, 2020 and be prepared to participate in all published official days and events at the competition, as well as the unofficial team practice on Tuesday May 12, 2020.
- You will remain on site at the WAO during all ceremonies, USA team practices, and scheduled competition hours
- Start times of walkthroughs and running times are *very* strict at the WAO, and competitors are not allowed to walk or run if they miss their scheduled times. It is your responsibility to follow the schedule each day and be aware of changes in the schedule as they happen. Team management will support you, but they are not responsible for getting you to and from the rings for your walkthroughs and runs.
- You will read the WAO Rule Book and be aware of the differences between WAO and other major organizations.
- You will read the WAO Snooker, Gamblers, and Team Relay briefings that are published prior to the event. Even if you are not initially selected for these events, last minute roster changes can occur and all team members should be prepared.
- You will attend all team meetings and meals scheduled during the trip.
- You will wear the official team uniform in competition at the WAO.
- You will make every effort to participate (at your own expense) in a team practice to be held in late January 2020, at a location to be determined. Only dogs and handlers that qualified for the team will be allowed to work at the team practice.
- You will follow the directions of team management and reply to their inquiries and communications in a timely fashion (2 business days).
- You will abide by all decisions of team management. These decisions are final.
- You will inform team management as soon as you learn of any health or injury concern (to yourself or to your dog) that occurs prior to competition and that may affect your ability to participate in the WAO. This includes making a decision to breed a female dog.
- You will inform the team management of any aggression issues or incidents that either yourself or your dog have had in the past.
- You will support and promote all Team USA sponsors.
- You will support, encourage, and respect fellow team members and management before and during the WAO competition.

- You will participate in team activities with integrity, honesty, and good sportsmanship.
- You will put your dog's needs ahead of your personal desires.
- As a member of Team USA, and a representative of the United States of America, you will always conduct yourself in a positive and respectful manner, both in person and online. You will stand for any and all playing of the US anthem and support each other as a team.
- For Juniors, the Parent or Guardian will be 100% accountable for their junior.

Failure to comply with team policies may result in immediate removal from the team, forfeiting of runs at the WAO, losing monies received by Team USA through fundraising or sponsorship, or being banned from applying for Team USA in future years.

## **Team Selection Criteria**

Three (3) spots in each jump height are "win-on" spots as follows: 1) Super 2) Pentathlon and 3) Biathlon & Games. Only results from the 12", 16", 20", and 24" height divisions will be used to determine these three win-on spots. Juniors will have one (1) win-on spot for each jump height (12", 16", 20", 24"). If a junior wins both the junior and Super Win On Spot, they will be taken as part of regular Team USA and therefore may be eligible for Team Runs. The next place junior will then receive the Junior "win on" spot. If a junior wins a both the junior and the Pentathlon or Biathlon/Games "win-on" spot, they will be taken as a junior at the WAO, which will provide them runs in each individual event at the WAO. The spot will then be given to the next place dog/handler.

Teams earning a win-on spot will only be guaranteed to run in the events in which they earned a win on spot (Super, Biathlon/Games and Individual Pentathlon), but are NOT guaranteed entry in all three WAO individual events with the exception of the Super Win-On Spot. No competitors are guaranteed team runs. Decisions on team runs will be made at the event by management. The goal of the team event is to select the competitors that provide the best opportunity for a team medal and so will be chosen based on pairing the competitors with the best skills for the given courses.

## **Point Accumulation**

For the 2019 UKI US Open, placement points for WAO Team USA selection will be earned against all dogs that run in the class in the height.

A points system will be used based upon the number of dogs entered within each jump height in each event. The winner of each event will receive the highest points which is equal to the total number entered in that jump height. All dogs entered will receive the points based upon their placing

In classes where a cut off is in place and the dog does not progress, for example not progressing to the Agility in the Biathlon, then s/he will get either the points for the place s/he is in, or if s/he are in a joint place, they will get that number of points.

If a dog does not qualify for the Masters Final or does not run in an event s/he will score 0 points.

For example, in 2018 in the 20" Biathlon, 128 dogs were entered.  
1st place would score 128 points, 2nd place 127 points, 3rd place 126 points, etc.  
Only 40 dogs progressed to the agility round, places 41-50 were not eliminated and would therefore gain the equivalent points,  
41st place 88 points, 42nd place 87 points, etc.  
Places 51-128 were all Eliminated, and would therefore gain 78 points.

Non-runners would score 0 points

The winning dog and handler teams must meet the requirements listed in "Dog & Handler Requirements for Application." If the 1st place finisher 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, the invitation will go to the next highest placing team applicant. If that person declines, the spot will not be filled.

### **WAO Team USA Super Win-On Spots**

One handler and dog in each jump height (12", 16", 20", and 24") will earn the WAO Team USA Super Win-On Spot. This spot guarantees the winner entry into all three of the WAO individual events (Biathlon, Games and Individual Pentathlon). The Super Win-On Spot will be earned by the team applicant that earns the most points in the following events:

- 2019 UKI Cup points
  - Points awarded based on dogs defeated under 2019 Cup events below
- 2019 UKI US Open – Must earn points in at least 3 of the following events:
  - 2019 UKI US Open Biathlon (Cumulative)
  - 2019 UKI US Open Last Chance Master Series Heat (Cumulative)
  - 2019 UKI US Open Masters Series Final (Cumulative)
  - 2019 UKI US Open Games Challenge (Cumulative)
  - 2019 UKI US Open National Championship Finals

If there is a tie on points, the Overall Masters result will be used, followed by the Overall UKI National Championship result, followed by the Overall Biathlon result, followed by the Overall Games result, followed by the Overall Speedstakes results. If there is still a tie the individual class results will be used to determine the winner in the following order, Masters Agility, Biathlon Agility, Nationals Round 2, Masters Jumping, Biathlon Jumping, Gamblers, Nationals Round 2, Snooker, Nationals Round 1 & Speedstakes Round 1.

### **WAO Team USA Biathlon and Games Win-On Spot**

The Biathlon/Games Win-On Spot will be earned by the team applicant that earns the most points in the following events:

- 2019 UKI US Open Biathlon (Cumulative)
- 2019 UKI US Open Games Challenge (Cumulative)

If there is a tie on points, the Overall Biathlon result will be used, followed by Biathlon Agility, followed by Biathlon Jumping, followed by Gamblers, followed by Snooker.

## **WAO Team USA Pentathlon Win-On Spot**

The Pentathlon win on spot will be decided on highest number of points earned in the following events (In the event of a tie, the results from the National Championship will be the decider):

- 2019 UKI US Open Masters Series Final
- 2019 UKI US Open Biathlon
- 2019 UKI US Open National Championship

If there is a tie on points, The National Championship Final will be used, followed by Overall Masters Series, followed by Overall Biathlon, followed by Masters Agility, followed by Masters Jumping, followed by Biathlon Agility, followed by Biathlon Jumping.

## **WAO Team USA Juniors Win-On Spot**

The Juniors win on spot (in each height) will be decided based on the highest placement at the US Open for those that have submitted an application.

A points system will be used based upon the number of dogs entered within each jump height in each event. The winner of each event will receive the highest points which is equal to the total number entered in that jump height. All dogs entered will receive the points based upon their placing

Based on cumulative points from the five events, the Junior handler with the highest points will be declared the US Open Junior Champion.

In classes where a cut off is in place and the Junior does not progress, for example not progressing to the Agility in the biathlon, then they will get either the points for the place they are in, or if they are in a joint place, they will get that number of points.

If a junior does not qualify for the Masters Final or does not run in an event they will score 0 points.

For example, in 2018 in the 20” Biathlon, 128 dogs were entered.

1st place would score 128 points, 2nd place 127 points, 3rd place 126 points, etc.

Only 40 dogs progressed to the agility round, places 41-50 were not eliminated and would therefore gain the equivalent points,

41st place 88 points, 42nd place 87 points, etc.

Places 51-128 were all Eliminated, and would therefore gain 78 points.

Non-runners would score 0 points

If there is a tie on points, the Overall Masters result will be used, followed by the Overall UKI National Championship result, followed by the Overall Biathlon result, followed by the Overall Games Result, followed by the Overall Speedstakes results. If there is still a tie the individual class results will be used to determine the winner in the following order, Masters Agility, Biathlon Agility, Nationals Round 2, Masters Jumping, Biathlon Jumping, Gamblers, Nationals Round 2, Snooker, Nationals Round 1 & Speedstakes Round 1.

## **Additional Team USA Member Selections**

Additional team members may be selected in some, all, or none of the four jump heights (12", 16", 20", and 24") at the discretion of the team selection committee. These additional team members, if any, will be added solely to improve the overall competitiveness of Team USA, and will be determined by the Team USA Selection Committee. The decision will be based on the selection committee's evaluation of the handler's and dog's performance at the 2019 UKI US Open as well as at the major U.S. and international events listed on the application form. Video review, both during and after the event, may be used to evaluate performance.

## **Team USA Alternate Member Selections**

It is anticipated that one or two alternates will be selected in each of the four jump heights. The alternates will be selected using the process described above for additional team members

## **Team Selection Points – 2019 UKI Cup Events**

The first and second overall placements at each of the five 2019 UKI Cup events will earn team selection points. Points awarded will be based upon the number of dogs entered within each jump height whom are eligible for Overall Cup placements. The first and second place dogs will receive the highest points which is equal to the total number entered in that jump height.

You may attend multiple Cup events, but only your single best placement will earn team selection points.

Points are only available to the first and second place finishers at each Cup event. If the first or second place finishers do not tryout for Team USA, the points are NOT available to the next lower placements.

The first place Cup finishers will earn a bye directly into the 2019 UKI National Finals at the US Open, but will have the option to run in the Semi-Finals (round 2). The first place Cup finishers will advance to the Finals regardless of the outcome of their Round 2 (semi-finals) run.

2019 UKI Cup Events (info available at the time of document publication)

- South East - FL - (Brilliant Dogs - Sarah Duke) – January 4-6 2019
- MidWest - WI (Think Pawsitive - Katie Oilschlager) – April 27 – 28, 2019
- Eastern - PA - (Mary Ellen Barry) – June 28 – 30, 2019
- West Coast - CA - (Jump'n Java - Ivette White & Anne Kajava) - August 10 & 11, 2019
- South West - TX - (Lonestar - Sarah Slaughter) Sept 27 - 29, 2019

## **About the Event**

The World Agility Open Championships (WAO) is an annual international event designed to

- Provide the ultimate in dog agility competition where speed, efficiency, and consistency are all necessary for success.
- Showcase the highest level of agility training, human/canine partnership, and athleticism.
- Acknowledge the dog as an athlete and equally important member of the agility partnership.

- Enable all dogs, whether pedigreed or not, to compete in an environment that is solely focused on the sport of agility.
- Promote the design of better and safer agility equipment, new technology to improve the sport, and better show management processes

The WAO strives to provide jump height divisions where similar types of dogs compete against one another, an excellent competition surface and environment, and several varieties of contests with maximum runs to adequately test teams for all the skill sets necessary to be the best in dog agility.

With that goal in mind, the Individual winners from the 2019 FCI Agility World Championships and 2019 European Open, as well as the 2018 WAO Individual Pentathlon, Biathlon, and Games winners, are automatically eligible for entry to the 2020 WAO even if their country does not submit an entry.

The WAO is the first international agility event created and managed by agility competitors. It is not run under the auspices of any agility organization.

The official language of the WAO is English.

More information about the World Agility Open Championships can be found at [www.worldagilityopen.com](http://www.worldagilityopen.com)





**2020 WAO Team USA Application**  
**Entry Opens August 1, 2019**  
**Entry Closes October 15, 2019**  
(post marked)

WAO jump height (check one): 300 400 525 600

**Handler Details**

Handler's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check box for Junior Handler  Date of Birth for Junior (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Guardian's name (for Juniors): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Handler Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Email (for Juniors): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: All WAO & Team USA communication is done via email. Please provide an email address that is checked regularly.*

Do you have a U.S. passport: Yes Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_

No Are you eligible to get one? Yes No

Name of dog's owner if different from handler: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dog Details**

Dog's Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female Spayed or neutered: Yes No

List any health issues or injuries your dog has had in the last 2 years as well as any medications your dog is currently taking and why:

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Does the dog have any history of human or dog aggression? If so, please explain.

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### Competition Details

Please list any notable results from major national and international competitions in the past two years that we should consider:

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By signing below, I agree to abide by all WAO Team USA procedures and policies.

I understand that if I fail to fulfill these commitments, or I fail to comply with team policy, I may be immediately removed from the team and an alternate selected, I may forfeit runs at the WAO, I may lose proceeds from team fundraising, or I may be banned from trying out for Team USA in future years.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send application plus a check for \$45 (payable to **WAO Team USA**) to:**

**WAO Team USA  
C/O Mike Murphy  
281 School Rd  
Lincoln University, PA 19352**

**All applications must be received between **August 1, 2019** and post marked no later than **October 15, 2019****

If you have any questions, please send an email to: [waoteamusa2020@gmail.com](mailto:waoteamusa2020@gmail.com)