

Rules & Regulations for the Irish Agility Team for European Open Championships 2020

1. There will be no win on spots available
2. You must notify Dawn Greer in writing of your intention to try out for selection to the Irish EO 2020 team by the 31st August 2019
3. A minimum of 25 points gained at Irish Kennel Club Licensed shows held from 01/05/19 to 30/04/20 is required for selection to the team, unless invited by the management team.
4. The points system as issued on 9th April 2019 is as follows:
Only Clear Rounds at Irish Kennel Club Licensed shows can be used for point accumulation

1 st place	-	5 points
2 nd place	-	4 points
3 rd place	-	3 points
4 th place	-	2 points
Unplaced Clear Round - 1 point		
An Agility Judge at an Irish Kennel Club Licensed show - 2 points		
5. **Handlers must attend a minimum of 75% of Irish Kennel Club Licensed shows held between 01/05/19 to 30/04/20, there are a total of 14 shows within the specified date range.**
6. All dogs must be IKC/KC Grade 5 minimum on 01/07/20
7. There will be a selection day held on Sunday 13th October at Forest Farm in Athy. All partnerships wishing to be considered for selection **must** attend the selection day.
8. The selection day is open to ALL Partnerships
9. The Selection day will consist of 1 Agility and 1 Jumping round of previous courses set by two of the EO 2020 judges.
10. The management team will select an EO 2020 Pre Selection Squad from the entrants at the Selection Day. This Squad will also include partnerships we deem suitable for development.
11. **The final team that will represent Ireland at EO 2020 will be selected from the Pre Selection Squad. This will be announced on 01/05/20. ONLY partnerships that have met the selection criteria will be considered.**
12. Any dog deemed to have an unsuitable temperament by the team management will not be selected as part of the team.
13. There will be compulsory training days held in Athy from January 2020 until July 2020 that all squad members must attend. These will be scheduled for a minimum of one every 6 weeks and a maximum of 1 a month. The training dates will be issued within 2 weeks following the selection day.
14. All team members must have read and understood FCI Regulations and the specific EO Regulations, under which the EO is held, prior to the event.
15. Team members will be required to be present at the event from Wednesday 29th July 2020 until **after** the closing ceremony on Sunday 2nd August 2020.
16. It is expected that all squad members will show good sportsmanship towards their fellow squad members, sponsors and management team at all times. Posting on Social Media about the squad or team will be strictly forbidden unless it is a post of congratulations or thanks. All team posts will be done by the management team only.

17. At the EO's it is expected, where possible, that team members will be at the ringside to support other team members when they are competing.
18. Team shirts will be selected by the management team and must be worn by all team members for opening and closing ceremony and for all runs at the competition (or a green Irish t-shirt).
19. Team members are fully liable for all their own costs for EO, including travel, accommodation, training, team clothing, entry fees, veterinary fees and any other associated costs.
20. **ALL** Squad members must assist with fund raising for the team. It is not permitted to fundraise for individual gain and all proceeds must go into the team fund. This fund will be used to pay all entry fees first and foremost and all remaining funds will be split evenly between team members.
21. Any team member that withdraws from the team after the entry fees have been paid will be liable for their own entry fee and must refund the amount to the team.
22. The management reserve the right to remove a partnership from the team if they breach any of the rules or regulations.

Regulations for EO 2020 (Subject to final issue)

EO 2020 will be held at Rutland Showground, Burley Park Way, Oakham, LE15 6US from Thursday 30th July to Sunday August 2nd 2020

General

The European Open 2020 is an Agility competition which is officially recognised by the FCI and is based on the **FCI-Agility Regulations of 2018**. The competition is OPEN to all dogs, with or without pedigree. All National Member Organisations of the FCI or National Organisations with a close relationship to the FCI are invited to participate in this event. For organisational purposes the number of competitors has to be limited to approximately 750 dogs. Of these a maximum of 50% may be in the category "Large".

All competitors have to be citizens of the country which they represent, or they must have their main residence there. For all participating dogs a record book or a license has to be presented, issued by the sending National Member Organisation of the FCI or a National Organisation with a close relationship to the FCI.

All dogs must be 24 months or older on the day of the competition.

Each handler is allowed to compete with max. 4 dogs.

All participating countries will receive an **allocation of 32 dogs (with a maximum of 16 in Large)**. The Netherlands as organizing country receives a higher allocation (60 dogs, with a maximum of 30 in Large). All these allocations are valid for both the Team and the Individual Event. The EO-winners 2019 in Individual are automatically qualified without imposing on their country's number allocation.

Each National Organisation has the right to nominate competitors to the extent of the available allocation and to send the entries to the organiser **at the latest by May 31st, 2020**. A list of reserve dogs and handlers may be attached to the entries. The reserve may take the place of an original entry, should the original competitor have to scratch. If countries choose to have a selection process, this must be OPEN to all dogs (with or without pedigree).

All entries have to be sent in by the respective National Organisation or an appointed Team Leader. Any and all communication between the organisers and the countries will be done through the Team Leaders. The direct sending of entries to the organiser by single competitors is not possible.

Countries in which the national qualifying results will only be available after the closing date, have to let the organisers know before May 31st, how many entries they intend to send. In these cases no late additional entries can be added. A complete list of all competitors needs to be handed in by latest June 15th 2020.

All S- and M-dogs which were not yet measured at previous FCI World Championships or European Open will be measured at the EO 2020 to check the correct entry category.

Qualification for the team event

The qualification for the Team Event is held in the categories **Large, Medium** and **Small**.

Teams in all height categories consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4 handler and dog teams.

Mixed Country Teams may also compete (one Team composed of members from different countries).

In the Team Event one Agility round and one Jumping round will be run as qualification for the EO Team Final.

For each round competitors will be ranked according to faults and time. The first placed handler and dog will receive points according to the number of competitors in that round (= number of Teams x 4), the second placed handler and dog team will receive one point less, the third placed team 2 points less and so on. A disqualification receives 0 points.

The points of the 3 best runs of each Team will count towards the Team result for both rounds (= sum of points received). **The 20 Teams with the highest point score after both rounds in the category Large and the 12 Teams with the highest point score after both rounds in the categories Medium and Small will be qualified for the EO Team Final.** In the case of a tie, the points of the 4th Team member will be taken into consideration. In case of a further tie the highest individual score of a team member will count.

Qualification for the Individual event

The qualification for the Individual Event takes place is held in the categories **Large, Medium and Small.**

In the Individual qualification an Agility round and a Jumping round is run in all 3 height categories. Both rounds are scored separately for faults and time for all competitors.

In the category **Large** the **first 30 placed competitors** in both the Agility as well as the Jumping round will have qualified for the Final, in the categories **Small** and **Medium** each time **the first 18 placed competitors**. Where a team qualifies for the Final in both the Agility as well as the Jumping round, the worse of the 2 scores will be scratched and the next ranking team in that class will move up until all 60 places in Large and all 36 places in Small and in Medium have been filled for the Finals. In case of a double qualification with the same score in both rounds the Jumping result is scratched.

In addition, the competitors of every country will be ranked separately according to the total of faults and time of both runs in each height category. This ranking determines **the internal, country-specific selection order** for the EO final. If no team (handler + dog) of a country finished the qualification without elimination in one of the 2 runs, the lower number of faults in the other run decides. In the case of a tie (elimination in one run + same number of faults in the other run, no matter in which run the elimination happened) the better score in the overall result list of the run without elimination counts. In the case of a further tie the better Agility-run will break the tie, finally a draw will decide. A team with 2 eliminations will not qualify for the Final.

The **top team from a country** qualifies in each height category for the EO Final, as long as no dog from this country has already qualified directly for the EO Final as "Top 30" (L) resp. "Top 18" (S/M) in this height category. The qualification for the Final is not transferable to another team. Furthermore the EO Individual Winners of 2019 in all 3 height categories have qualified for the EO Finals of 2020, without imposing on their country's number allocation

European Open – Finals

All Finals of the European Open 2020 are held on August 2nd, 2020, first the EO Team Finals and then the EO Individual Finals.

The EO Team Final is a relay race where 4 separate courses are built in one (extended) Agility ring, partly using shared obstacles. The time is started when the dog of the 1st Team member passes his starting line and stopped when the dog of the 4th Team member passes his finish line. Eliminations of Team members are counted with 100 faults for the respective part, and the

time for the whole Team is in this case automatically the fixed maximum time. The 20 (Large) resp. 12 (Small and Medium) qualified Teams start in reverse order of the qualification score, so the best Team in the qualification will run last at the Final. All Teams have to start in the Final with all the team members who were running the qualification before. If a Team, which was running with only 3 members in the qualification, reaches the Final, one member of this Team has to run twice.

The winners of the Team Final will be the “**European Open – Team Champion 2020**” in the categories Large, Medium and Small.

The EO Individual Final is an Agility round at A3 level. The running order in the Individual Final is determined as follows:

- First the qualified teams from the country qualifiers.
They will start in reverse order of their time in the Individual Agility round. That is the fastest qualified team will run last, irrespective of the number of faults they had. Qualifiers to the Final without a valid time from the Individual Agility round will run first.
- The 60 (L) / 36 (M) / 36 (S) qualified teams from both Jumping and Agility in reverse order and alternating (i.e. second to last will be the winner of the Jumping round, and last the winner of the Agility round)
- The EO winner of the previous year will run last at the Final.

The winners of the Final will be the “**European Open – Individual Champion 2020**” in their respective height category.

Price Giving Ceremony

The prize giving for the **EO-Qualification runs** will be held on Aug 2nd 2020, after the completion of all individual qualification runs.

First the 3 top placed teams of the qualification for the Team Final in all categories (S, M and L) will be announced as “**1st/2nd/3rd of the EO-qualification for the Team Event 2020**” (without national anthems).

Then the 3 first places of both the Agility and the Jumping rounds in all categories (S, M and L) will be announced as “**1st/2nd/3rd of the EO-qualification for the Individual Event 2020**” (without national anthems).

The prize giving for the **EO-Finals** will be held on August 2nd, 2020, after the completion of all final runs.

First the top 3 placed Teams of the **EO-Team Finals** in all categories (S, M and L) will be announced, the anthem of the winning country will be played. Should the winner be a „Mixed Country Team“, the European Anthem will be played.

Thereafter the prize giving for the **EO-Individual Finals** will take place. The top 3 places of the Final round in all categories (S, M, L) will be announced, the national anthem of each winning country will be played.

Finally the EO-flag will be handed over to Portugal, the organising country for the following year.