

2013 AKC International/World Team Tryouts

For 2013 the American Kennel Club (AKC) will field a team of 12 dogs to compete at the FCI European Open (EO) agility competition as the AKC International Team. The 2013 FCI Agility World Championships (AWC) will be held in South Africa and the AKC will approve entry for the 12 dogs selected through the team tryout process.

FCI European Open (EO)

The AKC will enter up to 32 dogs in the FCI EO to represent the USA at this event. 12 dogs will be sponsored by AKC as their 2013 International Agility Team based on their performance at the International Team Tryouts (ITT). The remaining 20 dogs will be chosen by AKC based on a variety of factors (explained further below).

The FCI European Open event is currently scheduled to be held July 25-28, 2013 in Neeroeteren, Belgium. Two rings are indoors, one ring is outdoors.

<http://european-open-2013.jimdo.com/>

- AKC/USA EO Team: Four dog/handler teams from each height division will win a spot on the team at International Team Tryouts.
- The remaining 20 dogs will be chosen by AKC based on a variety of factors (explained further below). **International Team Tryouts attendance is not a requirement for these dogs.**

International Team Tryouts (ITT)

The rules for the 2013 International Team Tryouts (ITT) competition will be based upon the FCI rules which will be in effect at the 2013 European Open (EO).

Date: May 3-5, 2013

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

Location: Hopkins Pavilion, Hopkins, Minnesota

Judges: to be determined

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 AKC/USA EO Agility Team or the FCI AWC Team.

Entry Form: The entry form for candidates will be available no later than January 31, 2013.

Format: There will be 4 or 5 rounds held over 2 days.

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

FCI Jump Heights

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:

	FCI EO	AKC
Small	14"	12" or 16"
Medium	18"	16" or 20"
Large	26"	26"

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

Qualifying for International Team Tryouts **FCI European Open (EO) Candidates Only**

Entry to the International Team Tryouts for the purpose of trying out for the EO International team only requires that the dog have achieved its AX and AXJ titles and be competing at the Master level in both standard and JWW classes. The dog must have these titles by April 1, 2013.

- All Teams must also meet the Basic Eligibility requirements listed below.
- All breeds and mixed breeds can compete at the EO and as such are eligible for ITT.

Ear cropping is prohibited in Belgium since October 1, 2001.

- Dogs with cropped ears may not participate in the EO 2013 in Belgium. This rule does not apply to dogs whose ears were cropped before this date, as long as the owner can prove it (certificate). This is not an AKC requirement, but a Belgium one.

Tail docking is prohibited in Belgium since January 1, 2006.

- Dogs born after January 1, 2006 with docked tails may not participate in the EO 2013 in Belgium.
- Dogs whose tails were docked before this date may participate on the EO 2013 in Belgium, as long as the owner can prove it (certificate). This is not an AKC requirement, but a Belgium one.
- Dogs born with natural stump tail or born tailless, may participate on the EO 2013 in Belgium, as long as the owner can prove it (certificate).
- Dogs who have tails docked for veterinary reasons may participate on the EO 2013 in Belgium, as long as the owner can prove it (certificate).

Basic Eligibility for all candidates entering **International Team Tryouts (EO and AWC)**

- Any Candidate younger than 18 years of age at ITT must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at their own expense (e.g.: air, hotel & ground travel) at the ITT competition and international competitions as well as team practices, should the minor become an AKC International EO Team or AWC Team member.
- The Candidate showing the dog at ITT will be the only handler allowed to compete with the dog at the International competitions.
- The handler of the dog at ITT must be the handler who showed the dog to gain its minimum score or title requirements.
- Candidates must be the registered owner or co-owner of record of the dog at entry closing time for ITT.
- All ITT competitors will be required to sign a Consent and Release Form.
- Candidates must be US residents for the 24 months preceding ITT.
- Candidate must be willing to travel with the team to the European Open.
- 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 competition 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 competition.
- 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 ITT. Any handler who receives a misconduct charge after earning a spot on either team, and before the competition, 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 ITT and/or the EO team 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.
- Though not required, the team is strongly encouraged to compete at the AKC Nationals, March 15-17, 2013. Results from the AKC Nationals will be a consideration in choosing the remaining team members.

Candidates for the EO team are expected to keep complete records and make them available to the coach on request from this time forward:

- A complete list of your competition history from now until April 1, 2013. This record will include scores from all agility events as well as any other international or national type event 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, 1st 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.

For large dogs: only scores in the 26 inch classes will be considered.

For small/medium teams, only scores in the 12" and 16" classes respectively will be considered.

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.

Intent to Enter International Team Tryouts (ITT)

If you are planning on attending 2013 ITT, whether you have all your requirements at this time or not, please send an email asking to be placed on the list of AKC 2013 World Team Candidates immediately to Toni Osojnicki, osojn001@tc.umn.edu. The email will need to contain the following information:

- Handler's name
- Dog's call name, age, breed, sex and FCI jump height (small, medium or large)
- Dog's AKC number (or PAL/ILP or Canine Partner number) if they have one
- Any AKC agility titles the dog has
- Whether this dog will be trying out for the EO team, the AWC team or both

Candidates will be sent information regarding the World Team process such as any current details about ITT, practice, additional information we receive related to the EO or AWC, etc, via a Yahoo email group.

European Open (EO) Application Process

There will be a separate online application process for handlers hoping to be one of the 32 dog/handler teams entered in the EO. This application will be available by January 1, 2013 and will be due to be submitted by March 20, 2013. This application will include information about the dog/handler team such as:

- Prior EO experience and results
- Any prior international experience and results
- Any agility national events experiences and results
- Qualifying rates and scores from trials at 26/16 & 12 inches respectively

This information will be used in conjunction with the team's performance at ITT (if they attend) to determine the remaining 20 dogs that will be entered at the EO.

- All 32 dogs must be registered with the AKC to compete at the FCI European Open AKC/USA Team. Dogs must have an AKC registration number, PAL/ILP number or AKC Canine Partners listing number.

Final AKC International Team Selection (EO)

12 dogs (4 in each height) will be determined at ITT. The remaining 20 spots will be announced by May 15, 2013.

FCI Agility World Championships (AWC)

The AKC will also enter up to 12 dogs in the FCI Agility World Championships (AWC) in South Africa, but handlers will need to pay their own and their dog's expenses in getting to and attending this event. Any handler interested in earning a spot on the AKC/USA Agility World Team must attend the International Team Tryouts (ITT) held in May 2013.

The FCI Agility World Championships (AWC) is currently scheduled to be held October 10-13, 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

<http://www.mypetexpo.co.za/>

- Agility World Team: Two dog/handler teams from each height division will win a spot on the team at ITT. 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 ITT.

Qualifying for International Team Tryouts

FCI Agility World Championships (AWC) Candidates Only

- 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 2013 AKC Agility World Team.
- All Teams must also meet the Basic Eligibility requirements listed above.
- Dogs must have a three generation pedigree showing three generations of purebred lineage. (This is a requirement of the FCI Agility World Championships, not the AKC.)
- The FCI requires that every dog have an AKC registration number and acceptable FCI recognized pedigree.

South Africa has a myriad of requirements for dogs entering their country. The handler will be responsible for determining what is needed and when. There may be restrictions on cropped and/or docked dogs.

The jump heights are to be:

	ISC Class & FCI competitions	AKC Classes for Score Accumulation
Small	14"	12" or 16"
Medium	18"	16" or 20"
Large	26"	26"

Entry to the ITT for the purpose of trying out for the AWC team may be obtained if the following scores are achieved. Scores meeting the criteria below must be obtained between April 1, 2012 and April 1, 2013 at standard AKC licensed or member agility trials. All scores and times must come from the regular AKC Master Level 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 ITT 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 2nd decimal place.

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 2012, Two Rivers Agility Club of Sacramento, California
- November 23-26, 2012 – Talcott Mountain Agility Club, Springfield, Massachusetts
- December 13-16, 2012 – Western Reserve Kennel Club Cleveland, Ohio
- January 19-20, 2013 - Rose City Cluster, Portland, Oregon
- January 18-20, 2013 – Blue Ridge Agility, Fletcher, NC
- March 2-3, 2013 – Fiesta Cluster, Tempe, Arizona (pending)

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 titering. 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 must be willing to travel to the FCI AWC and understands that the AKC will not pay for any expenses related to competing at that event.

Candidates for the team 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, 2012 to April 1, 2013. 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:

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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 ITT entry form the number of JWW and standard runs and the number of qualifying runs in each by jump height.

Please note: 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.

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- Handler's name
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- Any AKC agility titles the dog has
- Whether this dog will be trying out for the EO team, the AWC team or both

Candidates will be sent information regarding the World Team process such as any current details about ITT, practice, additional information we receive related to the EO or AWC, etc, via a Yahoo email group.

Questions

Questions regarding the International Team Tryouts or the selection process for either team 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 November 6, 2012