



## 2022 World Agility Open Championships Team USA



Thank you for your interest in joining Team USA for the 2022 World Agility Open Championships that will be held May 19- 22, 2022 at KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands.

**Attendance at the 2021 UKI U.S. Open is mandatory for any handler wishing to try out for the team.** This event will be held on November 11-14, 2021 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<br>in mm | WAO Jump Height<br>in inches | WAO Dog's Height at<br>Withers | UKI Jump height at which dog<br>must compete at US Open |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 250                      | 9.84                         | 12.60 inches & under           | 8 inches  |
| 300                      | 11.81                        | 14.96 inches & under           | 12 inches   |
| 400                      | 15.75                        | 17.32 inches & under           | 16 inches   |
| 500                      | 19.69                        | 19.69 inches & under           | 20 inches   |
| 600                      | 23.62                        | Over 19.69 inches              | 24 inches   |

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

Team USA applications will be accepted via email, USPS or overnight carrier between August 1, 2021 and October 1, 2021 (must be received by Oct, 1 2021). There will be no exceptions as the scoring is automated and no applications will be accepted after the October 1, 2021 cut off. 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. All snail mail applications must be sent with a signature waiver.

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 five jump heights. Additional dogs may be added to the team at team management's discretion.

## Application Fee

The application fee is \$45.00 and is due at the time you submit your application via email or snail mail. Any returned checks will be responsible for the \$45 entry fee as well as a \$25 bank fee. Fees can be submitted via check or paypal to [teamusawao@gmail.com](mailto:teamusawao@gmail.com) (friends and family option is appreciated) Applications and payment must be received by October 1, 2021 with no exceptions. Email confirmations will be sent back to confirm we received your application and payment by the October 1, 2021 deadline.

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

WAO team USA is a 501c3 organization.

## 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 2021 UKI US Open. **Measuring will be on Wednesday afternoon, (Nov 10) 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.
- Any 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 dogs and handlers must be in the Netherlands from Monday May 16, 2022 through Sunday May 22 2022, participate in all required team USA events and stay at the team hotel. There will be no exceptions.

## Team USA Financial Information

The average cost for a handler and dog to attend the WAO as a part of Team USA is estimated at \$4000 to \$5000. 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. You must check in by Monday May 16, 2022.
- 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 16, 2022 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 17, 2022.
- 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 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, during and after 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**

Two (2) spots in each jump height are "win-on" spots as follows: 1) Pentathlon and 2) Biathlon. Only results from the 10", 12", 16", 20", and 24" height divisions will be used to determine these two win-on spots. Juniors will have one (1) win-on spot for for each jump height (10" 12", 16", 20", 24"). If a Junior wins a Pentathlon or Biathlon "win-on" spot they will run as a Junior at the WAO, which will provide them runs in each individual event at the WAO.

Teams earning a win-on spot will only be guaranteed to run in the events in which they earned a win on spot (Individual Pentathlon and Biathlon), but are NOT guaranteed entry in all three WAO individual events. 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.

## **WAO Team USA Win-On spots**

- Two win on spots
  - Pentathlon Spot – Points earned as stated in Point Accumulation below
    - 2021 UKI US Open Masters Series Final Jumping
    - 2021 UKI US Open Masters Series Final Agility
    - 2021 UKI US Open Biathlon Jumping
    - 2021 UKI US Open Biathlon Agility
    - 2021 UKI US Open National Championship, Round 2
    - 2021 UKI US Open National Championship, Finals

- Biathlon Spot
  - 2021 UKI US Open Biathlon –  
The highest placing WAO Candidate in the 10”,12”, 16”, 20” and 24” overall biathlon will be offered the Biathlon spot. If that candidate 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.
- All WAO Candidates MUST enter the Games Challenge at the US Open as we will use these classes for further evaluation.
- 1 to 2 additional spots per height selected by team management based on performance at the US Open while taking into account overall team and individual needs for competitiveness at the WAO
- If COVID or other pandemic crisis forces the cancellation of any selection event and it cannot be rescheduled then team will be selected at managers discretion and approved by WAO.

### **WAO Team USA Juniors – Points earned as stated in Point Accumulation below**

Juniors – Minimum dogs selected – 0, Maximum dogs selected - ONE per height:

Highest point total from the following classes\*\*

- 2021 UKI US Open Masters Series Jumping
- 2021 UKI US Open Masters Series Agility
- 2021 UKI US Open Biathlon Jumping
- 2021 UKI US Open Biathlon Agility
- 2021 UKI US Open National Championship, Round 2
- 2021 UKI US Open National Championship, Finals

\*\* In addition to having the highest point total, junior must also meet the following minimum scoring criteria

- Junior must place in top 10% of all dogs in at least 1 of the classes listed above.
- Junior may not have a double E in the Masters Series Final or Biathlon
- Junior MUST compete in UKI US Open National Championship, Round 2
- Junior MUST compete in the Games Challenge at the US Open
- If highest scoring Junior does not meet the above stated criteria, spot will not pass down to the second spot
- If no juniors are able to meet this criteria, Team Management reserves the option to choose one junior among all heights based on performance at the US Open

### **Point Accumulation – Applies to Pentathlon and Junior Win On Spots**

For the 2021 UKI US Open, placement points for WAO Team USA selection will be earned against all dogs that run in the class in each height.

A points system will be used based upon the number of dogs entered within each jump height in each class. The winner of each class 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

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

For example in 2019 in the 20" Biathlon, 147 dogs were entered. 1st place in jumping would score 147 points, 2nd place 146 points, 3rd place 145 points, etc. Only 50 dogs progressed to the agility round, so 1st place in agility would score 50 points, 2nd place 49 points, 3rd place 48 points, etc

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.

### **Additional Team USA Member Selections**

Additional team members may be selected in some, all, or none of the four jump heights (10", 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 2021 UKI US Open as well as at major U.S. and international events. Video review, both during and after the event, may be used to evaluate performance.

### **Team USA Alternate Member Selections**

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

## **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.

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)



## 2022 WAO Team USA Application

**Entry must be received by Oct 1, 2021**

WAO jump height (check one): 250 300 400 500 600

Handler's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Handlers UKI #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

*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

Dog's owner if not handler & UKI #: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dogs UKI# \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male Female Dogs Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed/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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Please list any notable results from major national and international competitions in the past three years that we should consider: (please include venue and date)

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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 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Send application and check/paypal for \$45 to: [teamusawao@gmail.com](mailto:teamusawao@gmail.com)

Check payable to: **WAO Team USA**

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

**All applications and payments must be received by **October 1, 2021**  
NO EXCEPTIONS**

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