



## 2024 World Agility Open Team USA Selection Document



Thank you for your interest in joining Team USA for the 2024 World Agility Open Championships that will be held May 15-19, 2024 at KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands. Official training will be held on May 14-15 and unofficial training is to be held on May 13-14.

To try out for Team USA for this event, there will be a combination of win on spots and selected spots, as summarized below and detailed later in this document.

Applications for Team USA may only be submitted online. Please go to the following link: [2024 WAO Team USA Application](#)

### **Team Selection – Summary**

Spots per height will be selected as follows:

- Games – 1 win on spot per height will be selected for Games (Snooker & Gamblers) at the West Coast Open (September 28 - October 1, Paso Robles, CA)
- Biathlon/Pentathlon – 1 win on spot per height will be selected to run in BOTH Biathlon and Pentathlon at the US Open (November 15 - 19, Jacksonville, FL)
- Selected Spots – Additional spots per height will be chosen by Team Management based on performance at the US Open
- Juniors – Up to 1 junior per height may be earned through a win on spot at the US Open. If no juniors win on, management reserves the right to select one junior based on performance at the US Open
- Alternates – Will be chosen by Team Management based on performance at the US Open.

Attendance at the US Open is mandatory for any candidates who wish to tryout for WAO Team USA. The only exception to this is the winner of the Games Spot from the West Coast Open. The following applies to the Games win on spots:

- In order to be considered for any additional individual events beyond Games, that dog/handler would need to also submit an application and compete at the US Open.
- If the winner of the Games spot is also a 2023 WAO Medalist, s/he would NOT need to compete at the US Open to be considered for additional individual events. However, s/he must still file an application by the due date.

Information regarding the UKI Open events is available on the UKI website: [www.ukagilityinternational.com](http://www.ukagilityinternational.com).

Dogs will need to compete at their WAO height in all classes at both events. The chart below lists the jump height and cutoffs:

Team applicants must enter the appropriate events at the UKI US Open and West Coast Open. All qualifying scores at local trials that are used for byes at the US Open and/or West Coast Open must also be earned at the WAO height. UKI jump height cutoffs have a greater range than WAO so dogs must be entered at the Open events based upon the equivalent WAO height cutoffs shown here:

<b>WAO Jump Height in mm</b>	<b>WAO Jump Height in inches</b>	<b>WAO Dog's Height at Withers</b>	<b>UKI Jump height at which dog must compete at US Open</b>
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.

Applications for Team USA will be accepted via online application from August 1 through 11:59pm EST **October 9**. There will be no exceptions as the scoring is automated and no late applications will be accepted. There is no application needed to try out for the Games Spot at the West Coast Open. Applicants need only submit one form by October 9, which will allow them to try out at the US Open. Please note that neither a win on spot or a selected 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 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. Payment may be made via PayPal or personal check.

Paypal - please make sure you do not check anonymous on this donation

<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/4244731>

Check (Payable to USA WAO Team, Inc.) mailed to:  
USA WAO Team, Inc.  
c/o Ivette White  
320 Central Ave  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

All payments must be received by 11:59pm EST on October 9 to be considered valid. Any returned checks will be responsible for the \$45 entry fee as well as a \$35 bank fee. You will receive an automated message when your application is received. We will also follow up with you within 7 days of receiving your payment.

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

WAO team USA is a 501c3 organization.

### **Team Selection Criteria -Details**

Only results from the 8", 12", 16", 20", and 24" height divisions will be used to determine any spots on WAO Team USA

**Win On Spot – Games** (points are based on ALL dogs entered in each height):  
One win on spot per height will earn a spot in the Games Championship (Snooker and Gamblers) at the WAO by the following calculations:

West Coast Games Challenge - Points will be earned in each height for the combined results of the Games Challenge:

1<sup>st</sup> place – 45 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 36 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 28 points  
4<sup>th</sup> place – 21 points  
5<sup>th</sup> place – 15 points  
6<sup>th</sup> place – 10 points  
7<sup>th</sup> place – 6 points  
8<sup>th</sup> place – 3 points

West Coast Masters Series - Points will be earned in each height for the combined results of the Masters Series:

1<sup>st</sup> place – 28 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 21 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 15 points  
4<sup>th</sup> place – 10 points  
5<sup>th</sup> place – 6 points  
6<sup>th</sup> place – 3 points  
7<sup>th</sup> place – 2 points

8<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point

The highest combined point total in each WAO selection height from the two events noted above will be offered the Games Win On Spot. If that person declines, the spot will not be filled (i.e., we will not go beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> place team).

Teams earning the Games win on spot will not be eligible to be selected for any other individual events at the WAO unless they also attend the US Open (and fill out an application as a candidate). An exception to this is if the dog and handler are a 2023 WAO medalist, in which case an application is required, but entry at the US Open is not required. They are still 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.

**Win On Spot – Biathlon and Pentathlon** (points are based on ALL dogs entered in each height)

Points will be earned in the following events:

US Open Biathlon

US Open Masters Final

US Open Round 2 National Championship

US Open National Championship Final

Points will be earned as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place – 45 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 36 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place – 28 points

4<sup>th</sup> place – 21 points

5<sup>th</sup> place – 15 points

6<sup>th</sup> place – 10 points

7<sup>th</sup> place – 6 points

8<sup>th</sup> place – 3 points

The highest combined point total in each WAO selection height from the events noted above will be offered the Biathlon and Pentathlon Win On 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 (i.e., we will not go beyond third highest placing team).

Teams earning the Biathlon/Pentathlon win on spot will only be guaranteed to run in those events. They are NOT guaranteed entry in the Games Championship. 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.

Failure to qualify for any of the above noted events does not prevent a candidate from trying out and/or being selected for Team USA.

In addition to entering the above events, all candidates must also enter the Games Championship at the US Open.

### **Selected Spots**

Team USA will consist of a minimum of three dogs in each of the five jump heights, with most heights having four dogs. Additional dogs beyond four may be added to the team at team management's discretion.

For the remaining spots in each height, team management will be using some or all of the following in our consideration (in no particular weight or order)

- Podium and event placement at the US Open
- Course times and placements at the US Open
- Points received for the Biathlon/Pentathlon Win On Spot
- Level of skills demonstrated at the US Open
- Sportsmanship
- Balancing of each jump height across individual and team events
- Previous WAO and/or international experience

When applying for a position on Team USA you acknowledge and accept that other than the win on spots, you are entering a selection process that is opinion based.

### **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 selected spots.

### **Junior Spots (Must be born on or after May 01, 2005)**

Team USA will take from 0-5 juniors (maximum one dog per height) selected as follows:

Points will be earned in the following events:

US Open Biathlon

US Open Masters Final

US Open Round 2 National Championship

US Open National Championship Final

Points will be earned as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place – 45 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 36 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place – 28 points

4<sup>th</sup> place – 21 points

5<sup>th</sup> place – 15 points

6<sup>th</sup> place – 10 points

7<sup>th</sup> place – 6 points

8<sup>th</sup> place – 3 points

\*\* 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 events 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
- A junior cannot earn a win on spot if zero points are earned

Juniors will have one (1) win-on spot for each jump height. If a Junior wins one of the “win-on” spot they will run as a Junior at the WAO, which will provide them runs in each individual event at the WAO.

A junior handler attending the WAO MUST have a parent or guardian traveling with them to the WAO event. USA Team Management bears no liability for juniors in attendance at the WAO.

### **Dog & Handler Requirements for Application**

All dogs and handlers applying for Team USA must meet the following requirements.

- The dog must have a microchip.
- The dog must have an official WAO measurement and/or a measurement by team officials to determine that dog is not close to the height cutoff
- All win on spots for candidates that do not have an official measurement will be measured by Greg or Laura Derrett at the US Open. That measurement will be your official WAO measurement and you will not have to be measured again at the WAO. If a West Coast Open Games Win On Spot is close to the cutoff, they must attend the US Open in order to receive an official WAO Measurement. This measurement will be required as a condition of the Win On spot
- All candidates that don't have an official measure or have been previously measured by team officials will need to be measured at the US Open. Dogs will not be able to change jump heights once the events begins. Measuring will take place on Tuesday November 14th from 3pm-5pm.
- At the time of team selection, handlers must be a citizen of the USA, or have a birth certificate from USA, have parents or grandparents born in the USA or have permanent resident status. 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 3 months beyond your planned day of departure from the Shengen area and have at minimum two blank pages left inside.
- The handler who runs the dog at the UKI US Open and/or West Coast 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 Sunday May 12 through Sunday May 19, 2024, 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 \$4,000 to \$5,000. The cost for a parent/guardian would be additional for Juniors. These expenses typically include (but are not limited to) flights, dog's flight, hotel, ground transportation, dog health paperwork, meals, incidentals, etc., 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) flights, dog's flight, hotel, ground transportation, dog health paperwork, meals, incidentals, etc., This includes costs for a parent/guardian for juniors. Parents/guardians are not eligible for any reimbursement from Team USA for costs incurred.
- You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to the Netherlands and while at the event. There will not be a team bus and so ground transportation should be arranged by each team member.
- Team management will secure lodging for the team. For reasons of organization, communication and general team spirit, 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 check in to the team hotel by Sunday May 12, 2024 and be prepared to participate in all published official days and events at the competition, as well as any unofficial or official team practice.
- 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 UKI as well as any 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). Failure to respond in a timely manner may result in team management making decisions on your behalf such as uniform sizes, etc.
- 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. WAO takes dog aggression as well as failing to exercise due diligence in control of the behavior of the dog very seriously. WAO officials and Team USA coaching staff may take action including being expelled from the event and/or from Team USA.
- 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 be respectful of the playing of any national anthem, whether for the US or another country.
- 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.
- Failure to respond to team management inquiries by necessary deadlines will result in team management making decisions for you whenever possible, such as uniform sizes., etc. If team management needs to follow up with team members regarding missed deadlines, that team member will be charged \$10 per occurrence and that amount will be deducted from individual reimbursement amounts.

Everything stated in this document will become a binding contract between the team member and team management once a spot on the team is accepted.

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

Questions regarding USA WAO Team, Inc may be sent to [teamusawao@gmail.com](mailto:teamusawao@gmail.com)