

World Agility Open Championships 2022

Northern Ireland Team Selection

The tenth WAO World Championships will take place in the Netherlands at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo from 19 to 22 May 2022. 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.worlagilityopen.com.

SELECTION PROCESS

. There will be a one-day qualifying competition at Cooper Hill during November or early December 2021. Dogs that do not have an official WAO height measurement will be measured into their appropriate WAO height categories. All dogs will compete in four events. The programme will consist of a snooker round followed by jumping, 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 4 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 a second dog in each jumping height 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 trial and subsequent practice sessions will use the jumping heights set out by WAO for the 2022 Championships.

ELIGIBILITY

Dog: KC Grades 5, 6 or 7 by 31 October 2021.

Team Management is conscious of the fact that there has been an almost total lack of opportunities over the past 18 months for owners of new dogs to progress them through the grading system. In view of this Covid-19 related lack of shows Team Management would be prepared to consider expressions of interest from owners/handlers with previous experience of handling Grade 5 to 7 dogs whose current dogs are graded 2 to 4. Depending on numbers it may be necessary to hold a pre-trial competition which would consist of 2 jumping rounds and 2 agility rounds. In the event of such a pre-trial competition it would be a matter solely for Team Management to decide whether or not to issue invitations to the main trial.

In addition, applications will be considered from young people born on or after 21 May 2003 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 2 or above. Handlers must enter their dogs in the main trial but their performance will be compared only with other junior competitors. A dog handled by a junior handler may not otherwise be entered in the Championship with another handler,

Handler: Handlers must be born in, or be a permanent resident of, Northern Ireland.

JUMPING HEIGHTS

Jumping Height	250	300	400	500	600
Dog Height at Withers	320mm & under	380mm & under	440mm & under	500mm & under	Over 500mm

AVAILABILITY

Competitors must be available for the trial which is scheduled to be held on Saturday 27 November 2021. If it is not possible to hold the trial on that date the alternative would be 4 December 2021.

Competitors must also be available for the whole of the WAO Championships. The check-in procedure for the dogs and the official training sessions are scheduled to commence on Wednesday 18 May 2022.

COSTS

Entry to the selection trial will be £30 per dog. If a pre-trial session is arranged for KC Grade 2 to 4 dogs the entry fee will be £10 per dog. If any of these dogs are invited to the main trial there will be an additional charge of £20 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 1 November **2021**.