

## **2026 AKC/USA World Team Tryouts (WTT)**



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB**

**For 2026 the American Kennel Club (AKC) will field a team of at least 16 dogs to compete at the FCI Agility World Championships (AWC), which will be held in Turku, Finland on September 22-27, 2026.**

Any handler interested in earning a spot on the AKC/USA Agility World Team must attend these World Team Tryouts. Three of the four team members for each height will earn their team spot at Tryouts. The fourth team member will be chosen by the coaching staff with an eye towards balancing the team that has already been determined at Tryouts.

Tryout's scoring will be based only on placement points, not cumulative results. The rules for the 2026 World Team Tryouts (WTT) competition will be based upon the FCI rules, which will be in effect at the 2026 AWC.

**Date:** Friday to Sunday, May 1-3, 2026

**Location:** Premier Sports Center, Southampton, NJ (<https://premiersportscenternj.com/>)

**Qualifying Period:** Scores must be obtained between March 28, 2025 and March 26, 2026

**Judges:** Vendula Hausnerova (Slovakia) and Bill Pinder (with courses designed by Marko Makela)

**Entry Form:** The entry form for candidates will be available by January 31, 2026.

**Format:** There will be 4-6 rounds held over 3 days.

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

### **FCI Jump Heights**

Shoulder Height Cutoffs:

- Small team – shoulder height = 13 3/4” or less (35 cm is the FCI cutoff)
- Medium team – shoulder height = 16 7/8” or less (43 cm is the FCI cutoff)
- Intermediate team – shoulder height = 18 7/8” or less (48 cm is the FCI cutoff)
- Large team – shoulder height = greater than 18 7/8” (greater than 48 cm)

The jump heights for Tryouts are to be:

	WTT jump heights	FCI Jump Heights
Small	12”	25-30 cm
Medium	16”	35-40 cm
Intermediate	20”	45-50 cm
Large	24”	55-60 cm

All dogs competing at Tryouts will be measured by the Agility Director or one of the Field Reps in attendance unless they already have an FCI measurement from a prior JOAWC, EO or AWC. Due to stricter measuring procedures at international agility competitions, dogs within 1” of the cutoff should be prepared to also be measured by the WTT judge(s) and/or Coach. Dogs measuring over will run FEO (for exhibition only) unless qualified at the higher height (height only matters for ISC legs used to qualify). Borderline dogs should qualify at the higher height but enter the lower height. An official FCI wicket using 35, 43 and 48 cm will be used at Tryouts to determine dog's height.

## Candidates and Teams

- A “Candidate” is the owner or co-owner handler that intends to compete for a position on the 2026 AKC Agility World Team.
- 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.
- All Teams must also meet the Basic Eligibility requirements listed below.
- Three dog/handler teams from each height division will win Team spots at WTT.
- The remainder of the team will be chosen by the Coach and Team Leader based upon scores from WTT as well as Major ISC classes, all classes at AKC Nationals, and the team’s competition results at regular competitions. All information provided to the Coach will be considered in choosing the remaining team.
- Handlers may run multiple dogs in the same or different heights at WTT.
- The AKC/USA Agility World Team will be sponsored by the AKC.

## Basic Eligibility for all candidates entering Tryouts

- Any Candidate younger than 18 years of age at WTT must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at their own expense (e.g.: air, hotel & ground travel) at the WTT competition and international competitions as well as team practices, should the minor become an AKC International AWC Team member.
- The Candidate showing the dog at WTT will be the only handler allowed to compete with the dog at the AWC.
- The handler of the dog at WTT must be the handler who showed the dog to gain its minimum scores or ISC win.
- All WTT competitors will be required to sign a Consent and Release Form related to any images/photos/etc. taken.
- Candidates must be US residents for one year.
- Candidate must be willing to travel with the team to the AWC.
- **Team members must attend the two Team USA practices and arrive in the host country by Sunday night prior to the event and attend all the practices in Europe prior to the AWC. AWC Team practices are traditionally held on the 3rd or 4th weekends of both June and August. Going forward, by January 1st of each year, these two practice dates and locations will be announced. Team practice attendance is a requirement for all team members.**
- 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.
- Dog must be a minimum of 2 years old as of the first day of the AWC.
- **Cropped and/or docked dogs will NOT be allowed to compete in Finland this year.**
- **Drug Testing at the AWC:** Dogs can be tested at any time during the event. We don’t have specifics for this year yet, but it’s possible your dog cannot be on almost any kind of drug during the event, not including flea and tick or heartworm meds. Some drugs have a washout period of just 7 days, others have up to a 6 month washout time period. Some drugs which might seem innocuous may not be allowed. Examples include: steroid drugs like chequer drops, seizure-prevention and thyroid meds and anti-inflammatory or pain meds. If your dog is on a daily medication or has an underlying condition that might require these meds, please contact the team coach to discuss them before entering the WTT.
- Candidate must be willing to acquire any documentation for the dog required by the local government(s).

## **Basic Eligibility for all candidates entering Tryouts (con't)**

- Team Members must be willing to have their dog treated for tapeworm within 30 days of the competition or any other vaccine/treatment if the host country requires it. Team Members must be willing to vaccinate their dog for rabies according to the host country's regulations.
- 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.
- Candidates must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club. Any Candidate who has been the subject of a disciplinary action, either suspended or reprimanded, during the WTT qualifying period and up to and including the WTT themselves will not be allowed to compete at World Team Tryouts (WTT). Any handler who is suspended or reprimanded after earning a spot on the AWC 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.
- Dogs entered at AKC World Team Tryouts are subject to the regulations regarding aggression set forth in the Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT). Dogs selected for the team must not display any inappropriate or aggressive behavior to humans or other dogs at Team practices, at the Agility World Championship event or while traveling to/from practices. Any dog displaying aggressive behavior as determined by the Team Coach and Agility Director after becoming a team member may be removed from the team, not allowed to participate at the Agility World Championship and may not be allowed to enter the AKC World Team Tryouts again.
- Candidates must demonstrate extreme **Good Sportsmanship**: This includes when participating in any agility event as a competitor, observer or commenting on any social media platform. The AKC Director of Agility and World Team Coach may refuse entry to WTT to any handler who demonstrates verbal or physical abuse to a dog or fellow competitor or acts abusive or challenging to an agility judge for any time period up to and including WTT.
- Candidates are representatives of the agility program in the United States and are also representing those companies which sponsor agility in the United States.
- Candidates for the World Team are expected to keep complete records of their competition history (including Q rates) from March 28, 2025 until March 26, 2026 and make them available to the coach **ON REQUEST** from this time forward.

## **Girls in Season (BIS)**

BIS are allowed to run at AKC WTT. Guidelines for BIS include:

- Handlers should inform the trial secretary as soon as known
- BIS will run in their regular order
- BIS will be required to bring a mat or piece of carpet for their dog to be placed on at the start line of their run
- BIS will be required to wear pants in the building (except in the ring and just prior to their run)
- Owners of BIS should be respectful of others in regards to crating, pottyng, hanging out.

## **Score Requirements for Entry into WTT**

Entry to the WTT 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 **March 28, 2025 and March 26, 2026** at AKC licensed or member agility trials. All scores and times must come from the regular AKC Master Level titling classes, Premier classes and/or ISC classes as explained in this document.

The handler of the dog at WTT must be the handler who showed the dog to gain its minimum score requirements.

### **Requirements:**

All dogs must earn 4 standard and 4 JWW legs. All scores must be clean rounds – scores of 100 or 0 in the case of ISC classes. You can use any combination of the following three options for earning these scores. There are several exceptions to the 4 std/4 JWW leg requirements – all listed as Exceptions below.

### **Option 1 - Master Class scores**

You may use qualifying scores at your normal AKC jump height or at your FCI height if they meet the following minimum YPS.

1) 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) – intermediate dogs
- 4.00 yards per second (YPS) – large dogs

2) 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) – intermediate dogs
- 5.40 yards per second (YPS) – large dogs

Note: To compute the YPS, take the yardage for your dog's jump height and divide it by the dog's actual running time.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> decimal place.

### **Option 2 - Premier Class scores**

Scores of 100 from the Premier Standard and Premier JWW classes may be used to fulfill the minimum requirements of 4 Std/4 JWW legs – no minimum YPS needed as long as they meet standard course time (SCT). These legs can be earned at your normal AKC jump height or at your FCI height. Dogs can earn Premier Class qualifying legs without having any other AKC agility titles.

### **Option 3 - ISC Class scores**

"Clean run" scores from the ISC Standard A2 or A3 and ISC JWW A2 or A3 may be used to fulfill the minimum requirements of 4 Std/4 JWW legs. A "clean run" in ISC consists of a run without time or course faults. These legs must be earned at your FCI height. All ISC class scores can be used – including but not limited to the Regional World Team Qualifier Events listed in a separate document (<https://akccompanionevents.com/>, select World Team Tryouts). These can be earned at stand alone ISC events or regular AKC trials that offer ISC.

## **Score Requirements for Entry into WTT (cont'd)**

### **Exception 1 - ISC Combined Class Winners**

Combined scores from ISC Jumpers and Standard classes at the Regional ISC Qualifier Events will be used to award the Combined ISC Class Award. To be eligible for the Combined ISC Class Award the team must have a minimum of one clean ISC run and a run that has a maximum of 5 course faults (no time faults allowed) for those scores to be used to compute the Combined Score. The Combined Class winner from the 12, 16, 20 and 24 inch heights are invited to attend Team Tryouts. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores by the closing date. The team must send in all the required information with the fees and the entry form and meet all the other basic eligibility noted in this document (including an approved pedigree). The handler at WTT must be the same handler that won the combined award. The Regional ISC Qualifier Events are listed in a separate document (<https://akccompanionevents.com/>, select World Team Tryouts).

### **Exception 2 - European Open Team Tryouts (EOTT) Class and Overall Winners**

The winner of any class at the EOTT on February 27th – March 1st, 2026 is invited to attend World Team Tryouts. In addition, any dog that wins a team spot at the EOTT is invited to attend World Team Tryouts (this does not include EO Team members added after EOTT). They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores. The team must send in all the required information with the fees and the entry form and meet all the other basic eligibility noted in this document (including an approved pedigree). The handler at WTT must be the same handler that handled at EOTT.

### **Exception 3 - World Team Tryouts (WTT) 2025 Class and Overall Winners**

The winner of any class at the WTT in April 2025 is invited to attend World Team Tryouts. In addition, the dog that placed 1<sup>st</sup> cumulatively based on faults then time in each height at the WTT 2025 is invited to attend World Team Tryouts. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores. The team must send in all the required information with the fees and the entry form and meet all the other basic eligibility noted in this document (including an approved pedigree). The handler at WTT must be the same handler that handled at WTT.

### **Exception 4 - AWC 2025 Team Members**

Any dogs and handlers (including alternates) that were on the AKC Agility Team 2025 are invited to attend World Team Tryouts 2026. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores. The team must send in all the required information with the fees and the entry form and meet all the other basic eligibility noted in this document (including an approved pedigree). The handler at WTT must be the same handler that handled at the AWC.

### **Exception 5 - AKC Nationals ISC Class Winners**

If the AKC Nationals holds an ISC class in March, 2026, the winner of that class from the 12, 16, 20 and 24 inch height is invited to attend World Team Tryouts. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores. The team must send in all the required information with the fees and the entry form and meet all the other basic eligibility noted in this document (including an approved pedigree). The handler at WTT must be the same handler that won the ISC class.

### **Exception 6 - Junior Open Agility World Championship Competitors**

Juniors that competed at the 2025 JOAWC but have aged out of the 2026 JOAWC are invited to attend World Team Tryouts. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores. 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 (including an approved pedigree). The dog and handler at WTT must be the same dog and handler that attended 2025 JOAWC.

### **Exception 7 – EO, SOAWC, JOAWC Podium Placements**

Any dog/handler teams that won a podium placement at the 2025 EO, SOAWC or JOAWC are invited to attend World Team Tryouts. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores. 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 (including an approved pedigree). The dog and handler at WTT must be the same dog and handler that won a podium placement.

### **Exception 8 – Winner & Reserve (2<sup>nd</sup> place) at the AKC International Sweepstakes Championship**

The winner and reserve (2<sup>nd</sup> place) dogs from each height at the AKC International Sweepstakes Championship being held October 25-26, 2025 are invited to attend World Team Tryouts. They do not need to fulfill the requirement of the 4/4 scores. 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 (including an approved pedigree). The dog and handler at WTT must be the same dog and handler that placed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> at the event.

### **Junior Competitors**

Junior handlers will have a discounted entry fee (50%). They must meet the score requirements listed above.

### **For Exhibition Only (FEO) – may or may not be offered at WTT 2026**

Dogs not meeting the basic requirement or not meeting the score requirements for entry may still enter the WTT competition if offered. FEO dogs will run at the end of their height. FEO dogs in a jump height other than an entered dog(s) for the same handler cannot be guaranteed entry and must be pre-approved.

### **White Dogs**

White dogs walk and run the course before walk-throughs to help the judges and exhibitors get a feel for the course. We will have one or two white dogs at each height. White dogs do not need to meet the requirements of scores or titles. Contact Toni Osojnicki if interested.

### **Intent to Enter World Team Tryouts (WTT)**

If you are planning on attending 2026 WTT (whether you have all your requirements at this time or not), please send an email asking to be placed on the list of AKC 2026 World Team Candidates immediately to Toni Osojnicky, osojn001@alumni.umn.edu. The email will need to contain the following information:

- Handler's name and email
- Dog's call name, breed and jump height (small, medium, intermediate or large)

Candidates will be sent information regarding the World Team process, including any current details about WTT, via a Facebook group (AKC/USA Agility World Team Tryouts 2026) once created.

### **Questions**

Questions regarding the World Team Tryouts or the selection process for the AKC/USA Agility World Team should be directed to:

Kathie Leggett, World Team Coach  
kathie@touchngoagility.com  
916-719-0516

Toni Osojnicky, Tryouts Secretary  
osojn001@alumni.umn.edu  
651-491-6897

**Document dated February 4, 2026**