



AGILITY TEAM GB 2018

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 2018 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	25/03/2017	10/09/2017
Squad Preparation Period	02/10/2017	April 2018
Squad days	3/12/2017 & 25/02/2018	
Performance Weekend	06/04/2018-08/04/2018	
Teams Announced	08/05/2018	
Team Days	TBC	
EO - Austria	TBC	
AWC - Sweden	TBC	

- AWC – All World Championships – also known as FCI World Championships, to be held in Sweden 2018. 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 Austria 2018. Open to all dogs.
- PW - Performance Weekend date and location to be finalised
- 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.
- Squad – handlers & dogs selected following the qualification period from which teams will be selected.
- TM – International Team Manager.

Conditions of Squad Selection

- Handlers must be born in the UK, or a hold permanent resident 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 a submitting squad points for Agility Team GB

Squad Qualification

(25 March 2017 to 10 September 2017)

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), 3rd 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 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 2018 Squad.

Dogs scoring 70 points or more in the 2017 qualification period will automatically gain a place on the 2018 squad.

- Invitations to the 2018 squad will be announced by 10 November 2017

Squad Preparation Period

(02 October 2017 to April 2018)

Squad Days

Squad days will be held on 03 December 2017 and on 25 February 2018. 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 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 TM reserves the right to invite additional dogs & handlers on to the squad. 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 a future team dogs through development

Performance Weekend 2018

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 TM to make a final assessment of the squad before selecting the 2018 teams. The format, dates and location, will in announced in December 2017/January 2018.

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

EO win-on-place

What does a win-on-place mean?

A win-on-place means that there will be a chance to automatically qualify for a place (individual and team run) on the team going to the EO in 2018. Three win-on-places will be available. One for each height group (S, M & L). In short, you're automatically selected for the EO team.

How do I win one of these places?

You need to be the top performing dog & handler in your height group over the courses run at squad day 2 (one jumping, one agility) and the Saturday of the PW (three courses, see PW schedule). We'll announce the three dogs and handlers who have finished at the top of their height group after the five courses.

How does the scoring work?

We will award 10 points for the winner of each class down to 1 point for 10th place. A score sheet will keep track of results which will be available at the end of each class. Each class will be scored using standard FCI judging and scoring.

That sounds simple enough, is that all?

To ensure the win-on-place motivates people to run clear, accurate and fast, scores will only be awarded for times that are within 110% of the winning time. This means you'll need to go for winning runs, as you would at the EO itself.

What happens if I don't get one of the win-on-places?

There will only be three win-on-places available, therefore your performance on the squad will be assessed as set out at squad day 1. We will look at how you and your dog have performed when we make the team selections after the PW. It is planned to take a team of up to 24 (12 large, 12 medium/small) dogs to the EO.

I have two dogs at two different heights, would I be able to gain win-on-places with both of them?

If you gain a win-on-place with both dogs you can take them both. However, from experience it has been found that running two dogs at international championships isn't easy. We will discuss the implications with you and both agree if this is practical and will produce the best possible results for the team.

Please note we will review the win-on-place idea at the Team GB Planning day at the end of the year, and amend it if required for 2018.

EO and AWC Team Selection

AWC

- Three teams will be taken (small, medium and large). Each team will consist of four dogs plus a travelling reserve.
- Nine dogs will be selected for the individual competition. These will be selected from each height (max six large dogs) 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.
- All handlers attending the Team Welcome Meal will receive a Team GB Cap which recognizes the handlers' achievement in being selected for Agility Team GB. The dog and handler will also be invited onto the following year's squad.

EO

- A minimum of 24 dogs will be taken of a maximum of 50% will be from the large height category.
- All dogs will be entered into the team and individual competitions.
- All handlers attending the Team Welcome Meal will receive a Team GB Cap which recognizes the handlers' achievement in being selected for Agility Team GB. The dog and handler 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 Crufts and Olympia 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 2018 teams will be announced following the 2018 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.

Development Opportunities

The Coaching Team will be looking for dogs from the Sunday competition at the PW to be invited on to the 2019 squad for future development as team dogs/handlers.

The development dogs & handlers will have access to the Coaching Team expertise and supported with the aim of being members of a future squad.