



# AGILITY DOG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA LTD

ABN 83 070 415 404

## IFCS WAC SELECTION – TEAM HANDLER

### **Introduction:**

This document sets out the process that the Agility Dog Association of Australia Ltd (ADAA) will use to select Team Australia Team Members and Reserve Team Members to participate in the IFCS World Agility Championships to be held each year.

### **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 not usually domiciling in Australia for the event, to represent Australia.

### **Policy Statement:**

ADAA is aiming to send the highest calibre of handlers available to represent Australia at each WAC. 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.

### **Definitions:**

ADAA Official – ADAA Board Member, Judge, volunteer, contractor and/or employee undertaking activities on behalf of ADAA

Host Country – Country hosting the IFCS WAC

Host Dog – dog, not usually domiciling in Australia, secured to run for Team Australia

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

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

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 Handler, and any other support crew as approved by the Board of Directors

Team Pool Host Dogs – Host Dogs sourced by ADAA

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

WAC – IFCS World Agility Championships

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

### **Responsibilities:**

Board of Directors – responsible for assessing applications, and selecting Team Members and overall responsibility  
Team Coach & Team Manager – jointly responsible for matching Host Dogs and Team Handlers following team arrival in Host Country.

## **Procedure:**

### **1. Event details**

#### **1.1 IFCS World Agility Championships**

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

1.1.2 It is expected that each WAC will be held in April or May annually.

1.1.2.1 Planned schedule of dates (subject to minor changes):

1.1.2.1.1 Travel from Australia to Host Country: 9 days prior to commencement of WAC (some Team Members may need to travel earlier to train with their Host Dog)

1.1.2.1.2 Training with Host Dogs in Host Country: 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 Host Country to Australia: 1 day

1.1.2.1.6 Minimum total days a Team Member needs to commit to is 14 days (Team Members must take into account time zone difference between Australia and Host Country and days lost/gained in flight to/from the Host Country).

#### **1.2 Team composition**

1.2.1 Each country may enter a maximum of 16 Team Handlers plus four (4) competitors who have been a medal winning finalist in any past IFCS Championship Event. There is no requirement for equal numbers of dogs in each height class, although consideration needs to be given to availability of dogs of different height classes in order to form teams.

1.2.2 ADAA aims to send a full team of eligible Handlers to each WAC (depending on the number and calibre of the response from Members). ADAA also aims to send a Team Manager and, subject to team numbers, a Team Coach.

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 ADAA Official 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 15 August each year (with the exception of 2014 in which case Expressions of Interest must be submitted on or before 27 September 2014). The EOI may be submitted by post, fax or email as detailed on the EOI form.

1.3.2 To be eligible to apply for selection the Member must supply ADAA with copies of 10 Clear Round and/or Qualifying Certificates that have been achieved within the last three (3) years and show their name listed as the Handler with an IP registered dog in Open and/or Advanced Standard Agility/Jumping Tests and/or IP Open Gamblers or IP Open Snooker, with at least two being IP Open or IP Advanced Agility Tests and at least one Qualifying Certificate from either IP Open Gamblers or IP Open Snooker. Alternatively, details of being a medal winning finalist at any past IFCS Championship Event may be provided.

1.3.3 There will be three stages to the selection process. The first stage will be review of nomination forms to determine eligibility to be an initial WAC Training Squad Member from which all Team Handlers will be selected. The second stage will be the WAC Selection event and determination of final WAC Training Squad. The third stage will be the finalisation of Team Handlers to travel to the WAC.

1.3.4 While it is preferred that sufficient WAC Team Handlers be selected to allow for the maximum number of Team Handlers compete in each height class at the WAC, 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 the maximum possible number of Team Handlers allowed under the WAC rules.

1.3.5 For each height class the Handlers with the highest number of selection points will be considered for final WAC Training Squad selection.

1.3.5.1 The Board will select up to twelve (12) Handlers based on the highest accumulation of points and these Handlers will be given the opportunity to be on the Team. The decision to choose less than twelve 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.

- 1.3.5.2 No matter if the Board selects less than twelve (12) Handlers from those with the highest points accumulation, the Board of Directors will also choose Board's Choice Handlers and will offer them the opportunity to be on the Team as a WAC Training Squad Member (subject to the requirements of this document, including the requirements of clause 2 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 will be achieved by winning, placing and/or achieving clear/qualifying rounds in Advanced Agility and Jumping Tests, Open Gamblers and Open Snooker Classes (with one point allocated for those who are not Eliminated or Disqualified) held at the WAC Selection Competition each year (see 1.3.8).
- 1.3.7 The Board's Choice WAC Training Squad Members, 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 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. Experience has shown that the success of Team Australia will not be solely based on the skill and experience of handlers with their own dog(s) at home. Rather, due to the pressure, stress and environmental factors placed on Team Members, it has been shown that the ability to show resilience from day to day over a two week period and the ability to 'adapt and overcome' is what will determine the success of Team Australia.
- 1.3.8 Whilst the primary criteria for WAC selection will be the Expression of Interest criteria (in the first instance) with the WAC Selection event, applicants may provide details of extenuating circumstances for consideration by the Board for appointment as an initial and/or final WAC Training Squad Member.
- 1.3.9 The WAC Selection Competition will be held in conjunction with the ADAA National Grand Prix each year, unless otherwise advised by the ADAA Board.
- 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 15 December each year outlining activities of the WAC Training Squad. The Board of Directors will offer 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. The Board may also determine, after considering the recommendations of the Team Manager and Team Coach, that a WAC Training Squad Member has not satisfied the requirements to be appointed as a Team Handler.
- 1.3.12 The Team Manager and Team Coach will work together at the WAC to choose the best handler/dog combinations from the Team Pool Host Dogs made available. If there is not a Team Manager and Team Coach appointed, the Board of Directors will appoint a second person to undertake this task with the Team Manager/Team Coach.

## **2. Team Handler – Roles and Responsibilities and Selection Criteria**

### **2.1 Position Description**

- 2.1.1 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.

### **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 Host Dog owner.
- 2.2.2 To display respect for all WAC competitors and officials, including during ceremonies and presentations.
- 2.2.3 Participate in local/remote Team training sessions in the months leading up to the WAC.
- 2.2.4 Contribute to and participate in training sessions on arrival at location
- 2.2.5 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 the costs associated with the training weekend.
- 2.2.6 Participate in all WAC presentations/team activities.
  - 2.2.7 Wear team uniform as designated by the Team Manager.
  - 2.2.8 Be very familiar with and experienced in different handling techniques.
  - 2.2.9 Treat all Team Members (including Team Manager and Team Coach) with respect.
  - 2.2.10 Ask for advice from Team Coach and/or Team Manager when required.
  - 2.2.11 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.
  - 2.2.12 Receive and accept handling advice in a friendly and polite manner from all Team Members, including Team Manager and Team Coach.
  - 2.2.13 Team Handlers are expected to listen to more experienced Team Handlers, the Team Coach and/or Team Manager 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.
  - 2.2.14 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. It is expected the Team Handlers will arrive promptly and on time. Team Handlers must also accept any Team selection by the Team Manager and Team Coach.
  - 2.2.15 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.
  - 2.2.16 Advise the Team Manager or Team Coach of any changes to fitness or health that may affect the ability to compete and/or travel.
  - 2.2.17 Respect the confidentiality of any personal information of Team Members and/or support crew.
  - 2.2.18 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.
  - 2.2.19 Team Handlers (and WAC Training Squad Members) will be responsible for undertaking training, including providing any training videos, requested by the Team Coach.
  - 2.2.20 Team Handlers (and WAC Training Squad Members) will be required to participate and contribute to all team activities while in the Host Country, including supporting fellow Team Handlers at events they may be participating in.
  - 2.2.21 The WAC is both physically and mentally demanding and quite stressful on bodies, therefore Team Handlers should maximise well-being before the event.
  - 2.2.22 Team Handlers agree to comply with (reasonable) requests from the Team Manager and/or Team Coach including attending and actively participating in medical treatment.
  - 2.2.23 Team Handlers are required to acknowledge that it is unlikely they will be advised of their Team Pool 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 Host Country.
  - 2.2.24 The Team Handler must accept the Host 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 and compete in all classes possible, including Standard Agility, Jumping, Gamblers and Snooker.
  - 2.2.25 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)).
  - 2.2.26 Maintain confidentiality of appointment of any Team Members until publicly released by the Board of Directors.
- 2.3 Selection Criteria**
- 2.3.1 A Team Handler must be a current financial Member of ADAA.
  - 2.3.2 There is no minimum time set as a Member of ADAA to be a Team Handler.
  - 2.3.3 A Team Handler must be at least 15 years of age on the first day of competition at the WAC.
  - 2.3.4 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.
  - 2.3.5 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.
  - 2.3.6 A Team Handler should have a good understanding of the rules of Agility, including Gamblers and Snooker.
  - 2.3.7 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.

- 2.3.7.1 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.
- 2.3.7.2 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.
- 2.3.7.3 Consideration will be given to experience competing at previous IFCS WAC and/or other international events.
- 2.3.8 A Team Handler will be available for the travel dates of the WAC.
- 2.3.9 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).
- 2.3.10 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).
- 2.3.11 Team Handlers will be selected from Members who submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) Team Handler WAC form on or before 15 August each year (with the exception of 2014 in which case Expressions of Interest must be submitted on or before 27 September 2014). 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.
- 2.3.12 A Team Handler will be required to meet all pertinent requirements of this document with regards to passports and medical insurance.

### **3. Expressions of Interest**

#### **3.1 Member Submissions**

- 3.1.1 Members may submit an EOI for more than one position.
- 3.1.2 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 ADAA Official will be declined and/or cancelled.

#### **3.2 Team Handlers**

- 3.2.1 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 15 August each year (with the exception of 2014 in which case Expressions of Interest must be submitted on or before 27 September 2014).
  - 3.2.1.1 If a Member has not registered a Handler EOI by 15 August (or 27 September 2014 if applicable), they cannot be deemed eligible for selection as a Team Handler, unless appointed by the ADAA Board of Directors as a Board’s Choice Handler.
  - 3.2.1.2 There will be no requirement of the Member to nominate height class on the EOI. Eligibility will be determined by the points accumulated by the dog(s) nominated and handled by the Member at the WAC Selection Events.
  - 3.2.1.3 Whilst it is preferred that a Team Handler will be offered a Host Dog commensurate with the height class of the dog he/she nominated at the WAC Selection competition, it is possible that they will be asked to handle a dog of a different height class at the WAC. First preference will be for a Toy class dog in lieu of Mini, Mini class dog in lieu of Toy, Midi class dog in lieu of Maxi and Maxi class dog in lieu of Midi. Nevertheless a dog of any other height class may be offered.
  - 3.2.1.4 At the WAC Selection Competition a Member who has submitted a Handler EOI may only achieve points once for each Class. That is to say, a Handler 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 for each Skill Group and that is the only dog they can achieve points with for that Skill Group at the WAC Selection Competition. They may nominate a different dog for each Skill Group at the WAC Selection Competition.
  - 3.2.1.5 The Handler EOI will not require the Handler to nominate dogs at time of submission of the EOI. However all Handlers who have been accepted as an initial WAC Training Squad Member 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.

- 3.2.1.6 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 Class before the start of judging for the day.
- 3.2.1.7 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 a minimum of 14 days for the WAC and the pre-WAC training.

#### **4. Handler Points Accumulation**

##### **4.1 Skill Groups**

- 4.1.1 The WAC Selection Process has grouped WAC Selection Classes into four Skill Groups, being:
  - 4.1.1.1 Skill Group 1 = Advanced Agility Test.
  - 4.1.1.2 Skill Group 2 = Advanced Jumping Test.
  - 4.1.1.3 Skill Group 3 = Open Gamblers.
  - 4.1.1.4 Skill Group 4 = Open Snooker
- 4.1.2 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.
- 4.1.3 Points during the selection process and WAC Selection Competitions will be earned by an initial WAC Training Squad Member 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 per class from clauses 4.1.5.4 through 4.1.5.9 inclusive.
- 4.1.4 The Handler's result from each Skill Group will be combined.
- 4.1.5 Points that can be achieved by registered Handlers who have submitted an EOI are as follows:
  - 4.1.5.1 First place (win) from any Skill Group = 25 points.
  - 4.1.5.2 Second place from any Skill Group = 15 points.
  - 4.1.5.3 Third place from any Skill Group = 10 points.
  - 4.1.5.4 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.
  - 4.1.5.5 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.
  - 4.1.5.6 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.
  - 4.1.5.7 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.
  - 4.1.5.8 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.
  - 4.1.5.9 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.
  - 4.1.5.10 A Handler will receive a bonus of 10 points for each Clear/Qualifying Round irrespective of placing.
  - 4.1.5.11 A Handler will receive one point for each Class in which they are not Eliminated or Disqualified.
- 4.1.6 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.
- 4.1.7 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 twelve (12) WAC Training Squad Members (from points accumulation), then in such a case the Board of Directors may choose additional Board's Choice Handlers or send a Team with reduced Team Handlers.
- 4.1.8 Should the Board of Directors be placed in such a situation that any one of the original Board's Choice Handlers is not able to self-fund, arrange time off work or meet all of the selection criteria, the Board may choose another Board's Choice Handler. The Board will choose by majority vote.

- 4.1.9 The Board of Directors will choose the WAC Training Squad Members based on majority vote.
  - 4.1.9.1 The Chair will get a vote.
  - 4.1.9.2 In case of a tie – the Chair will get a second vote.
  - 4.1.9.3 If a Board Member, including the Chair has submitted an EOI for the team, then they must abstain from the vote. If the Chair has nominated, then the Deputy Chair will break a tied vote. 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.
- 4.1.10 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.
- 4.1.11 If a WAC Training Squad Member withdraws from the Team, then next in selection will be invited to accept a final 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 final WAC Training Squad Member, they will also have two weeks to accept the position.
- 4.1.12 The Board may, under exceptional circumstances, appoint Member(s) to the final WAC Training Squad notwithstanding that they have not met any/all of the selection criteria. There is no obligation for the Member to accept such an offer.

## **5. Funding**

### **5.1 Costs**

- 5.1.1 Team Handlers travelling with the team, will be responsible for all costs associated with the trip. Team Members will assist ADAA to fundraise to cover the cost of team uniforms and general expenses (eg transport) to and from the accommodation/venue. If, from fundraising, there are funds left after covering these costs, then ADAA will distribute the balance of funds between the Team Handlers as per clause 5.2.
- 5.1.2 ADAA believes that a Team Handler may require up to \$5000.00 to cover expenses (airfares, meals and other costs not covered by fundraising) of attending a WAC.
- 5.1.3 ADAA will make a contribution of up to \$250-00 per Team Handler towards team uniform, this will not include additional clothing/items which are to be purchased by Team Members.
- 5.1.4 It is noted that there may be circumstances in which Team Members receive different levels of reimbursement/support for costs incurred (eg flights to/from training weekend, shared accommodation arrangements, transport at WAC venue).
- 5.1.5 The team will be seeking to secure the most economic accommodation that meets team requirements. This may include billeted accommodation, cottages/villas and/or hotels/motels, shared or separate. There is no 'entitlement' to specific grades of rooms. Team accommodation may be paid by ADAA direct or Team Members may be required to pay the provider. If Team Members require individual accommodation, when the rest of the group is sharing, they will be required to pay any additional cost incurred.

### **5.2 Fundraising**

- 5.2.1 All WAC Training Squad Members will be required to assist in fundraising activities.
- 5.2.2 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 who travel to the WAC) once the required funding has been used/allocated to cover the costs of general team expenses. 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". Participation in other events, not associated with IFCS WAC may be taken into account when distributing balance of funds.
- 5.2.3 Team Australia Crew (designated vehicle drivers, photographers, videoers, assistants etc) will be entitled to "Crew" shirts plus payment of spectator and gala dinner tickets from the Fundraising Pool.
- 5.2.4 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.

## **6. Host Dogs**

- 6.1 Team Members are encouraged to source their own Host Dog, should they choose to do so, subject to ultimate and final approval by the Board. It is the Team Member's responsibility to ensure that the Host Dog is fit and able to endure the rigours of a WAC, and also able to comply with legal requirements to enter and depart the Host Country. Further it is the Team Members' responsibility to obtain and provide all relevant information, including accurate height measurement, to the Team Manager in a timely manner to facilitate completion of WAC entries and other Host Country requirements. Inability to provide this when and, as required, may deem the nominated Host Dog as ineligible to be part of Team Australia, notwithstanding any previous approvals given.

- 6.2 If the Team Member chooses to source their own Host Dog then the Host Dog owner would be entitled to no more than local Host Dog owners with regards to reimbursement of costs from the fundraising/team pool. It is the Team Member's obligation to discuss costs with the Host Dog Owner at the time of making arrangements and to pay those costs from their own funds.
- 6.3 ADAA will (in principle) approve a Team Member to share their room with a Host Dog owner however it is strongly recommended that the Team Member carefully consider the implications before agreeing to do so, and there must be no risk (eg juniors would be not be approved). Also ADAA/the Team will not be liable for additional costs, eg additional bed etc etc. All such requests must be referred to the Team Manager prior to the Team Member making a commitment.
- 6.4 ADAA may also source Team Pool Host Dogs and offer the opportunity for Team Handlers to train with the Host Dog Owner prior to team training sessions at the WAC. There is no obligation for a Team Handler to accept such an offer, however if they do, then any additional costs (including travel, accommodation and expenses) will be their responsibility.

## **7. General Obligations**

The Board of Directors has, at all times, the final decision in regards to all matters affecting WAC Training Squad, Team Handlers and other Team Members.

### **7.1 Sportsmanship/Behaviour**

- 7.1.1 This is a team sport; therefore all Team Members must show sportsmanship and team spirit (as a competitor, ADAA 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, Team meetings and/or Team activities.
- 7.1.2 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 ADAA Official 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.
- 7.1.3 Team Members must comply, at all times, with ADAA's Social Media Policy.
- 7.1.4 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.

### **7.2 Eligibility to Apply**

- 7.2.1 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.
- 7.2.2 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.
- 7.2.3 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 in the year of the WAC. ADAA will require proof and details of travel and overseas medical insurance before departure. All Team Members must be eligible for entry into the country hosting the WAC and/or must complete pre-entry visa requirements.
- 7.2.4 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.

### **7.3 Juniors**

- 7.3.1 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.



- 7.4 **Medical Conditions**
- 7.4.1 Team Members acknowledge that the positions require a minimum level of physical fitness and an injury may affect their ability to undertake their role.
- 7.4.2 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. 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.
- 7.4.3 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.
- 7.5 **Announcement of Team Members**
- 7.5.1 The initial WAC Training Squad will be confirmed on or before 15 September each year (with the exception of 2014 in which case the confirmation will be undertaken on or before 2 October 2014). The final WAC Training Squad will be announced on or before 31 October each year. Team Handlers will be announced on or before 31 December each year.
- 7.5.2 Team Handlers note that Team Pool Host Dogs will not be finally/formally matched until after initial practice session(s) in the Host Country 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 Team Pool Host Dog(s) and Team Handler(s).
- 7.5.3 Team Handlers acknowledge that, due to circumstances beyond its control, ADAA 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 Team Pool Host 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 should this occur.
- 7.5.4 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):
- 7.5.4.1 Prior to Team departure from Australia, the Team Manager and Team Coach will provide recommendation to the Board (for final decision) for one Team Handler to become a Reserve Team Handler.
- 7.5.4.2 After Team departure from Australia, before final/formal matching, the Team Manager and Team Coach will determine one Team Handler to become a Reserve Team Handler.
- 7.5.4.3 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 height class.
- 7.5.5 The following will, subject to final IFCS WAC rules, apply if there is an injury/withdrawal of a Team Handler:
- 7.5.5.1 After final Team Handler selection but prior to Team departure from Australia, the Board will determine whether or not a new Team Handler will be appointed in their place.
- 7.5.5.2 After Team departure from Australia, the number of Team Handlers representing Australia will be reduced.
- 7.5.6 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 Team Pool Host Dogs and Team Handlers.
- 7.5.7 ADAA will make every endeavour to source the highest quality dogs possible however Team Handlers acknowledge that the Team Pool Host Dogs offered 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 9th Edition POL-AR-001  
IFCS WAC Selection – Team Manager Policy POL-MEM-043  
IFCS WAC Selection – Team Coach Policy POL-MEM-044  
Expression of Interest Team Handler WAC form FOR-MEM-044  
Social Media Policy - POL-PPL-031

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action (Created/Reviewed)</b>	<b>Created/Reviewed by</b>	<b>Next review due</b>
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	
18 November 2012	Revised	Treasurer	
22 November 2012	Approved	Board of Directors	
23 August 2014	Revised	Chair	
2 September 2014	Approved	Board of Directors	