

# AGILITY TEAM GB 2019

## QUALIFICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS



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## Introduction

This document sets out the method to be used to select dogs & handlers who will attend international agility events in 2019 as part of Agility Team GB. There is a strong emphasis on encouraging handlers to gain credits by winning classes at Premier and Championship Kennel Club competitions and to demonstrate consistency over a prolonged period, on a wide variety of courses, judges, environments and at pressurised competitions.

Activity	Start Date	End / Latest Date
Qualification Period	24/03/2018	10/09/2018
Squad Preparation Period	08/11/2018	April 2019
Squad days	09/12/2018 & 17/02/2019	
Performance Weekend	05/04/2019 – 07/04/2019 (Arena UK, Grantham)	
Teams Announced	Before 07/05/2019	
Team Days	27/05/2019 & 23/06/2019	
EO – Roosendaal, Netherlands	26/07/2019-28/07/2019	
AWC – Turku, Finland	19/09/2019-22/09/2019	

- AWC – All World Championships – also known as FCI World Championships, to be held in Turku, Finland 2019. Open to pedigree dogs only.
- Credits – measure of achievement at KC Premier and Championship competitions.
- Dog & Handler – applies to small, medium and large grade 6 & 7 dogs. The dog & handler partnership may not change throughout the qualifying year. Exceptional circumstances apply.
- EO – European Open, to be held in Roosendaal, Netherlands 2019. Open to all dogs.
- PW – Performance Weekend, to be held at NTU from 12-14 April.
- Squad – handlers & dogs selected following the qualification period from which teams will be selected.
- Team – The final team of dogs & handlers selected from the squad to attend the EO and/or AWC, or other event selected by the International Agility Working Party. The term 'team' does not necessarily mean dogs & handlers that will be running in a team event at the competition.
- TM – International Team Manager.

## Conditions of Squad Selection

- Handlers must be born in the UK, or be a permanent residency at the start of the squad qualification period.
- Handlers must not compete at either the European Open and/or the FCI World Championships for another country, in the same year as submitting squad points for Agility Team GB.
- Small and Medium dogs must have had the additional measurement before the Performance Weekend. This must be arranged by the handler themselves.

# Squad Qualification

**(24 March 2018 to 10 September 2018)**

## Gaining Credits

- During the qualification period handlers can gain credits for their achievements in the following classes. Credit values shown in brackets:
- Championship Classes – winner of jumping round (5), winner of agility round (5), 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Final Round (10), Reserve Agility Certificate (15), Agility Certificate winner (20);
- Kennel Club Olympia Large Agility Stakes (Grades 6/7) – winner of each heat\* (10);
- Kennel Club Olympia Medium Agility Stakes – winner of each heat (10);
- Kennel Club Olympia Small Agility Stakes – winner of each heat (10);
- Kennel Club British Open (KC Festival) – winner of jumping round\* (5), winner of agility round\* (5), semi-final runner up (10) semi-final winner (20);
- Crufts Singles – winner of each heat\* (10).

\*Where classes are split due to high numbers, winners of all parts score credits.

## NOTES

- Only clear rounds can be counted when claiming points.
- Only one handler can claim points for a dog.

## Recording Achievements

Handlers have a responsibility to record achievements that qualify for credits, and to submit them within one month of the achievement. Late / missing submission of achievements will not be counted.

Achievements should be submitted via email to [agility@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:agility@thekennelclub.org.uk) and must contain the following information:

- Dog's Kennel Club registered name,
- Dog's height category,
- Handler's name,
- Competition name, date and location,
- Class name,
- Class result, including place (places with faults cannot be claimed)
- Judge's name.

Credits awarded will be published monthly on the Kennel Club [website](#). Dogs with the highest recorded credits from the qualification period will be invited to join the 2019 Squad.

Dogs scoring 70 points or more in the 2018 qualification period will automatically gain a place on the 2019 squad.

- Invitations to the 2019 squad will be announced by 8 November 2018

## Squad Preparation Period

(02 October 2018 to April 2019)

### Squad Days

Squad days will be held on 09 December 2018 and on 17 February 2019. These will be held at Nottingham Trent University (Brackenhurst Campus).

Squad days are designed to help handlers prepare for the PW and international championships. The days will include: competing on international agility courses; Vet & Physio checks; handler fitness training and technical skills analysis. Handlers will work with the Coaching Team to learn and develop their skills ready for selection.

The opportunity to represent Agility Team GB internationally is one that handlers should take very seriously. It will involve 100% commitment to the overall team, support for the development of the squad and total dedication to their preparation.

Failure to attend squad days or the PW or to demonstrate commitment to the above will jeopardise a handler's position to be selected for the final teams.

### Exceptional Circumstances

The Team Manager reserves the right to call up handlers to an international team from the Junior Team, Adult Squad or Development Squad if required. This decision will be based upon exceptional circumstances and assessed on an individual basis. The following criteria (not exhaustive) will be taken into consideration:

- Unforeseen personal circumstances during the qualifying period i.e. family bereavement;
- Dog / handler illness for a sustained period resulting in an inability to gain credits;
- A low number of dogs gaining credits in a height category;
- Dogs / handlers identified as future team dogs through development.

## Performance Weekend 2019

The PW will be designed to test dogs & handlers on the squad over a variety of situations typically associated with international competitions i.e. team events, international style courses, performing under pressure, and accumulated individual runs.

The PW is also an opportunity for the Coaching Team to make a final assessment of the squad before selecting the 2019 teams. The format, dates and location, will be announced in December 2018/January 2019.

Teams attending the international competitions will be selected after the PW.

## EO and AWC Team Selection

### EO

- It is planned to take a minimum of 24 dogs, of which a maximum of 50% will be from the large height category to the EO. The final number will be confirmed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> squad day.
- All dogs will be entered into the team and individual competitions.
- The dog and handler who competed at the EO's in 2018 (including travelling reserves) will also be invited onto the following year's squad.

### AWC

- It is planned to take three teams (small, medium and large). Each team will consist of four dogs. A travelling reserve may also be taken.
- Nine dogs will be selected for the individual competition. These will be selected from each height and will be dogs whose metre per second (MPS) speed is comparable to World Championship times. Some dogs may be taken for individual or team runs only.
- The dog and handler who competed at the AWC in 2018 (including travelling reserves) will also be invited onto the following year's squad.

## Team Selection Criteria

The team(s) selection criteria will be set out on squad day 1 and presented to the squad. Selection will be in the form of assessment over the squad period which will include the following areas:

- Dog fitness / welfare
- Agility handling skills
- Agility technical skills
- Speed, accuracy and consistency on FCI style courses
- Handler fitness, footwork and movement skills
- Team contribution
- Mental strength
- Previous international experience at FCI Championships
- Performance at 2018 Olympia and 2019 Crufts competitions

The Coaching Team will be looking for dogs & handlers who can demonstrate they have increased their skills in the above areas whilst being members of the squad.

The 2019 teams will be announced following the 2019 PW.

## Team Training

Team training days will be held for the final teams attending the international competitions. Dates and locations will be announced as they are confirmed.

## Travel

Travel to both competitions are to be confirmed in January 2019. At present there are no plans to reintroduce coach travel. Team members are required to arrive at the chosen hotel by the Tuesday before each competition begins. For the European Open this is by Tuesday 23 July, and for the World Championships before Tuesday 17 September. Information about the championships including hotels will be emailed to those invited onto the team in May. All team members are expected to attend the welcome meal (the day before the competition), and the closing meal (on the Sunday evening).