



# AAC 2023-2024 National Dog Agility Team Selection Criteria



FOR 2024 SELECTION WILL BE BASED ON NATIONAL TEAM TRYOUTS (Three International rounds - Agility/JWW/Snooker) HELD ON THURSDAY AUGUST 17TH, COMBINED WITH NATIONALS ROUND SCORING AS OUTLINED BELOW.

ONLY THOSE WHO FILL OUT AN INTENT FORM AND SUBMIT WITH DEPOSIT ETRANSFER TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN JULY 15 WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2023-24 TEAM.

- **2024 AAC National Team Intent Application – English**
- **2024 AAC National Team Intent Application – French**

## SELECTION TO THE 2024 AAC CANADIAN NATIONAL AGILITY TEAM FOR IFCS

The AAC will select a National team to participate in the 2024 IFCS World Agility Championships. Team members are selected by the AAC National Team Management Committee (NTMC), following the criteria set forth in this document, and on this website. Selected team members agree to follow all policies and procedures set forth by IFCS, AAC, and the AAC NTMC.

Potential applicants to the National Team (*All including Draft positions*) **MUST** fill out the IFCS TEAM SELECTION INTENT FORM and send it, along with a \$250 deposit ETRANSFERED to [FSO@AAC.CA](mailto:FSO@AAC.CA) to arrive **NO LATER THAN** July 15, 2023. **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE, OR NOT ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT ARE NOT VALID, AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If you are selected to the team, a second deposit will be due no later than October 31st, 2023 to finalize your position on the team. The amount of this deposit will be determined closer to the date.

**THESE DEADLINES ARE NOT FLEXIBLE. IF YOUR SECOND DEPOSIT IS NOT RECEIVED, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE TEAM, AND THE ALTERNATE NAMED. IN THE CASE OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE WITH TEAM MANAGEMENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE.**

### SELECTION

The AAC NTMC may choose up to 30 team members for the IFCS competition. These positions may consist of up to 24 members selected from a combination of National Tryouts and AAC Nationals Individual Round Points (Appendix C); up to 6 spots comprised of Draft and/or 2022-2023 IFCS Medalists. Target date for the approval of team members will be following the AAC Board meeting on October 18, 2023.

## AAC NATIONAL RESULTS FOR WIN ON SPOTS

1. Up to 24 Positions on the AAC National Team for IFCS are determined by points earned at the AAC National Championships, as per the point schedule outlined in Appendix C, as well as the additional criteria listed below.
2. From Nationals results, dogs and handlers will be selected in each of the 4 height categories the estimates are as follows: 12"- 4 Dogs, 16"- 6 Dogs, 20"- 8 Dogs, 24"- 6 Dogs. These numbers are subject to change at the discretion of the NTMC.

## IFCS MEDALISTS

1. Out of the potential 30 spots available to be selected to represent the AAC and Canada at the World Championships, the NTMC may also select up to six (6) IFCS Canadian medal winners in any height from the last two years (2022 & 2023) as members of the team. Competitor and dog must be the same pair that won the medal.
2. These additions, if any, may include dogs who are not competing at Nationals, or be from the pool of those competing at Nationals, including those who would otherwise be selected by the point system.
3. The medallists selected for the team will be from those who have medalled in the previous two years at any IFCS competition, and selections are made based on a point system for rankings.
4. Medallist for the previous two years are available on the AAC National Team website.
5. Medals won at WAC in **team events** are recognized but unfortunately are not counted as a part of win on spots. This is due to the difficulty of determining the success of the individual dogs.

## DRAFT DOGS

1. Out of the potential 30 spots available to be selected from non IFCS medalists, to represent the AAC and Canada at the World Championships, the NTMC may draft up to six (6) dogs, either from dogs who have attended Nationals, or from dogs who have not attended Nationals. Each of these six dogs may be in any height class.
2. In order to be eligible for a draft position, the handler must have put in an Application under the same timeline deadlines as those competing in Nationals, and the /handler team must meet all applicable criteria (ex: submitted application as outlined, attended AAC trials, be an AAC member etc.); if the team did not attend Nationals, they must also submit their reason for not attending.
3. The NTMC may use the following sources for determining draft choices for the current year: National Results (if attended), Regionals results, top dogs in AAC based on Statistics (especially Challenge Classes), training video submitted in the Team Member area of the National Team website, previous results at National or International events.

## ELIGIBILITY OF HANDLER

1. The handler must be a member in good standing with the AAC at the time of application. The handler of a dog under consideration for the team must have been the handler of the dog at the AAC National Championships, and be the handler of the dog being considered for a draft or medalist position.
2. Anyone who has an outstanding balance owing to the AAC National Dog Agility team is not eligible to apply for a team position until the balance is paid in full.
3. Handlers must have competed in 8 AAC Sanctioned trials in the two years prior to the Nationals. In order for a trial to qualify, the handler must have competed in no less than 50% of class options available at that trial. *Regionals/Nationals are not to be included in this requirement, although AAC sanctioned events (like Steeplechase) held in conjunction with those Regionals / Nationals can be counted. A trial consists of single or consecutive days of events hosted by one club. Trials held over a weekend or over multiple consecutive days can only be counted once. For example, Saturday runs and Sunday runs on the same site may not be considered two trials.*
4. The handler must either be a citizen of Canada or have permanent resident status within Canada. Note that a permanent resident who competes as a representative for their country of residency will be ineligible to compete for their country of citizenship for a period of 5 years following the IFCS competition.
5. The handler must be prepared to satisfy all conditions related to travel and health documentation.
6. The handler must be financially able to provide their personal travel expenses for the event in case financial sponsorship and/or fundraising is not available or does not cover all of the expected expenses.
7. Team members should have a valid credit card to provide some security in case of an emergency.
8. After selection, each handler will be required to sign a team contract in order to confirm participation on the team. This contract will outline duties and responsibilities for team members, financial responsibilities, team practices, code of conduct and more.

9. **Submitting an application and deposit is considered the handler's acceptance for a spot on the team, if they qualify for one. Therefore, when the team members are selected, following the receipt of the e-transfer, a contract will be sent to them to fill out and return.**
10. **The contract sent out to the team members must be signed and returned to the NTMC by October 31, 2023 and must be accompanied by an additional non-refundable deposit yet to be determined.**
11. If the team member does not return the contract and deposits by the deadline, they will be deemed to have turned down the spot on the team, and an alternate will be chosen. The deposit is non-refundable except in the case of a verified injury to a handler.
12. If a handler is under 18 years of age, the consent form and final agreement must be filled out by the Junior handler's parent or guardian. The Junior handler must also be accompanied to and at the IFCS event by their parent or legal guardian, at their own expense.
13. A competitor shall be expected to serve as a representative and goodwill ambassador representing Canada, the AAC, and of the sport of agility.
14. The NTMC must be notified as soon as possible if a handler becomes ill or incapacitated, and will be unable to compete in the event, so that an alternate can be notified.
15. Team members will be responsible for fundraising under the direction of the AAC NTMC. This fundraising may include (but will not be limited to) merchandise sales, submitting articles for a fundraising publication, organizing events, giving instruction at a fundraising seminar, submitting training videos for the training page etc.
16. The AAC's Code of Conduct applies to the AAC National Team members, support staff, Coach, Team Manager and Assistant Team Manager. As representatives of the AAC, the expectation is that AAC National Team representatives will act in a manner respectful of the AAC and the NTMC regardless of their connection to the AAC. Those who contravene the AAC's Code of Conduct may face sanctions, including removal from the team.
17. Any team member who does not fulfill fundraising and other obligations, as set out by the NTMC, may be subject to sanctions. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to; fines, restriction of team runs, and removal from the team.
18. If a team member is removed from the team, or resigns from the team, they will not have their deposit, or any funds raised on behalf of the team, refunded.
19. Alternates will not automatically travel with the team, unless they replace a competing team member prior to March 15. After March 15, if Alternates have not replaced a competing team member, they will receive their full deposit back. Alternates may choose to travel with the team at their own expense.

## **ELIGIBILITY OF DOG**

1. All teams (except those applying for Maxi), who have filled out the IFCS section of the AAC National Championship entry form will have their dogs measured at the AAC National Championships to ensure they are competing in the correct height. This measurement will be done by a judge approved by the AAC NTMC. (See below for clarification regarding measurements).
2. Dogs that have been officially measured at either of the two previous National Team Tryouts will not be measured. The official measurement on record will stand for that individual dog.
3. Official IFCS height breakdowns are as shown in Appendix B. **Dogs MUST be competing in the correct IFCS height division at the AAC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS to be eligible for IFCS competition consideration.** This requirement ensures that dogs who are competing against each other for spots, will also be competing against each other at Nationals.
4. In IFCS competition, all dogs in the Toy, Mini, and Midi divisions will be measured by IFCS judges or officials prior to the start of the IFCS competition. Any dog that is measured over the height limit must compete in the higher height. If a dog is close to a height cut-off they should be prepared to jump up, in case they get a high measure at the IFCS competition.
5. Dogs may not be taking any performance enhancing medications. Any medications that the dog is receiving must be noted on the team contract.

6. The AAC NTMC must be notified as soon as possible if a dog becomes ill or incapacitated, and will be unable to compete in the event, so that an alternate can be notified. Dogs in heat ARE allowed in IFCS competition, but pregnant dogs are not.
7. A dog shall be expected to serve as a representative of the AAC and of the sport of agility. Any written complaints filed against a dog which are upheld by the AAC Disciplinary Committee will be reviewed by the AAC NTMC, who can declare such a dog ineligible for the team.
8. The dog will be expected to have earned a minimum of one AAC title.

## **IFCS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. At the IFCS World Championships ALL dogs selected for the Canadian National Team will run all four of the Individual rounds (consisting of Individual Standard Agility, Individual Jumpers, Individual Gamblers and Individual Snooker)
2. At the IFCS World Championships ALL dogs selected for the Canadian National Team will run both of the Biathlon rounds (consisting of two rounds including Biathlon Standard Agility and Biathlon Jumpers).
3. At the IFCS World Championships SOME of the dogs will be selected for three additional IFCS "TEAM" rounds (consisting of Agility-TEAM, Jumpers-TEAM, and TEAM Relay). These selections will be made by the Team Management at the IFCS competition.

## **APPENDIX A – SCORING and POINT PROCESS**

In the event of ties in the number of overall points, the NTMC will make the decision based on Best Result in the International Rounds.

### **NATIONAL TEAM TRYOUTS SCORING (International rounds)**

Only dogs competing for team selection will be included in the placements/points for team selection.

Placement Points for the following international rounds will be added to determine the highest pointed candidate dog/handler teams. 1 International Agility Round, 1 International Jumping w Weaves Round and 1 International Snooker Round.

All results in Standard and Jumpers will be based on a time PLUS fault calculation, as used in the IFCS Biathlon competition, plus any applicable time bonus points.

Placements in Snooker will be based on the total points earned in the opening and closing, plus any applicable time bonus points.

Points earned will be combined with points earned at the AAC National Championships. *Note that there are different point tables for EACH JUMP HEIGHT!*

### **TRYOUTS SCORING SYSTEM**

**To ensure reliable scoring, the officiating Judge will use the IFCS Agility Rules.** The scoring will be based on the IFCS Biathlon time plus fault format. Some of the common faults/refusals are given below. Refer to the IFCS rules (found at <https://ifcsdogsports.org/dog-agility/>) for full details. If IFCS agility rules are not applied, the tryouts will not be included in the placements/points for team selection.

For every "Fault" or "Refusal" a competitor will be penalised 5 penalty points (5 seconds). For every "Elimination" or "Disqualification" a competitor will be penalised 20 penalty points (20 seconds).

All violations which are not qualified as a refusal are considered a fault. After every fault the competitor has to return the dog to the place of mistake or to the beginning of weave poles (competitor's choice) and correct the error. In the case of a fault in the weave poles, ensure the weave poles have been completed correctly. Repeating an obstacle is a fault with weave poles being the exception: (1.4.4.5 and 1.4.4.8).

#### **OVERVIEW OF COMMON FAULTS**

- Touching of dog or obstacle. (1.4.4.1 and 1.4.4.1.2).
- Fall of obstacle/element of an obstacle. (1.4.4.2).
- Broad/Long Jump – knocks down or steps between parts of obstacle, touches last board. (1.4.4.3.1 - 1.4.4.3.5).
- Contact Area – dog does not step into the contact zone, on the descent or ascent ramp of contact obstacles. (1.4.4.4).
- Repeating obstacle – If the dog commits a fault, it cannot perform the obstacle again (except weave poles: (1.4.4.5 and 1.4.4.8).
- Seesaw - Dog that jumps off the obstacle before passing the pivot point will be penalized with a refusal. The seesaw must touch the ground before the dog alights from the obstacle, otherwise it will incur a fault. (1.4.4.5).
- Weave poles – missing gap in weave pole (once the dog has entered correctly). (1.4.4.6).

#### **OVERVIEW OF COMMON REFUSALS**

- Dog stops in front of obstacle. (1.4.6.1)
- Turning away from performance of the obstacle and when dog crosses the imaginary front line of an obstacle. (1.4.6.2)
- Dog running under the bar of a jump. (1.4.6.3)
- Dog passes between the tire and its frame. (1.4.6.4)
- Broad jump: dog walks through the broad jump with not attempt to jump, runs out between the panels, or jumps the obstacle crossways, or enters correctly but exits incorrectly. (1.4.6.5.1 – 1.4.6.5.2)
- Tunnel Entrance – dog places head or paws back out of tunnel entrance or exits out tunnel entrance completely. (1.4.6.6)
- Dogwalk/Aframe – dog jumps from ground to up plank and back to ground before touching the descent ramp. (1.4.6.7)
- Dogwalk – dog jumps off horizontal top plank of walk before touching down plank. (1.4.6.8)
- Aframe – Dog jumps off before the dog touches the descent ramp. (1.4.6.9)
- Seesaw – Dog jumps off the seesaw before it starts to incline or jumping on the seesaw descent ramp without touching the ascent ramp first. (1.4.6.10)

#### **WEAVES SCORING**

- Max penalty points after correct entry is achieved – 5 points maximum (1.4.8.1)
- All violations that aren't a refusal are a fault. After every fault, the competitor has to return the dog to the place of mistake or at the beginning of the weave poles (competitor's choice) and correct the error and ensure the weave poles have been completed correctly. (14.8.2)
- Once a dog has entered the weave poles correctly, if it has to come back to the start to fix an error (competitor choice), it cannot receive a refusal (as already entered correctly the first time), but before continuing to the next obstacle, must ensure correct entry and complete all poles/gaps correctly or receive a disqualification penalty. (1.4.8.4)
- If the dog has not performed the weave poles correctly (including correct entry) and then crosses the line or plane of the next obstacle or performs the next obstacle, it is to be disqualified. (1.4.8.5)

#### **OVERVIEW OF COMMON DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- Exceeding maximum course time (MCT).
- 3 refusals in total.

- Performing or attempt of performing an obstacle in the wrong sequence or taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
- Performing or attempting to perform the next obstacle, if there was a refusal or fault that the dog had to correct on the previous obstacle and the correction was not completed.
- Back weaving
- Dog leaving the ring out of control

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCORING

Only dogs competing for team selection will be included in the placements/points for team selection. Placement Points for the following National Championship Rounds will be added to determine the highest pointed candidate dog/handler teams. 2 Nationals Standard Rounds, 2 Nationals Jumpers Rounds and 1 Nationals Gamble Round.

All results in Standard, Gamblers, and Jumpers in National events will be based on AAC's National rules and regulations. Placements in Standard & Jumpers will be based on the standings from Nationals scoring.

Placements in Gamblers will be based on the total points earned in the opening and closing, plus any applicable time bonus points. Because there are two Gamble rounds, the dog's best result from the two rounds will be used in the calculation.

Points earned will be combined with points earned in the International rounds at the National Team tryouts. *Note that there are different point tables for EACH JUMP HEIGHT (found in **Appendix C**)!*

## APPENDIX B – IFCS MEASUREMENT TABLE

IFCS CATEGORY	AAC DIVISION	DOG MEASUREMENT
TOY	12" Regular	30 cm (11.81") and under
MINI	16" Regular	40 cm (15.75") and under
MIDI	20" Regular	50 cm (19.69") and under
MAXI	24" Regular	No restriction

## APPENDIX C – AAC NATIONALS INDIVIDUAL ROUND POINTS

12 INCH JUMP HEIGHT			
STANDARD/JUMPERS		GAMBLERS/SNOOKER	
PLACE	PTS	PLACE	PTS
1	20	1	10
2	18	2	9
3	16	3	8
4	14	4	7
5	12	5	6
6	10	6	5
7	8	7	4
8	6	8	3
9	4	9	2
10	2	10	1

16 INCH JUMP HEIGHT			
STANDARD/JUMPERS		GAMBLERS/SNOOKER	
PLACE	PTS	PLACE	PTS
1	30	1	15
2	28	2	14
3	26	3	13
4	24	4	12
5	22	5	11
6	20	6	10
7	18	7	9
8	16	8	8
9	14	9	7
10	12	10	6
11	10	11	5
12	8	12	4
13	6	13	3
14	4	14	2
15	2	15	1

20 INCH JUMP HEIGHT			
STANDARD/JUMPERS		GAMBLERS/SNOOKER	
PLACE	PTS	PLACE	PTS
1	50	1	25
2	48	2	24
3	46	3	23
4	44	4	22
5	42	5	21
6	40	6	20
7	38	7	19
8	36	8	18
9	34	9	17
10	32	10	16
11	30	11	15
12	28	12	14
13	26	13	13
14	24	14	12
15	22	15	11
16	20	16	10
17	18	17	9
18	16	18	8
19	14	19	7
20	12	20	6
21	10	21	5
22	8	22	4
23	6	23	3
24	4	24	2
25	2	25	1

24 INCH JUMP HEIGHT			
STANDARD/JUMPERS		GAMBLERS/SNOOKER	
PLACE	PTS	PLACE	PTS
1	40	1	20
2	38	2	19
3	36	3	18
4	34	4	17
5	32	5	16
6	30	6	15
7	28	7	14
8	26	8	13
9	24	9	12
10	22	10	11
11	20	11	10
12	18	12	9
13	16	13	8
14	14	14	7
15	12	15	6
16	10	16	5
17	8	17	4
18	6	18	3
19	4	19	2
20	2	20	1