

WORLD AGILITY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

NORTHERN IRELAND TEAM SELECTION

The 2020 WAO Championships have been formally cancelled. The next WAO Championships will take place in the Netherlands at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo from 13 May to 16 May 2021. Team Northern Ireland will leave on the evening of 9 May and return to Belfast in the early morning of 18 May 2021.

SELECTION PROCESS

There will be two elements to the forthcoming selection process.

Dogs selected for the 2020 WAO Championships will be offered a place on the 2021 Team to run in the classes for which they were selected for 2020.

In addition, 4 new win-on places will be offered – one at each of the 4 jumping heights – at a one-day trial to be held at Cooper Hill by 31 December 2020 at the latest under whatever Covid-19 restrictions may be in place at that time. If Covid-19 restrictions become so tight that it is not possible to hold the trial then the 2020 Team will represent Northern Ireland without any additional dogs. The trial will consist of a jumping round, followed by speedstakes, agility and gamblers. The best-placed dog in each jumping height over the 4 rounds will be offered the additional place on the Team to compete in all 3 of the individual events -- the Biathlon, Pentathlon and Games. The results of the trial may also be used to select dogs to replace any dogs that have to be withdrawn from the Team.

ELIGIBILITY

The trial will be open to dogs entered in the process for the 2020 Team that failed to get selected and to any new dogs that comply with the KC Grade standard set for participation in last year's trial. However, the date by which new dogs must have achieved that standard is brought forward to 31 August 2020. Handlers whose dogs were selected for the 2020 Team may participate in the trial for much needed competitive practice but the additional places will be awarded to the highest placed dogs that are not already on the team.

COSTS.

Dogs entered in the selection process for the 2020 Team, whether successful or not, may be entered in this new selection process free of any entry charge. Any new dogs will be subject to a fee of £30 which will be added to selection entry fees collected last year and used as a contribution towards the Team entry fee. The balance of the team entry fee for 2021 will be paid by K9Activities.

In addition, once selected, handlers of all dogs on the 2021 Team 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 and/or individually, to engage in fund raising activities to help meet these costs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Owners/handlers considering entry to the process should feel free to discuss the selection procedures or any aspect of the event with David Duncan – T: 028 9182 2264 E: david@cooperhill.net.

APPLICATIONS.

Team 2020 members should confirm their intention to retain their place on the 2021 Team and whether or not they wish to participate in the team trial by 23 August 2020. Applications for dogs not already selected should be made by email to David Duncan by 31 August 2020.

David Duncan

Team Manager

PLEASE NOTE THE THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE DOCUMENT ISSUED FOR THE 2020 TEAM.