



AAC 2025-2026 National Dog Agility Team Selection Criteria



FOR 2026, SELECTION WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

NATIONAL TEAM TRYOUTS, HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 (Three International rounds - Agility/JWW/Snooker), COMBINED WITH 2025 NATIONALS ROUND SCORING, AS OUTLINED BELOW.

APPLICANTS MUST FILL OUT AN INTENT FORM AND SUBMIT WITH E-TRANSFER DEPOSIT, TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN THE CLOSING DATE OF NATIONALS, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2025-26 TEAM.

- **2026 AAC National Team Intent Application – English**
- **2026 AAC National Team Intent Application – French**

SELECTION TO THE 2026 AAC CANADIAN NATIONAL DOG AGILITY TEAM FOR WAC (IFCS):

The AAC will select a National Team to participate in the 2026 IFCS World Agility Championships. Team members are selected by the AAC National Team Management Committee (NTMC), using the criteria set forth in this document. Selected team members agree to follow all policies and procedures set forth by IFCS, AAC, and the AAC NTMC.

Applicants to the National Team (*including Draft and Medal positions*), **MUST** fill out the AAC NATIONAL TEAM INTENT FORM and send it, along with a \$250 deposit to be E-Transferred to “AAC NATIONAL AGILITY TEAM”, ntfinance@aac.ca TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN the closing date of Nationals 2025. **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE, OR NOT ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If you are selected to the team, a second deposit of \$750 will be due no later than September 30th, 2025.

IF YOU WISH TO APPLY FOR THE TEAM, BUT NEED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH REGARD TO FINANCIAL DEADLINES, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEAM MANAGER BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE.

The AAC NTMC may choose up to 30 team members for the IFCS competition. These team member positions may consist of up to 25 WIN ON SPOTS, selected from a combination of International Rounds at Tryouts and AAC Nationals Individual Round Points (Appendix C). Up to 4 additional MEDAL spots comprised of previous IFCS Medalists, and 1 additional spot for a DRAFT pick will also be chosen, along with up to 8 Alternates of any height. All team member and alternate spots will be tentatively announced at the 2025 Nationals Closing ceremonies, at which time team members will be asked to sign a Team Contract. Team Contracts must be received within one week of announcement. AAC Board approval will take place at the September 2025 AAC Board meeting, after which the Team will be considered Final, and announced via Social Media and on the National Team and AAC pages.

AAC NATIONAL WIN ON SPOTS

1. Up to 25 Positions on the AAC National Team for IFCS are determined by points earned at the AAC National Championships, in International Tryout and National rounds, 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 5 height categories the estimates are as follows: 10" - 3 Dogs 12" - 3-4 Dogs 16" - 4-5 Dogs 20" - 6-8 Dogs 24" – 6-8 Dogs.

IFCS MEDALISTS

1. In order to recognize and reward those who have brought home medals from IFCS with their dogs, up to 4 of the spots on the team will be allocated to dogs who have medalled in the last two years.
2. Competitor and dog must be the same pair that won the medal.
3. While the NTMC will give preference to those competitors who attend Nationals, in extenuating circumstances these additions MAY include dogs who are not competing at Nationals.
4. Medalist spots may go to those who would otherwise have been chosen for a win on spot.
5. The medalists 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. 3 points for Gold, 2 for Silver, and 1 for Bronze in the current year. Medal points for the previous year will be ½ value.
6. A medal chart for the previous two years will be posted on the National Team Facebook page for reference.
7. 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 competing in the Team events. (i.e. a dog may be eliminated in their only run, but still attain a medal as part of the Team competition.

DRAFT DOG

1. Out of the potential 30 spots available to be selected to represent the AAC and Canada at the World Championships, the NTMC may select one dog as a DRAFT. This selection can be from any height, and be a dog who has attended Nationals, or from a dog who has not attended Nationals.
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 a draft choice for the current year: National Results (if attended), Regionals results, top dogs in AAC based on Statistics (especially Biathlon Classes), previous training video submitted in the Team Member area of the National Team website, previous results at National or International events.

ALTERNATE DOGS

1. There can be up to 8 Alternate Dogs chosen by the NTMC.
2. In addition to the 30 dogs chosen to represent the AAC and Canada at the World Championships, the NTMC may select up to 8 additional dogs as Alternates.
3. These selections can be from any height.
4. While the NTMC will give preference to those competitors who attend Nationals, in extenuating circumstances these additions MAY include dogs who are not competing at Nationals.
5. In order to be eligible for an Alternate position, the handler must have put in an Application under the same timeline deadlines as those competing in Nationals, and the dog/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.
6. When a dog and handler are forced to withdraw from the National Team, a full spot on the team must be offered to the next available alternate in the same height division, unless one is not available at which point dogs in other heights may be considered.
7. The NTMC may make the selection based on National and Tryout Round results, limitations in the Small or Large Team competitor height categories, based on the existing team members, fundraising or other contributions to the team.

ELIGIBILITY OF HANDLER

1. The handler must be a member in good standing with the AAC as of Jan 1 of the Tryout year. 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/Medal/Alternate 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. Handlers MAY also count up to a max of three AAC judging assignments to offset this requirement (ex Compete in 5-7 Trials and Judge 1-3 Trials). For a judging assignment to count toward the requirement, the candidate must judge at least 50% of the classes on one day of a trial, with a minimum of 4 classes judged on that trial day.
5. 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.
6. The handler must be prepared to satisfy all conditions related to travel and health documentation.
7. 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.
8. Team members must have a valid credit card in order to book into hotels, and to utilize in case of an emergency.
9. 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.
10. The contract must be signed and returned within one week of notification. If the team member does not return the contract and deposits by the deadlines, they will be deemed to have turned down the spot on the team, and an alternate will be chosen. The initial deposit is non-refundable except in the case of a verified injury to a handler or dog prior to the start of Nationals.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The AAC's Code of Conduct applies to the AAC National Team members, National Team Liaison, 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.
15. 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.
16. Alternates will not automatically travel with the team, unless they replace a competing team member prior to a "final date" for travel determination, to be set by the NTMC once the IFCS dates are announced. After that date, 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.

17. If a team member is removed from the team, they will not have their deposit, or any funds raised on behalf of the team, refunded.
18. If a team member resigns from the team, and an Alternate handler can be secured for that spot, the original team member will not be refunded any Management monies raised on behalf of the team, but may be refunded their deposit, minus any expenses that have been incurred by the team on their behalf (eg collars/uniforms etc).

ELIGIBILITY OF DOG

1. All handlers applying for the team will have their dogs measured at the AAC National Championships to ensure they are competing in the correct height, except those applying for Maxi, and those who have previously competed at IFCS in the same height they are applying for. This measurement will be done by a judge approved by the AAC NTMC. (See below for clarification regarding measurements).
2. Official IFCS height breakdowns are as shown in Appendix A. **Dogs MUST be competing in the correct IFCS height division at the AAC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS to be eligible for IFCS competition consideration, except that dogs competing for a spot in the 10" Division at IFCS must compete at 8" in Tryouts and Nationals.** This requirement ensures that dogs who are competing against each other for spots will also be competing against each other at Nationals.
3. 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.
4. The dog will be expected to have earned a minimum of one AAC title, unless they are under 2 years of age at the time of Application. If such a dog earns a spot, they will be expected to earn a title prior to the Jan 1 of the travel year.

IFCS WORLD DOG AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIP

1. At the IFCS World Agility Championship competition, all dogs in the Toy, Mini, Medi, and Large 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. This means that if a dog is close to a height cut-off they should be prepared to jump up, so that if they get a high measure at the IFCS competition they can still compete.
2. 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)
3. 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).
4. 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 – IFCS MEASUREMENT TABLE

IFCS CATEGORY	AAC DIVISION	DOG MEASUREMENT
TOY - Jump 10"	8" Regular	30 cm (11.81") and under
MINI - Jump 12"	12" Regular	35 cm (13.78") and under
MEDI – Jump 16"	16" Regular	42 cm (16.54") and under
LARGE - Jump 20"	20" Regular	50 cm (19.69") and under
MAXI - Jump 24"	24" Regular	No restriction

APPENDIX B – SCORING AND POINT PROCESS

NATIONAL TEAM TRYOUTS SCORING

Placement Points will be awarded for each of the following rounds at the National Championships to determine the highest pointed team applicants for the win on spots

International Round – Agility AND Jumping with Weaves AND Snooker

National Round – Standard 1 AND 2

National Round – Jumping 1 AND 2

National Round – Gamble 1 OR 2

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

All results in Standard and Jumpers will be based on a TIME PLUS FAULT calculations, as used in IFCS competition.

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

Placements in Gambles will be based on the total points earned in the opening and closing, plus any applicable time bonus points. There are 2 Gamble Rounds, so the dog's best point total from the 2 rounds will be used in the calculation.

SCT Time for the Agility and Jumping rounds will be calculated as follows: 10% more than the fastest time plus faults.

SCORING – UNOFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL ROUNDS

To ensure reliable scoring, the officiating Judge will use AAC Masters Agility Rules with some noted exceptions.

1. Scoring competitors for tryouts should be time faults plus course faults.
2. Faults / Refusals will be incurred and penalized according to IFCS Agility Rules (ie Refusals 5 faults/seconds etc) EXCEPT that "Off Courses" and "Non-completions" are both penalised 20 penalty points (20 seconds).
3. For every "Disqualification" a competitor will be penalized 200 penalty points (200 seconds).

"Faults" include, but are not limited to (see IFCS rules for complete list):

- Knocking Bar or Tire
- Missing Contact (Downside on all three contacts, upside on teeter / dogwalk if dog enters from the side)
- Missing a weave pole after a correct entry (must start again AT THE BEGINNING)

Disqualifications include:

- Dog relieving itself in the ring
- Aggression

In the event of ties in the OVERALL number of points after all the rounds, the NTMC will make the decision based on Best Result in the International Standard Round. If there is still a tie, it will go to the International Jumping with Weaves round.

APPENDIX C –INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STANDARD/JUMPING ROUND POINTS

Points will be earned at the AAC National Championships as follows. *Note that placement points will be determined separately for each Jump height.* These formulas are designed to be flexible from year to year, and to accommodate any number of applicant dogs with an equal and fair process.

For Height with less than 5 dogs the following will apply

STANDARD/JUMPERS With 4 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	4
2	2
3	1
4	0

STANDARD/JUMPERS With 3 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	2
2	1
3	0

STANDARD/JUMPERS With 2 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	1
2	0

STANDARD/JUMPERS With 1 dog competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	1

For heights with 5 or more dogs the calculation for Round Points will be as follows:

1st = The number of dogs competing in the height

2nd = 1st place dog points – 2

3rd = 2nd place points – 2

and so on until the points run out

For example:

STANDARD/JUMPERS with 15 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	15
2	13
3	11
4	9
5	7
6	5
7	3
8	1
9	0

STANDARD/JUMPERS With 10 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	10
2	8
3	6
4	4
5	2
6	0

APPENDIX C –INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL GAMBLE/SNOOKER ROUND POINTS

For Height with less than 5 dogs the following will apply

GAMBLE/SNOOKER With 4 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	2
2	1
3	.5
4	0

GAMBLE/SNOOKER With 3 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	1
2	.5
3	0

GAMBLE/SNOOKER With 2 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	.5
2	0

GAMBLE/SNOOKER With 1 dog competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	.5

For heights with 5 or more dogs the calculation for Round Points will be as follows:

1st = The number of dogs competing in the height / 2

2nd = 1st place dog points – 1

3rd = 2nd place points – 1

and so on until the points run out

For example:

GAMBLE/SNOOKER with 15 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	7.5
2	6.5
3	5.5
4	4.5
5	3.5
6	2.5
7	1.5
8	.5
9	0

GAMBLE/SNOOKER With 10 dogs competing	
PLACE	PTS
1	5
2	4
3	3
4	2
5	1
6	0