



AGILITY DOG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA LTD

ABN 83 070 415 404

IFCS WAC SELECTION - 2012

Introduction:

This document sets out the process that the Agility Dog Association of Australia Ltd (ADAA) will use to select representatives to participate in the IFCS World Agility Championships to be held in 2012.

Purpose:

The IFCS World Agility Championships (WAC) provides an opportunity for handlers from member countries to participate at an international level. ADAA is seeking to select the best team possible (including Team Manager and Team Coach), taking into account that handlers will be running dogs supplied by the host country (USA) for the event, to represent Australia.

Policy Statement:

ADAA is aiming to send the highest calibre of handlers available to represent Australia at the WAC 2012. Team Handlers will be assessed based on their handling skills, their sportsmanship, and their performance at a WAC Selection Competition and then as part of the WAC Training Squad. ADAA is also aiming to support the Team Handlers with a Team Manager and Team Coach. Their selection will be based on skills required to successfully support the Team.

Definitions:

IFCS – International Federation of Cynological Sports

IPR – International Programme Register

Member – person who is a recognised under one of the categories of membership and is financial

Mini – competition height class for IPR dogs up to and including 400 mm at the wither

Midi – competition height class for IPR dogs up to and including 500 mm at the wither

Maxi – competition height class for all IPR dogs ie no restriction in height

WAC Training Squad Member – a financial Member of ADAA in good standing who has met the selection criteria and from whom the Team Handlers will be selected

Team Handler – a financial Member of ADAA in good standing who has been selected to handle/run a dog at the WAC

Team Member - term used to indicate all members of the Australian IFCS WAC Team, including Team Manager, Team Coach, Team Handlers, Reserve Team Handler and any other support crew as approved by the Board of Directors

Reserve Team Handler – a financial Member of ADAA in good standing that has been selected as a reserve handler for the WAC

Toy – competition height class for IPR dogs up to and including 300 mm at the wither

Responsibilities:

Board of Directors – responsible for assessing applications and selecting Team Members

Team Coach & Team Manager – jointly responsible for matching host dogs and Team Handlers following team arrival in USA.

Procedure:

1. Event details

1.1 IFCS World Agility Championships 2012

1.1.1 The IFCS World Agility Championships (WAC) is held every two years.

1.1.2 The next WAC will be in Forth Worth Texas USA, 11-13 May 2012.

- 1.1.2.1 Planned schedule of dates (subject to minor changes):
 - 1.1.2.1.1 Travel from Australia to USA: 9 days prior to commencement of WAC
 - 1.1.2.1.2 Training with Host Dogs in USA: 4-6 days
 - 1.1.2.1.3 Venue Set-up and Team Rest Day: 1 day
 - 1.1.2.1.4 Check-in/Warm-up and Competition Dates: 4 days
 - 1.1.2.1.5 Travel USA to Australia: 1 day
 - 1.1.2.1.6 Total days a Team Member needs to commit to is 14 days (Team Members must take into account time zone difference between Australia and USA and days lost/gained in flight to/from the USA).
- 1.1.3 At time of writing, participating countries may include:
 - 1.1.3.1 England
 - 1.1.3.2 USA
 - 1.1.3.3 Canada
 - 1.1.3.4 Japan
 - 1.1.3.5 Russia
 - 1.1.3.6 Spain
 - 1.1.3.7 Belgium
 - 1.1.3.8 Holland
 - 1.1.3.9 Italy
 - 1.1.3.10 South Africa
 - 1.1.3.11 Puerto Rico
 - 1.1.3.12 Australia (need host dogs)
 - 1.1.3.13 New Zealand (need host dogs)
- 1.2 Team composition**
 - 1.2.1 Each country may enter a maximum of 12 Team Handlers, with not more than three dogs from each of the height classes (3 Toy, 3 Mini, 3 Midi and 3 Maxi dogs).
 - 1.2.2 ADAA is aiming to send 12 Team Handlers and 4 Reserve Team Handlers to the WAC in 2012 (depending on the number and calibre of the response from Members). The Team may include up to 6 Mini/Toy Team Handlers and up to 6 Midi/Maxi Team Handlers plus 2 Mini/Toy Reserve Team Handlers and 2 Midi/Maxi Reserve Team Handlers. ADAA is also aiming to send a Team Coach and a Team Manager. Reserve Team Handlers will travel with the team to the USA.
 - 1.2.3 Any incident of misconduct, harsh handling, bad sportsmanship, verbally or physically abusing a dog or fellow competitor, and/or abusing or challenging an Agility Judge by a Member from time of release of this document up to and including during the WAC will be considered by the Board (or the Team Manager and Team Coach after departure from Australia) and will result in the Member being ineligible to represent ADAA and Australia at a World Agility Championship. All Team Members will be ambassadors of ADAA and Australia and will be expected to show the highest levels of self discipline and good sportsmanship.
- 1.3 Team Selection**
 - 1.3.1 WAC Training Squad Members will be selected from Members who submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) Team Handler WAC on or before 30 April 2011. The EOI will require Members to place themselves in either the Mini/Toy height group or the Maxi/Midi height group to handle either a Mini/Toy dog or a Maxi/Midi dog respectively and may be submitted by post, fax or email as detailed on the EOI form.
 - 1.3.2 There will be two stages to the selection process. The first stage will be an initial selection of WAC Training Squad Members from which all Team Handlers, including Reserve Team Handlers, will be selected. The second stage will be the finalisation of Team Handlers and Reserve Team Handlers. Selection of WAC Training Squad Members will, subject to this Policy, be from Members who achieve the selection points to place in the top 12 positions in each of the two height groups of Mini/Toy and Maxi/Midi as determined at the WAC Selection Competition (see 1.3.9 for details).
 - 1.3.3 While a maximum of eight (8) WAC Training Squad Members will be selected for each height grouping (i.e. Toy/Mini and Midi/Maxi), the Board may decide there is a lack of depth and experience in the quality of EOI's submitted and/or as displayed in the WAC Selection Competition and, as such, may decide by majority vote to limit the WAC Training Squad Members selected to less than eight (8) but at least three (3) for each height grouping. This allows for between one (1) and five (5) Handlers that achieved the highest points accumulation during the selection process and up to three (3) Board's Choice Handlers to be selected.
 - 1.3.4 For the Mini/Toy Height Group the top 12 Handlers with the highest number of selection points will be considered for WAC Training Squad selection.

- 1.3.4.1 From the top 12 Handlers, the Board will select between one (1) and five (5) of the top 12 Handlers based on the highest accumulation of points and these Handlers will be given the opportunity to be on the Team as a Mini or Toy dog WAC Training Squad Member (subject to meeting the requirements of this document, including the requirements of clause 4 and the Selection Criteria to be a Team Handler).
- 1.3.4.2 As stated in clause 1.3.3, the Board may choose between one (1) and five (5) Handlers in each height group from points accumulation. The decision to choose between one and five Handlers will be based on the quality of the EOI's submitted and/or as displayed in the WAC Selection Competition. This decision will include consideration of whether ADAA would be better represented sending a reduced Team in lieu of a full size Team with Team Handlers not suited to competing at WAC level with host dogs.
- 1.3.4.3 No matter if the Board selects less than five (5) Handlers from those with the highest points accumulation, the Board of Directors will also choose up to three (3) Board's Choice Handlers from the top 12 and will offer them the opportunity to be on the Team as a Mini or Toy dog WAC Training Squad Member (subject to the requirements of this document, including the requirements of clause 4 and the Selection Criteria to be a Team Handler). This will allow the Board to create a Team with a balance of Team Handlers with past WAC experience as well as fresh talent, to provide the best chances of success at this level, with a view to previous Team Handlers providing insight and experience to build confidence and stability in a team environment.
- 1.3.5 For the Maxi/Midi Height Group the top 12 Handlers with the highest number of selection points will be considered for WAC Training Squad selection.
 - 1.3.5.1 From the top 12 Handlers, the Board will select between one (1) and five (5) of the top 12 Handlers based on the highest accumulation of points and these Handlers will be given the opportunity to be on the Team as a Maxi or Midi dog WAC Training Squad Member (subject to meeting the requirements of this document, including the requirements of clause 4 and the Selection Criteria to be a Team Handler).
 - 1.3.5.2 As stated in clause 1.3.3, the Board may choose between one (1) and five (5) Handlers in each height group from points accumulation. The decision to choose between one and five Handlers will be based on the quality of the EOI's submitted and/or as displayed in the WAC Selection Competition. This decision will include consideration of whether ADAA would be better represented sending a reduced Team in lieu of a full size Team with Team Handlers not suited to competing at WAC level with host dogs.
 - 1.3.5.3 No matter if the Board selects less than five (5) Handlers from those with the highest points accumulation, the Board of Directors will also choose up to three (3) Board's Choice Handlers from the top 12 and will offer them the opportunity to be on the Team as a Maxi or Midi dog WAC Training Squad Member (subject to the requirements of this document, including the requirements of clause 4 and the Selection Criteria to be a Team Handler). This will allow the Board to create a Team with a balance of Team Handlers with past WAC experience as well as fresh talent, to provide the best chances of success at this level, with a view to previous Team Handlers providing insight and experience to build confidence and stability in a team environment.
- 1.3.6 Selection points required to make the top 12 in each of the two height groups will be achieved by winning, placing and/or achieving clear/qualifying rounds in Advanced Agility and Jumping Tests, Open Gamblers and Open Snooker Classes held at the WAC Selection Competition during 2011 (see 1.3.9).
- 1.3.7 The six Board's Choice WAC Training Squad Members, three from each height group of Mini/Toy and Maxi/Midi will ensure the Team has "depth" including previous WAC experience and allow the Board to inject such experience or a specific skill or strength into the Team that the Board feels may otherwise be lacking. The selection of the Board's Choice WAC Training Squad Members in each height group will be by majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board may determine that the Team has sufficient "depth" and previous WAC experience in which case they may decide to select Board's Choice WAC Training Squad Members purely based on points accumulation and/or may take into account other information, whether part of an EOI submission or from ADAA records.
- 1.3.8 Reserve Team Handlers will be chosen from the nominated eight (8) WAC Training Squad Members in each of the two height groups. It is unknown whether or not WAC rules will allow for use of Reserve Team Handlers once entries have closed. Reserve Team Handlers will travel to the WAC, if they are not required to handle a dog they will be a part of the Team as a driver or assistant in recognition of their commitment and attendance at training.
- 1.3.9 The WAC Selection Competition dates are 20 to 22 May 2011 (ADAA Nationals 2011).

- 1.3.10 All WAC Selection Events will be normal titling rounds with Clear Round or Qualification cards issued and will be open for participation by all ADAA Members. Venue for the WAC Selection Competition will be mid-way (or thereabouts) between Sydney and Brisbane.
- 1.3.11 The Team Manager and Team Coach will submit a report to the Board of Directors on or before 31 December 2011 outlining activities of the WAC Training Squad. The Board of Directors will offer Team Handler and Reserve Team Handler positions from the WAC Training Squad Members based on their ability to fulfil Team Handler Roles and Responsibilities. Points achieved during the WAC Selection Competition will not be considered at this point, all WAC Training Squad Members will be given equal opportunity to be awarded a Team Handler position.
- 1.3.12 The Team Manager and Team Coach will work together at the WAC to choose the best handler/dog combinations from the dogs made available.

2. Team Manager – Roles and Responsibilities and Selection Criteria

2.1 Position Description

- 2.1.1 The Team Manager is primarily an administrative and managerial role. The focus of the Team Manager is one of overall leadership, management, liaison and communication. The Team Manager must have previous WAC/International experience.

2.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.2.1 Represent ADAA and Australia in a professional manner and not bring ADAA or Australia into disrepute. To carefully consider any communication with host dog owners and to ensure that any feedback cannot be construed as criticising the host dog and/or owner.
- 2.2.2 To display respect for all WAC competitors and officials, including during ceremonies and presentations.
- 2.2.3 In consultation with the Board of Directors, coordinate purchase of Team uniforms.
- 2.2.4 Support the Team Coach to set dates for local/remote training sessions, actively participate where appropriate and, where requested, participate in coaching and feedback to WAC Training Squad Members and Team Handlers, whether from face-to-face training or video-taped sessions.
- 2.2.5 Support the Team Coach to set and publish date for one mandatory training session prior to departure (one weekend) with a minimum of 4 months' notice. Assist the Team Coach formulate ancillary sessions for mandatory training session.
- 2.2.6 In collaboration with the Team Manager, determine optimum training schedule/regime following arrival in the USA, and implement the programme.
- 2.2.7 Participate in all WAC presentations/team activities.
- 2.2.8 Wear team uniform as designated.
- 2.2.9 Work closely with the IFCS Secretary General (Steve Drinkwater) to communicate to the Team all relevant decisions and information provided by the WAC organising committee.
- 2.2.10 Coordinate the Team's travel plans and manage the team during periods of travel.
- 2.2.11 Be available in the months leading up to the WAC to deal with any disputes, complaints or problems that may arise during preparation.
- 2.2.12 Provide regular updates to the ADAA Board of Directors on any such problems, and in conjunction with the Team Coach, any relevant information pertaining to the welfare of a Team Handler or their host dog.
- 2.2.13 Liaise directly with WAC officials as the primary representative of the Australian Team.
- 2.2.14 Read and understand all IFCS and WAC rules and regulations as soon as they are available.
- 2.2.15 Provide an empathetic and non-judgmental support role to Team Members.
- 2.2.16 Play a conflict resolution role in the event of disputes between Team Members and/or support crew.
- 2.2.17 Attend all meetings held by the WAC host organisation/committee and represent the Team with regards to dealing with officials, registering and dealing with complaints/disputes, finding out about rules, times and locations for events etc.
- 2.2.18 Liaise directly with the owners of borrowed (host) dogs to ensure that their dogs' needs are understood and met.
- 2.2.19 Interpret and communicate relevant information to the team in a timely manner on a need-to-know basis.
- 2.2.20 Work closely with the Team Coach and submit a report to the Board of Directors on or before 31 December 2011 outlining activities of the WAC Training Squad.
- 2.2.21 Work closely with the Team Coach to match the best Team Handler and host dog combination.
- 2.2.22 Work closely with the Team Coach at the WAC to choose the best Team Handlers for the 3 dog Team Events.
- 2.2.23 Respect the confidentiality of any personal information of Team Members and/or support crew.
- 2.2.24 Maintain confidentiality of appointment of any Team Members until publicly released by the Board of Directors.
- 2.2.25 Report directly to the Chairman and Board of Directors.

2.2.26 Represent the interests of ADAA as outlined by the Board of Directors.

2.3 Selection Criteria

- 2.3.1 The Team Manager will not handle a dog at the WAC.
- 2.3.2 The Team Manager must be a current financial Member of ADAA.
- 2.3.3 The Team Manager must have been a Member of ADAA for at least two years prior to close of the EOI.
- 2.3.4 The Team Manager must be an Adult, over the age of 18 on the first day of the WAC.
- 2.3.5 The Team Manager may or may not be a Member of the Board of Directors and/or a Judge.
- 2.3.6 The Team Manager must be able to demonstrate past experience at an IFCS World Agility Championship (WAC) in an official capacity, including one of the following:
 - 2.3.6.1 Team Coach,
 - 2.3.6.2 Team Manager,
 - 2.3.6.3 Team Handler,
 - 2.3.6.4 "other" Team position,
 - 2.3.6.5 IFCS and/or Host Country WAC official,
 - 2.3.6.6 IFCS WAC Judge,
 - 2.3.6.7 ADAA will also consider past experience in an official capacity at other major international Agility Competitions.
- 2.3.7 The Team Manager will demonstrate excellent administrative skills including organisational and coordination skills.
- 2.3.8 The Team Manager will demonstrate excellent communication skills including the ability to communicate in a courteous but firm manner with WAC officials and Team Members.
- 2.3.9 The Team Manager will demonstrate the ability to gain a rapid understanding of relevant IFCS processes for the conduct of the WAC.
- 2.3.10 The Team Manager will be available for the full period of the WAC and as needed in the months leading up to the WAC.
- 2.3.11 The Team Manager will be required to meet all pertinent requirements of this document with regards to passports and medical insurance.
- 2.3.12 The Team Manager will be required to (usually) respond to email correspondence regarding the WAC within 36 hours.
- 2.3.13 The Team Manager will be selected from Members who submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) Team Manager WAC form on or before 30 April 2011. The EOI may be submitted by post, fax or email as detailed on the EOI form. Interested Members should submit an EOI advising of their interest to hold the position of Team Manager and to advise of their qualifications and state why they believe they should be appointed. Interested Members should pay due attention to the selection criteria outlined in this document.
- 2.3.14 The Team Manager will be chosen by majority vote of the Board of Directors from Members who submitted an EOI to the Board. This will be undertaken in two rounds. The first round will be to determine the final two candidates, the second round to determine the Team Manager. In case of a split decision, in either or both rounds, the Board Chairman would be given a second vote.
- 2.3.15 If a Board Member, including the Chair has submitted an EOI for Team Manager, then they must abstain from a vote. If the Chair has submitted an EOI, then the Deputy Chair would break a split vote. If both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman have conflict of interest (submitted an EOI for Team Manager) and cannot cast a vote, then the Director Judging would be used to break the tie.
- 2.3.16 The Board of Directors will publicly announce the Team Manager on or before 30 June 2011.
- 2.3.17 The Board of Directors will endeavour to cover the travel costs of the Team Manager with regards to airfares and hotel expenses up to a maximum of \$5000.00 and will only cover hotel and meal expenses for the duration of the WAC, as stated in this document (including the days leading up to the start of the WAC).

3. Team Coach – Roles and Responsibilities and Selection Criteria

3.1 Position Description

- 3.1.1 The Team Coach is primarily a coaching and mentoring role. The focus of the Team Coach is to provide handling and strategy advice, coordinate training sessions, and to act in a support role to Team Handlers. The Team Coach has a focus on the Team Members' and host dogs' welfare, rather than a focus on dealing with WAC officials and administrative details.

3.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.2.1 Represent ADAA and Australia in a professional manner and not bring ADAA or Australia into disrepute. To carefully consider any communication with host dog owners and to ensure that any feedback cannot be construed as criticising the host dog and/or owner.

- 3.2.2 To display respect for all WAC competitors and officials, including during ceremonies and presentations.
- 3.2.3 Set dates and exercises for local/remote training sessions and provide coaching and feedback to WAC Training Squad Members and Team Handlers, whether from face-to-face training or video-taped sessions.
- 3.2.4 Set and publish dates for one mandatory training session prior to departure (one weekend) with a minimum of 4 months' notice and make all arrangements for the sessions (including venue, equipment, presenters etc). The mandatory training session should incorporate mental preparation, physical fitness/skills training, discussion of IFCS and, in particular, WAC rules, competition/team strategy and any other appropriate Team training.
- 3.2.5 In collaboration with the Team Manager, determine optimum training schedule/regime following arrival in the USA, and implement the programme.
- 3.2.6 Participate in all WAC presentations/team activities.
- 3.2.7 Wear team uniform as designated.
- 3.2.8 A critical role is to be very familiar with and experienced in teaching different handling techniques and provide high level and innovative training and handling advice (as required) to the Team in the months leading up to the WAC and at the WAC.
- 3.2.9 The other critical role is to provide guidance and support to Team Members in building a relationship with their host dog and resolving any issues that may arise.
- 3.2.10 Have a good understanding of any relevant information that may affect a Team Member's ability to compete at the WAC.
- 3.2.11 Read and understand all IFCS and WAC rules and regulations as soon as they are available.
- 3.2.12 Provide an empathetic and non-judgmental support role to Team Handlers.
- 3.2.13 Play a conflict resolution role in the event of disputes between Team Handlers and/or support crew.
- 3.2.14 When opportunity presents itself, gain a basic understanding of the handling strengths and weaknesses of each WAC Training Squad Member so as to be better prepared to make an informed decision when it comes time to matching host dogs with individual Team Handlers. Further, as appropriate, provide handling and Games' strategy advice to Team Handlers.
- 3.2.15 WAC Training Squad Members have been selected due to their proven ability to perform at the highest levels within ADAA. Each Team Handler is best placed to know their own strengths and weaknesses and, after some training, with their host dogs – have an opinion on their limitations as a dog/handler team. As such, the Team Coach responsibility does not include dictating or controlling how a Team Handler will run a host dog or run a specific course. However the Team Coach should be prepared to provide guidance when warranted, especially with respect to understanding the rules for games. In such case, the advice must be given in an assertive and supportive manner.
- 3.2.16 Ensure that the day-to-day needs of the Team are met during the WAC, including such things as access to water and snacks/fruit during each day's competition.
- 3.2.17 In conjunction with the Team Manager, provide regular updates to the ADAA Board of Directors on any relevant information pertaining to the welfare of a Team Member or their host dog.
- 3.2.18 Work closely with the Team Manager and submit a report to the Board of Directors on or before 31 December 2011 outlining activities of the WAC Training Squad.
- 3.2.19 Work closely with the Team Manager to match the best Team Handler and host dog combination.
- 3.2.20 Work closely with the Team Manager at the WAC to choose the best Team Handlers for the 3 dog Team Events.
- 3.2.21 Respect the confidentiality of any personal information of Team Members and/or support crew.
- 3.2.22 Maintain confidentiality of appointment of any Team Members until publicly released by the Board of Directors.
- 3.2.23 Represent the interests of ADAA as outlined by the Board of Directors.

3.3 Selection Criteria

- 3.3.1 The Team Coach will not handle a dog at the WAC.
- 3.3.2 The Team Coach must be a current financial Member of ADAA.
- 3.3.3 The Team Coach must have been a Member of ADAA for at least two years prior to close of the EOI.
- 3.3.4 The Team Coach must be an Adult, over the age of 18 on the first day of the WAC.
- 3.3.5 The Team Coach may be a Member of the Board of Directors and/or a Judge.
- 3.3.6 The Team Coach will demonstrate excellent people skills, including empathy and communication skills.
- 3.3.7 The Team Coach will demonstrate superior understanding of the rules of Agility, including Gamblers and Snooker.
- 3.3.8 The Team Coach will be an experienced Agility Handler and Trainer and will demonstrate superior understanding and knowledge of handling skills and strategy, and a demonstrated ability to instruct, assist and coach others to improve their performance and skills, in particular with regards to relationship building.
- 3.3.9 The Team Coach will be available for the travel dates of the WAC.

- 3.3.10 The Team Coach will be available for any Team training sessions set before departure.
- 3.3.11 The Team Coach must already have (or be prepared to arrange access to) and be familiar with Clean Run Course Design (to view training assignments and/or courses set by WAC Judges).
- 3.3.12 The Team Coach will be required to meet all pertinent requirements of this document with regards to passports and medical insurance.
- 3.3.13 The Team Coach will be required to (usually) respond to email correspondence regarding the WAC within 36 hours.
- 3.3.14 The Team Coach will be selected from Members who submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) Team Coach WAC form on or before 30 April 2011. The EOI may be submitted by post, fax or email as detailed on the EOI form. Interested Members should submit their EOI advising of their interest to hold the position of Team Coach and to advise of their qualifications and state why they believe they should be appointed. Interested Members should pay due attention to the selection criteria outlined in this document.
- 3.3.15 The Board of Directors will select a Team Coach from the EOI's submitted by majority vote. This will be undertaken in two rounds. The first round will be to determine the final two candidates, the second round to determine the Team Coach. In case of a split decision, in either or both rounds, the ADAA Chairman would be given a second vote.
- 3.3.16 If a Board Member, including the Chair has submitted an EOI for Team Coach, then they must abstain from a vote. If the Chair has submitted an EOI, then the Deputy Chair would break a split vote. If both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman have conflict of interest (submitted an EOI for Team Coach) and cannot cast a vote, then the Director Judging would be used to break the tie.
- 3.3.17 The Board of Directors will endeavour to cover the travel costs of the Team Coach with regards to airfares and hotel expenses up to a maximum of \$5000.00 and will only cover hotel and meal expenses for the duration of the WAC, as stated in this document (including the five days leading up to the start of the WAC competition).

4. Team Handler – Roles and Responsibilities and Selection Criteria

4.1 Position Description

- 4.1.1 A Team Handler will be an experienced and skilled Agility Handler who is accustomed to winning in all forms of Agility, including Gamblers and Snooker. The Team Handler will be required to compete at the WAC with a host dog as provided by the host nation.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.2.1 Represent ADAA and Australia in a professional manner and not bring ADAA or Australia into disrepute. To carefully consider any communication with host dog owners and to ensure that any feedback cannot be construed as criticising the host dog and/or owner.
- 4.2.2 To display respect for all WAC competitors and officials, including during ceremonies and presentations.
- 4.2.3 Participate in local/remote Team training sessions in the months leading up to the WAC.
- 4.2.4 Contribute to and participate in training sessions on arrival at location
- 4.2.5 Attend and participate in one mandatory training session prior to departure (one weekend) at a date and location to be advised (with a minimum of 4 months' notice). Every endeavour will be made so that costs can be minimised. Where available, travel costs for WAC Training Squad Members to attend the session will be borne out of WAC Fundraising, otherwise Squad Members will be required to personally fund their travel expenses.
- 4.2.6 Participate in all WAC presentations/team activities.
- 4.2.7 Wear team uniform as designated by the Team Manager.
- 4.2.8 Be very familiar with and experienced in different handling techniques.
- 4.2.9 Treat all Team Members (including Team Manager and Team Coach) with respect.
- 4.2.10 Ask for advice from Team Coach and/or Team Manager when required.
- 4.2.11 Read and understand all IFCS and WAC rules and regulations as soon as they are released, and request clarification from the Team Coach and/or Team Manager as appropriate.
- 4.2.12 Receive and accept handling advice in a friendly and polite manner from all Team Members, including Team Manager and Team Coach.
- 4.2.13 Team Handlers are expected to listen to more experienced Team Handlers, the Team Coach and/or Team Captain with regards to handling advice – however, all Team Handlers have the ultimate responsibility to run a course that they believe best suits the skills and ability of themselves and/or their host dog.
- 4.2.14 Team Handlers (and WAC Training Squad Members) are required to follow the direction and rules set by the Team Manager and/or Team Coach with regards to administrative processes at pre-training, WAC training and actual WAC competition, including travel arrangements, any night time curfews and meeting times. Team Handlers must also accept any Team selection by the Team Manager and Team Coach.

- 4.2.15 Team Handlers will be required to be friendly and courteous to fellow competitors and officials at the WAC. This includes responsible and courteous behaviour when being a spectator.
- 4.2.16 Advise the Team Manager or Team Coach of any changes to fitness or health that may affect the ability to compete and/or travel.
- 4.2.17 Respect the confidentiality of any personal information of Team Members and/or support crew.
- 4.2.18 Team Handlers (and WAC Training Squad Members) will be responsible for establishing and maintaining mental preparation and personal fitness training including programmes mandated by the Team Coach.
- 4.2.19 Team Handlers (and WAC Training Squad Members) will be responsible for undertaking training, including providing any training videos, requested by the Team Coach.
- 4.2.20 Team Handlers (and WAC Training Squad Members) will be required to participate and contribute to all team activities while in the US, including supporting fellow Team Handlers at events they may be participating in.
- 4.2.21 The WAC is both physically and mentally demanding and quite stressful on bodies, therefore Team Handlers should maximise well-being before the event.
- 4.2.22 Team Handlers agree to comply with (reasonable) requests from the Team Manager and/or Team Coach including attending and actively participating in medical treatment.
- 4.2.23 Team Handlers are required to acknowledge that it is unlikely they will be advised of their host dog matching until after they have participated in at least one training session with host dogs (as determined by the Team Manager and Team Coach) in the USA.
- 4.2.24 The Team Handler must accept the dog they are matched with and do their best with any host dog they are asked to handle, whether during practice or at the WAC. The Team Handler will be required to represent ADAA and Australia at the WAC 2012 and compete in all classes possible, including Standard Agility, Jumping, Gamblers and Snooker.
- 4.2.25 Team Handlers must immediately report injury to a host dog (suspected or actual) to the Team Coach and actively participate in treatment of the dog, (in consultation with the Team Coach, host dog owner and/or veterinary professional(s)).
- 4.2.26 Maintain confidentiality of appointment of any Team Members until publicly released by the Board of Directors.

4.3 Selection Criteria

- 4.3.1 A Team Handler must be a current financial Member of ADAA.
- 4.3.2 There is no minimum time set as a Member of ADAA to be a Team Handler.
- 4.3.3 A Team Handler must be at least 15 years of age on the first day of competition at the WAC.
- 4.3.4 A Team Handler needs to be able to state in an Expression of Interest (EOI) their ability to self fund the costs of representing Australia at a WAC.
- 4.3.5 A Team Handler needs to be able to state in an EOI their ability to obtain time away from work/family commitments for 14 days for the WAC.
- 4.3.6 A Team Handler should have a good understanding of the rules of Agility, including Gamblers and Snooker.
- 4.3.7 A Team Handler must be able to demonstrate a proven level of experience and success (winning) at running fast dogs at both the Open and Advanced level.
 - 4.3.7.1 Such experience at this level will be acquired by default during the WAC Selection Competitions – requiring Handlers to achieve points for winning and placing, as well as Clear/Qualifying Rounds, in Advanced Agility and Jumping Tests and Open Gamblers and Snooker.
 - 4.3.7.2 The EOI will provide an opportunity for Handlers to demonstrate previous experience and success (i.e. winning) at the Advanced level for Agility and Jumping and Open level for Gamblers and Snooker. The achievement of Clear Round and/or Qualifying Certificates and subsequent Titles, does not in itself prove that a Handler has the skills and experience to perform and win against the world's best at a WAC, notwithstanding that a recent IAD title will be a factor for consideration.
 - 4.3.7.3 Consideration will be given to experience competing at previous IFCS WAC and/or other international events.
- 4.3.8 A Team Handler will be available for the travel dates of the WAC.
- 4.3.9 The Team Handler will make their best efforts to be available for any Team training sessions set before departure and must attend the mandatory full Team practice session (one weekend).
- 4.3.10 A Team Handler must already have or be prepared to arrange access to Clean Run Course Design (to view training assignments and any received practice courses from WAC Judges).

- 4.3.11 Team Handlers will be selected from Members who submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) Team Handler WAC form on or before 30 April 2011. The EOI may be submitted by post, fax or email as detailed on the EOI form. Interested Members should submit their EOI advising their interest to hold the position of Team Handler, to advise their skills and achievements and state why they believe they should represent Australia. Interested Members should pay due attention to the selection criteria outlined in this Policy.
- 4.3.12 A Team Handler will be required to meet all pertinent requirements of this document with regards to passports and medical insurance.

5. Expressions of Interest

5.1 Member Submissions

- 5.1.1 Members may submit an EOI for more than one position.
- 5.1.2 An EOI from any Team Member who demonstrates misconduct, harsh handling, bad sportsmanship, verbally or physically abusing a dog or fellow competitor, and/or abusing or challenging an Agility Judge will be declined and/or cancelled.
- 5.1.3 EOI forms can be downloaded from <http://www.adaa.com.au/wac/>

5.2 Team Handlers

- 5.2.1 The selection process for Team Handlers requires Members to register an Expression of Interest (EOI) with the Board on or before the close of business on 30 April 2011.
- 5.2.1.1 If a Member has not registered a Handler EOI by 30 April 2011, they cannot be deemed eligible for selection as a Team Handler.
- 5.2.1.2 The Handler EOI will require the Member to choose between being a Toy/Mini dog Handler or a Midi/Maxi dog Handler. A Member must choose one or the other and cannot register for both.
- 5.2.1.3 A Member who registers within the EOI Team Handler WAC as a Mini/Toy dog Handler may be given either a Mini or Toy host dog – as decided by the Team Manager and Team Coach. All effort will be made to match the best dog to best suit individual Handlers. A Mini/Toy dog Team Handler will not be given a Maxi/Midi dog to run.
- 5.2.1.4 A Member who registers within the EOI Team Handler WAC as a Midi/Maxi dog Handler may be given either a Midi or Maxi host dog – as decided by the Team Manager and Team Coach. All effort will be made to match the best dog to best suit individual Handlers. A Midi/Maxi dog Team Handler will not be given a Mini/Toy dog to run.
- 5.2.1.5 At the WAC Selection Competition a Member who has submitted a Handler EOI may only achieve points once for any one Class within their nominated height group. That is to say, a Handler who has nominated as a Midi/Maxi Handler in their EOI may be running several dogs across several Classes at the WAC Selection Competition, they may even be running a dog in each height Class of Toy, Mini, Midi or Maxi. However, before the start of judging for the day, they must nominate a dog from either the Midi or Maxi Class and that is the only dog they can achieve points with for that Skill Group at the WAC Selection Competition. They may nominate another dog for a different Skill Group at the WAC Selection Competition.
- 5.2.1.6 The Handler EOI will not require the Handler to nominate dogs at time of submission of the EOI. However all Handlers who have submitted an EOI will be issued with a nomination form for each day of WAC Selection Competition. The Handler must submit details of the dog(s) to accumulate points/results (for all relevant events), prior to the advertised start time of judging for the day, to a designated ADAA official. The dog must be on the International Programme Register and must be eligible to enter the Class under normal ADAA Agility Regulations.
- 5.2.1.7 The Member is not restricted to any one dog or any limit in the number of dogs they achieve points with. The criteria set for dogs is that the dog is registered with ADAA on the IP register, is eligible to enter the Class and the Member has nominated to run that dog in the nominated event before the start of judging for the day.
- 5.2.1.8 The EOI also requires all potential Team Handlers to agree in writing that they can arrange time away from work/family commitments for a mandatory WAC Training Squad weekend training session (with 4 months notice) together with 14 days for the WAC and the pre-WAC training.
- 5.2.2 The Handler listed on the EOI and handling the dog at the WAC Selection Competitions will be the only Handler allowed to compete at the IFCS WAC.

6. Handler Points Accumulation

6.1 Skill Groups

- 6.1.1 The WAC Selection Process has grouped WAC Selection Classes into four Skill Groups, being:
- 6.1.1.1 Skill Group 1 = Advanced Agility Test.
 - 6.1.1.2 Skill Group 2 = Advanced Jumping Test.
 - 6.1.1.3 Skill Group 3 = Open Gamblers.
 - 6.1.1.4 Skill Group 4 = Open Snooker
- 6.1.2 The WAC Selection Process will favour (by way of bonus points) Handlers who show they can win or place in a Class of 10 or more bona fide entries from Selection rounds from each of the four skill groups but also recognise achievement of Clear/Qualifying Rounds.
- 6.1.3 Points during the selection process and WAC Selection Competitions will be earned by a registered Handler (via submitting an EOI) against the nominated dog for a first, second or third placing in each of the Skill Groups. Bonus points will be awarded for achieving points from two or more Skill Groups from Classes that ran 10 or more bona fide entries and/or for Clear/Qualifying Rounds. The bonus points will be awarded for multiple wins and/or placings over the four skill groups from the WAC Selection Competition. A Handler cannot be awarded more than one set of bonus points from clauses 6.1.5.4 through 6.1.5.9 inclusive.
- 6.1.4 The Handler's result from each Skill Group will be accumulated.
- 6.1.5 Points that can be achieved by registered Handlers who have submitted an EOI are as follows:
- 6.1.5.1 First place (win) from any Skill Group = 25 points.
 - 6.1.5.2 Second place from any Skill Group = 15 points.
 - 6.1.5.3 Third place from any Skill Group = 10 points.
 - 6.1.5.4 A Handler that achieves first place (win) points in four Skill Groups, in which any three of the four Classes had 10 or more bona fide entries running, will receive a bonus of 20 points.
 - 6.1.5.5 A Handler that achieves first place points in three Skill Groups, in which any two of the three Classes had 10 or more bona fide entries running, will receive a bonus of 15 points.
 - 6.1.5.6 A Handler that achieves first place points in two Skill Groups, in which at least one of the two Classes had 10 or more bona fide entries running, will receive a bonus of 10 points.
 - 6.1.5.7 A Handler that achieves a win or placing (second and/or third place points) in four Skill Groups, in which any three of the four Classes had 10 or more bona fide entries running, will receive a bonus of 15 points.
 - 6.1.5.8 A Handler that achieves a win or placing (second and/or third place points) in three Skill Groups, in which any two of the three Classes had 10 or more bona fide entries running will receive a bonus of 10 points.
 - 6.1.5.9 A Handler that achieves a win or placing (second and/or third place points) in two Skill Groups, in which at least one of the two Classes had 10 or more bona fide entries running will receive a bonus of 5 points.
 - 6.1.5.10 A Handler will receive a bonus of 10 points for each Clear/Qualifying Round irrespective of placing.
- 6.1.6 Members must compete with a nominated dog at the WAC Selection Competition and achieve a minimum of one point in order to be considered for selection as a WAC Training Squad Member.
- 6.1.7 From the top 12 Handlers with the most accumulated points in each of the two height groups, the Board of Directors will, subject to their ability to meet the requirements of the selection criteria, select up to five (5) Handlers with the most accumulated points as WAC Training Squad Members.
- 6.1.8 The Board may choose a further three (3) Board's Choice Handlers from each of the two height groups. Subject to their ability to meet the requirements of the selection criteria, these 3 Board's Choice Handlers (in each height group) will become WAC Training Squad Members.
- 6.1.9 Team Handlers and Reserve Team Handlers will be chosen from the eight (8) WAC Training Squad Members selected in each height Group, as per 6.1.7 and 6.1.8. Reserve Team Handlers will also be chosen subject to their ability to meet the requirements of the selection criteria.
- 6.1.10 Should the Board of Directors be placed in such a situation that WAC Training Squad Members selected on points (not Board's Choice) cannot self fund and/or meet all the requirements of the selection criteria, the Board will select the next placed nominee. If after working through the nominees, using points accumulated and the ability to meet the selection criteria, the Board of Directors is still unable to select up to five (5) WAC Training Squad Members (from points accumulation), then in such a case the Board of Directors may choose additional Board's Choice Handlers from outside the top 12 in each Height Group or send a Team with reduced Team Handlers.

- 6.1.11 Should the Board of Directors be placed in such a situation that any one of the original six (6) Board's Choice Handlers is not able to self fund, arrange time off work or meet all of the selection criteria, then the Board may choose another Board's Choice Handler, by first choosing from the top 12 in each height group, and then if needed, going outside the top 12 in each height group. The Board will choose by majority vote.
- 6.1.12 The Board of Directors will choose the WAC Training Squad Members based on majority vote.
 - 6.1.12.1 The Chair will get a vote.
 - 6.1.12.2 In case of a tie – the Chair will get a second vote.
 - 6.1.12.3 If a Board Member, including the Chair has achieved enough points to make the top 12 Handlers (in their nominated height group), then they must abstain from a vote for their nominated height group. If the Chair has achieved enough points to be in the top 12 of their nominated height group, then the Deputy Chair will break a tied vote for the height group in question. If both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman have conflict of interest (as above) and cannot cast a vote, then the Director Judging will be used to break the tie.
- 6.1.13 The Board has the final right to select a Mini/Toy Handler and ask them to run a Mini or Toy dog at the WAC, or choose a Maxi/Midi Handler and ask them to run a Maxi or Midi dog at the WAC. The Board will not ask a Toy dog Handler to run a Maxi dog or a Midi dog Handler to run a Mini dog, etc.
- 6.1.14 Selected WAC Training Squad Members have until close of business 21 days after the offer to join the Team is issued by the ADAA Board to accept or withdraw the nomination. Acceptance will be required as per this Policy and in a format to be determined by the Board.
- 6.1.15 If a WAC Training Squad Member withdraws from the Team, then next in selection will be invited to accept a WAC Training Squad Member position and will have two weeks to accept as per the above process. After two weeks, the invitation goes to next person in line. If a Board's Choice Handler is asked to become a WAC Training Squad Member, they will also have two weeks to accept the position.

7. Funding

7.1 Costs

- 7.1.1 Team Handlers and Reserve Team Handlers travelling with the team, will be responsible for all costs associated with airfares, travel, hotels and meals. The Team will assist ADAA to fundraise to cover the cost of the Team Manager and Team Coach (up to \$5000.00 each) and also for team uniforms and transport (Mini van) to and from the hotel/venue. If, from fundraising, there are funds left after covering the costs of the Team Manager and Team Coach, team uniforms and mini van hire (to and from hotel/venue), then ADAA will distribute any funds left over between the Team Handlers and (travelling) Reserve Team Handlers as per clause 7.2.3.
 - 7.1.1.1 ADAA believes that a (Reserve) Team Handler will require between \$4000.00 and \$5000.00 to cover expenses (airfares, hotel and meals) of attending a WAC.

7.2 Fundraising

- 7.2.1 All Team nominees and WAC Training Squad Members will be required to assist in fundraising activities.
- 7.2.2 All fundraising by ADAA, ADAA affiliated Clubs and/or Individual ADAA Members that makes any reference to the WAC will be "pooled" and divided among Team Handlers (and Reserve Team Handlers) once the required funding has been used/allocated to cover the costs allocated to Team Manager and Team Coach. Where a Team Handler sources funds from an external source (eg grant, personal donation), then this may be taken into account when determining the distribution of the balance of the fundraising "pool".
- 7.2.3 WAC Training Squad Members, Team Handlers and Reserve Team Handlers who do not participate in Team fundraising may lose their position on the Team, not receive an equal share and/or may receive no share of any funds available.

8. General Obligations

8.1 Sportsmanship/Behaviour

- 8.1.1 This is a team sport; therefore all Team Members must show sportsmanship and team spirit (as a competitor, Team Official or spectator). Team Members are representing ADAA and Australia. Failure to meet any of these expectations is cause for dismissal from the Team. This includes blatant failure (no acceptable reason) to participate in training exercises, fundraising and/or Team activities.
- 8.1.2 WAC Training Squad Members must be in good standing with ADAA. Any WAC Training Squad Member (or Team Handler) who has exhibited misconduct, harsh handling, bad sportsmanship, verbally or physically abusing a dog or fellow competitor, and/or abusing or challenging an Agility Judge after earning a Team position on the ADAA IFCS World Team, including during the IFCS WAC, will be withdrawn from the Team and/or subject to sanction by the Team Coach and Team Manager.

- 8.1.3 Any known charge of misconduct, harsh handling or abusive behaviour by a Member from another sporting organisation, including other dog related organisations may be considered by the Board of Directors and may prevent a Member from being selected as a WAC Training Squad Member, Team Member and/or removed from the Team.

8.2 Eligibility to Apply

- 8.2.1 Team Handlers should be an Australian citizen. Any ADAA Member who is not an Australian citizen and wishes to submit an EOI for a Team Handler position should contact the Board of Directors as soon as possible and advise all relevant details so that ADAA may request status, advice and approval from the IFCS. Rules on citizenship are controlled by the IFCS and are outside the control of ADAA.
- 8.2.2 Team Manager, Team Coach and other Team support roles do not have to be Australian citizens.
- 8.2.3 If a Team Handler has competed at a previous IFCS WAC, under any flag/country other than Australia, they may be ineligible to represent Australia under IFCS rules. In such case, the Member should contact the Board of Directors as soon as possible so that clarification may be sought from the IFCS.
- 8.2.4 All Team Members must have a valid passport (with at least 6 months left before expiry date) and have provided all of the relevant details to the Team Manager, no later than 1 February 2012. ADAA will require proof and details of travel and overseas medical insurance before departure. All Team Members must be eligible for entry into the USA and must complete pre-entry visa requirements into the USA.
- 8.2.5 All Team Members must, upon request and within the deadline advised, provide photographs and/or information, requested by the WAC host country/organisation for catalogues, identification and/or any other requirements they may reasonably require.

8.3 Juniors

- 8.3.1 Any Team Handler younger than 18 years of age must be accompanied to the WAC by a parent or nominated guardian at their own expense (eg air, hotel & ground travel), including provision of consent for International Travel. The WAC Selection Competition will require normal ADAA competition requirements with regards to minors and guardian supervision. Any pre-departure Team Training will require supervision of a minor by a parent or nominated guardian in accordance with normal requirements for an ADAA Competition/activity.

8.4 Medical Conditions

- 8.4.1 Team Members acknowledge that the positions require a minimum level of physical fitness and an injury may affect their ability to undertake their role.
- 8.4.2 All applicants must include in their EOI any pre-existing injuries and/or conditions (physical or psychological) which may impact on their ability to undertake their role as described in this Policy. Failure to disclose any known condition will be grounds for removal from the Team. Team Members shall be responsible for ensuring they provide evidence of the appropriate medical clearance to the Team Manager (Team Manager should inform the Board of Directors). ADAA reserves the right to have any, or all, Team Members undertake medical examination by a medical professional of its choosing, to confirm their "fitness" for the nominated role prior to departure.
- 8.4.3 The Team Manager and Team Coach must inform the Board of Directors of any medical conditions/injuries they may incur after they have accepted a Team Member position. Similarly WAC Training Squad Members must inform the Team Manager and Team Coach of any medical conditions that they may receive after they have accepted a Team Member position.

8.5 Announcement of Team Members

- 8.5.1 All Team Members (ie WAC Training Squad Members, Team Manager and Team Coach) will be chosen and announced on or before 30 June 2011.
- 8.5.2 Team Handlers note that host dogs will not be finally/formally matched until after initial practice session(s) in the USA and will only be advised to Team Handlers after the practice session. The matching of host dogs and Team Handlers will be at the discretion of the Team Manager and Team Coach. The Team Manager and Team Coach may at any time, after due consideration and subject to the rules of the WAC and/or any injuries to host dog(s) or Team Handler(s), change the matching of host dog(s) and Team Handler(s).
- 8.5.3 Team Handlers acknowledge that, due to circumstances beyond its control, ADAA (and the host organisation) may not be able to provide a dog for every Team Handler to compete at the WAC (for whatever reason) despite their best efforts. Any shortfall in the number of dogs to match the number of Team Handlers will be advised as soon as known, however Team Handlers acknowledge that this may not be apparent until after arriving at the WAC (eg injured/ill dog) and that there will be no recourse against ADAA (or the host organisation) should this occur.

- 8.5.4 The following will apply if there is an injury/withdrawal of a host dog and a replacement host dog cannot be provided (due to lack of availability, IFCS WAC rules or any other reason):
- 8.5.4.1 Prior to final Team Handler selection, the number of Team Handlers for that group will be reduced.
 - 8.5.4.2 After final Team Handler selection but prior to Team departure from Australia, the lowest placed Team Handler for that group will become Reserve Team Handler.
 - 8.5.4.3 After Team departure from Australia, before final/formal matching, the lowest placed Team Handler for that group will become Reserve Team Handler.
 - 8.5.4.4 After Team departure from Australia, after final/formal matching, the Team Handler matched with the withdrawn dog will become a Reserve Team Handler for that group.
- 8.5.5 The following will, subject to final IFCS WAC rules, apply if there is an injury/withdrawal of a Team Handler:
- 8.5.5.1 After final Team Handler selection but prior to Team departure from Australia, the highest placed Reserve Team Handler will become Team Handler in their place.
 - 8.5.5.2 After Team departure from Australia, before final/formal matching, the highest placed Reserve Team Handler (for the relevant group) in the USA, will become Team Handler in their place and will be considered alongside all other Team Handlers for allocation/matching of available host dogs.
 - 8.5.5.3 After Team departure from Australia, after final/formal matching, the highest placed Reserve Team Handler (for the relevant group) in the USA, will become Team Handler for the host dog allocated to the injured/withdrawn Team Handler.
- 8.5.6 Whilst not a decision to be made lightly, the Team Manager and Team Coach may, collaboratively, for any reason(s) outlined within this Policy, decide to change allocation of dogs and Team Handlers and/or replace a Team Handler with a Reserve Team Handler if deemed to be in the best interests of the team.
- 8.5.7 ADAA will make every endeavour to source the highest quality dogs possible however Team Handlers acknowledge that the dogs on offer may be less (or more) skilful than their own and/or have different skills/require different handling than the Team Handler normally uses and although striving to get on the podium is still the ultimate outcome, for some Team Handlers (ultimately) the WAC may become just getting around the course.

Stakeholders to be consulted prior to policy change:

Board of Directors

Related documents

Memorandum and Articles of Association REF-ORG-010 & REF-ORG-011

Agility Regulations 9.0 Edition POL-AR-001/013

Expression of Interest Team Manager WAC form FOR-MEM-042

Expression of Interest Team Coach WAC form FOR-MEM-043

Expression of Interest Team Handler WAC form FOR-MEM-044

Date	Action (Created/Reviewed)	Created/Reviewed by	Next review due
18 January 2009	Created	Director Judging	19 January 2009
19 January 2009	Revised	Board of Directors	19 January 2009
20 January 2009	Approved	Board of Directors	
24 February 2011	Revised WAC 2012	Chair	
7 March 2011	Revised	Board of Directors	
18 March 2011	Approved	Board of Directors	