

## **2012 AKC World Agility Team/Team Tryouts**

For the 2012 FCI Agility World Championships,

**The American Kennel club will take a team of 12 dogs to the FCI World Agility Championships, to represent the USA at this event. Any handler interested in earning a spot on the AKC Team must attend the AKC World Team Tryouts held in May 2012. The event is currently scheduled to be held October 4-7, 2012 in Liberec, Czech Republic (subject to change).**

**The rules for the 2012 Team Tryouts competition will be based upon the FCI rules which will be in effect at the 2012 World Championships.**

**Date:** May 4-6, 2012

(Friday is practice, random draw and briefing. Saturday and Sunday are the competition.)

**Location:** Hopkins Pavillon, Hopkins, Minnesota

**Judges:** Marquand Cheek and Anne Riba

**Mission:** It is our goal within this selection process to field the most competitive team possible – while still keeping an eye on the future growth of the sport, balancing elements such as experience, growth, speed and consistency.

**Purpose:** To provide a competition format in which handlers and their agility dogs may win their way onto the World Agility Team. Two dog/handler teams from each height division will win a spot on the team at Tryouts. Additionally, the venue provides a common ground from which to evaluate handlers and dogs to fill the remaining team and individual spots. The remaining team spots will be chosen by the Team Coach and AKC Director of Agility using the dogs' show record both during the year and at the AKC Nationals as well as performance at Team Tryouts.

**Entry Form:** The entry form for candidates will be available no later than January 1, 2012.

**Format:** There will be 5 rounds held over 2 days. All dogs entered will run in every round.

**Scores:** World Team Tryout scores will not count towards AKC titles.

### **AKC World Agility Team**

4 to 5 dogs from each of the following height categories will comprise the entire AKC World Team as long as the FCI has not changed the jump heights or the number of dogs able to compete from each country. (This is current info as of the date of this writing.)

Shoulder Height Cutoffs:

- Small team – shoulder height = 13 3/4" or less
- Medium team – shoulder height = 16 7/8" or less
- Large team – shoulder height = greater than 16 7/8

The jump heights are to be:

	AKC Titling Events for Score Accumulation	ISC Class
Small	12" or 16"	14"
Medium	16" or 20"	18"
Large	26"	26"

All small and medium dogs competing at Tryouts will be measured by the Agility Director. Due to stricter measuring procedures at the FCI World Competition, dogs within 1" of the cutoff should be prepared to also be measured by both judges of record at the Tryouts. Dogs measuring over will run FEO (for exhibition only).

**Intent to Enter:** If you are planning on attending 2012 Team Tryouts, whether you have all your scores at this time or not, please send an email asking to be placed on the list of AKC 2012 World Team Candidates to Toni Osojnicky, osojn001@tc.umn.edu. Candidates will be sent information regarding the World Team process such as any current details about Team Tryouts, practice etc, via a Yahoo email group.

### **Qualifying for Team Tryouts**

- A "Team" shall be considered, for purpose of these rules, to be an owner/handler or a co-owner/handler and a dog which meets requirements for height and pedigree.
- A "Candidate" is the owner or co-owner handler that intends to compete for a position on the 2012 AKC World Team.
- All Teams must also meet the Basic Eligibility requirements listed below.

Entry to the World Team Tryouts may be obtained if the following scores are achieved and documented on the World Team Tryout entry form. Scores meeting the criteria below must be obtained between April 1, 2011 and April 1, 2012 at standard AKC licensed or member agility trials. All scores and times must come from the regular AKC Excellent B titling classes for small (12" or 16"), medium (16" or 20") and large (26") teams respectively. All scores must be clean rounds – scores of 100. The handler of the dog at Tryouts must be the handler who showed the dog to gain its minimum score requirements.

- 1) A minimum of 8 standard class scores of 100 and a minimum rate of speed of:
  - 3.70 yards per second (YPS) – small dogs
  - 3.80 yards per second (YPS) – medium dogs
  - 4.00 yards per second (YPS) – large dogs
- 2) A minimum of 8 JWW class scores of 100 and a minimum rate of speed of:
  - 4.90 yards per second (YPS) – small dogs
  - 5.00 yards per second (YPS) – medium dogs
  - 5.40 yards per second (YPS) – large dogs
- 3) A minimum of 4 double Q's
  - No minimum YPS requirements
  - May use same runs to fulfill both double Q requirements and 8 standard and 8 JWW requirements if they meet the minimum YPS requirements

Note: To compute the YPS, take the yardage for your dog's jump height and divide it by the dog's actual running time. In the standard class, do not alter the dog's actual time for the table count (this is already factored in).

Example: Yardage = 182 yards.

Dog's actual time = 53.69 seconds

YPS = 3.39

All times and YPS's listed shall be rounded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> decimal place.

**FEO:** To encourage possible future team dogs and handlers, dogs not having the qualifying scores for Tryouts may be entered FEO (for exhibition only). FEO dogs must have the potential to be future team dogs or future EO dogs. FEO dogs run all the same courses at Tryouts, but run first – before the entered dogs. A handler may not run a dog FEO if they are entered with another dog at the event.

Major International Sweepstakes Class Scores (ISC Class):

“Clean run” scores from the following ISC Classes at 14”, 18” and 26” inches may be used to fulfill the minimum requirements of 8 Std/8 JWW requirements. A “clean run” consists of a run without time or course faults. Minimum YPS requirements are waived for these scores, as long as the dog is under the course time set by the judge for that class. Two ISC jumpers and two ISC standard scores may be used to fulfill the minimum requirements.

- May 2011, Two Rivers Agility Club of Sacramento, California
- July 2011, Houston Kennel Club, Houston, Texas
- November, 2011 – Talcott Mountain Agility Club, Springfield, Massachusetts
- December, 2011 – Western Reserve Kennel Club Cleveland, Ohio
- January 19-22, 2012 - Rose City Cluster, Portland, Oregon
- January 20-22, 2012 – Blue Ridge Agility, Fletcher, NC
- March 3-4, 2012 – Fiesta Cluster, Tempe, Arizona

ISC Combined Class Winners

Combined scores from ISC Jumpers and Standard classes at the above events will be used to award the Combined ISC Class Award. Only Clean Run (no time or course faults) scores will be used to compute the Combined Score. The Combined Class winner from the 14, 18 and 26 inch height is invited to attend Team Tryouts. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 8/8 scores nor are they required to achieve the 4 double Q scores. The dog must have an approved pedigree and also fulfill any requirements for specific rabies shots or titring. The team must also send in all the required information with the fees and the entry form and meet all the other basic eligibility noted in this document. The handler at tryouts must be the same handler that won the combined award.

Candidates are expected to keep complete records and make them available to the coach on request:

- A complete list of your competition history from April 1, 2011 to April 1, 2012.  
This record will include all your scores from all AKC agility events during that time period, and must include judge, course times, yardage and jump height, YPS for each class, placement and NQ information & footing,

Example:

T.R.A.C.S., J. Doe, JWW, 32.02, 182 yards, 5.68 yps, 1<sup>st</sup> place, grass, 26”

T.R.A.C.S., J. Doe, Std, 42.78, 185 yards, 4.32 yps, NQ, grass, missed DW, 26” (NQ times and yards may be submitted, but are not required)

The team coach retains the right to require the complete Competition History records from any team being considered for the team as well as from any handler who wins a spot during tryouts.

All candidates will be required to provide on their Tryouts entry form the number of JWW and standard runs and the number of qualifying runs in each by jump height.

### **Basic Eligibility for all Teams**

- Any Candidate younger than 18 years of age at Tryouts must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at their own expense (e.g.: air, hotel & ground travel) at the Tryouts competition and World Championships as well as team practices, should the minor become an AKC World Team Member.
- A maximum of two dogs per Candidate will be permitted at Tryouts regardless of the dogs' jump heights. If a handler wins a spot with both dogs, only one of the dogs will be chosen to be the team member's primary team dog. At the AKC Director of Agility and Team Coach's discretion, the second dog may or may not be chosen as an alternate team member.
- The Candidate showing the dog at Tryouts will be the only handler allowed to compete with the dog at the World Championships.
- The handler of the dog at Tryouts must be the handler who showed the dog to gain its minimum score requirements of 8 JWW & 8 Standard class scores and 4 double Q's.
- Candidates must be the registered owner or co-owner of record of the dog at entry closing time for tryouts.
- Candidate must commit to attending two team practices, if offered.
- Candidate must be willing to travel with the team to the World Agility Competition.
- Candidate must be willing to acquire any documentation required by the local government(s).
- Team Members must be willing to have their dog treated for tapeworm within 30 days of the WC if the host country requires it. Team Members must be willing to vaccinate their dog for rabies no more than one year prior, but also no less than one month prior to the date of the 2012 World Championship.
- All Team Members will be required to sign a Consent and Release Form.
- Large team dogs will all travel in cargo on the flight to Europe. Medium and small team dogs may also be required to travel in cargo depending on their size, and airline carrier/country regulations.
- Dogs must have a three generation pedigree showing three generations of purebred lineage. (This is a requirement of the World Agility Championships, not the AKC.)
- The FCI requires that every dog have an AKC registration number and acceptable FCI recognized pedigree.
- Candidates must be US residents for the 24 months preceding Tryouts.
- Candidates must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club. Any Candidate who has received a misconduct charge during the year prior to tryouts will not be allowed to compete at tryouts. Any handler who receives a misconduct charge after earning a spot on the World Team, and before the World Championship events, may also be subject to sanction up to and including removal from the Team by the Team Coach and AKC Director of Agility.
- Candidates must at all times demonstrate extreme Good Sportsmanship while participating in or watching any agility event. The World Team Coach & AKC Director of Agility may refuse entry to Tryouts to any handler who demonstrates verbal or physical abuse to a dog or fellow competitor or acts abusive or challenging to an agility judge.
- Candidates are representatives of the agility program in the United States and are also representing those companies which sponsor agility in the United States.
- Team members will have a set travel cost subsidy for their participation at the FCI World Agility Championships.
- Though not required, the Team is strongly encouraged to compete at the AKC Nationals, March 30- April 1, 2012. Results from the AKC Nationals will be a consideration in choosing team members.

The Czech Republic does not require a rabies antibody titration. If your dog already has a valid titration, it is highly recommended that you continue to do vaccinations within 365 days of the last one to maintain the validity of the titration.

The Czech Republic allows docked dogs (but not cropped dogs) to participate at the FCI World Championships.

Please note that it is important that your dog's microchip and/or tattoo numbers be on your rabies certificates. You will likely need to ask your vet to manually add this information and sign it as it is not common practice to include it. ISO compatible microchips are the only ones recognized in Europe.

USDAA Nationals – are currently scheduled for September 26-30, 2012. Unless that changes, dogs and handlers selected for the AKC team will not be able to participate at the USDAA Nationals as we would be traveling to the Czech Republic on Saturday, September 29th.

**Final AKC World Team Selection** – Final selections will be announced by the end of May, 2012. Running positions (including alternates if any) at the World Championships for all dogs, whether they won their position on the team at Tryouts, or they were “selected dogs”, shall be chosen by the World Team Coach. Even dogs winning positions on the team at Tryouts may be used as Alternates-Only at the actual event.

Prior year individual Gold Medalists are invited by FCI to participate in the current year's event. The AKC retains the right to invite any Individual Gold Medalist from the prior year's FCI World Agility Competition to be on the team even if all the requirements were not met and/or they were not selected for the team under the regular selection process.

### **Questions**

Questions regarding the World Team Tryouts or the selection process should be directed to:

Nancy Gyes, World Team Coach  
powerpaws@aol.com  
408-729-6942

Carrie DeYoung, AKC Director of Agility  
cxd2@akc.org  
818-886-8212

Toni Osojnicki, Tryouts Secretary  
osojn001@tc.umn.edu  
651-430-9004

**Document dated December 29, 2011**