



# Rules

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The official AWI World Championships will consist of the Open Overall Championship, which includes Freestyle and Toss and Catch, and Open Toss and Catch Championship. There will be a Freestyle Champion crowned only at the World Championship, based on the best 2 rounds of Freestyle for the day.

No cash awards are presented at the World Championships, only at qualifier events, including the last chance qualifier.

AWI qualifying events now include Freestyle Only Division which consists of 2 rounds of freestyle only. There will be no cut or run-off, just two rounds. This is not a qualifying event. Medals will be awarded to the top three competitors in this division.

The AWI International Qualifiers consist of the Open Overall Division that includes Freestyle and Toss and Catch as well as the AWI Open Toss and Catch Division. Recreational Freestyle and Recreational Toss and Catch Divisions can be added if the Host chooses to do so. The local clubs running the qualifying events may run additional divisions at their discretion.

The AWI does not guarantee continuity of divisions at every competition.

Please contact the hosting club to see whether additional divisions will be offered, and check [www.ashley-whippet.com](http://www.ashley-whippet.com) often for more updates as they become available.

## REGISTRATION RULES

The times for registration opening and closing will be announced before the date of each event. Please arrive on time, or you will not be allowed to register and compete. **ONCE ON-SITE REGISTRATION IS CLOSED, NO MORE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

All competitors must sign the injury/illness waiver and full publicity release.

No substitutions of either canine or thrower will be allowed at the Ashley Whippet® Invitational once the injury/illness waiver has been signed.

Pre-registration may be offered at the discretion of the host.

AWI events will ALWAYS accept walk up registrations on the day of the event. Pre-registration, if available, is expected and preferred, of veteran teams. If an event host applies any ON-SITE late registration fees, please make it clear to everyone that these fees are not being assessed by AWI but by the event host.

**AWI STRONGLY PREFERS THAT ANY NEW COMERS TO THE SPORT NOT BE CHARGED ANY ON-SITE LATE REGISTRATION FEES.**

## QUALIFYING FOR THE AWI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The top 4 finishers at the AWI Open Qualifiers in the USA will receive an invitation to the Ashley Whippet Invitational World Championship.

The top 5 finishers at all International AWI Open Qualifiers will receive an invitation to the Ashley Whippet Invitational World Championships.

The winner of the previous year AWI World Championship in both Open Overall and Toss and Catch are automatically invited back for the next year World Championship.

The rules described herein will apply equally to both the World Championship Series, and any US Qualifier Events. See Europe, Asia and other international websites for additional rules.

Competitors may qualify 4 canines for the AWI World Championship. Max. 2 dogs per handler can qualify for the AWI World Championship at one event in either Division of Open Overall or Toss and Catch. Competitors can enter with as many dogs as they want at one event.

In US Qualifiers, if a competitor places in the top four with more than two dogs in either division the top two placing dogs will be the ones to qualify.

To qualify to compete at the World Championships teams must have completed a minimum of 2 scored rounds.

If a team that is already qualified for the AWI World Championship plays at another Open Qualifier and places in the top four, that invitation will slide down one spot to the next eligible team. With four new teams invited from each qualifying event/division to the World Championships.

If a team qualifies but can not go to World Finals, the team can not be replaced by another qualifying team.

Qualified teams may win multiple event trophies but only one Qualifying medal.

## ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for the USA:

Open Overall ( Freestyle and Toss and Catch) : \$20

Open Toss and Catch : \$20

Event Freestyle: \$20

Recreational Freestyle : \$15

Recreational Toss and Catch : \$15

Entry fees for other countries:

What happens with the money?

For the USA:

From each entry fee of the Open Overall, \$10 from each team goes to the host and \$10 goes to AWI.

From each entry fee of the Open Toss and Catch, \$5 goes to the host, \$7 goes to the winner, and \$8 goes to AWI .

From each entry fee of the Event Freestyle, \$10 goes to the host and \$10 goes to AWI.

From each entry fee of the Recreational Freestyle class, \$5 from each competitor entry goes to the host and \$10 goes to AWI.

From each entry fee of the Recreational Toss and Catch class, \$5 from each competitor entry goes to the host and \$10 to the AWI.

The money that goes to the AWI in the USA is used for things like trophies, medals, shipping of discs to each event, and costs of running the World Championship (field fees, judges, trophies, insurance, PA system, bathroom facilities, etc.).

## GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

Disqualification will be at the sole discretion of the head judge. The following will be grounds for mandatory disqualification:

Abuse and endangerment of an animal

Female dogs in any stage of heat

Dogs under one year of age used in freestyle competition

Dogs under 18 month of age used in freestyle competition with high jumps, vaults etc.

Overly aggressive canine behavior

Dogs who are found not to be current on rabies vaccinations

Boisterous challenges of contest officials, abusive language or other inappropriate or unsportsman-like behavior could result in the competitor's disqualification from the event.

Competitors are responsible for the safety and welfare of their dogs at all Ashley Whippet® Invitational events. Competing canines should be properly supervised and must be under the care and control of their handler at all times. Failure to do so could result in the disqualification of that team.

Any other violations of these rules may result in disqualification at the discretion of the head judge.

## DOGS ALLOWED IN COMPETITION

Any physically sound dog may compete in the AWI World Championship Series, subject to the restrictions described below:

Due to the risk of injury because of underdeveloped anatomy, dogs must be at least one year old to be eligible to compete in the AWI World Championship Series Open Division. Dogs under one year of age may compete in the AWI Toss and Catch World Championship and any Toss and Catch division run at any Open Qualifier. The AWI realizes that it is difficult to determine the age of some rescue dogs, and does not want to bar any dogs from competition. The AWI requests that handlers use their best judgment in entering dogs of uncertain age, not vault dogs under the age of eighteen months ( if so the AWI will disqualify the handler for lifetime from playing any AWI event), and above all BE SAFE.

Dogs in any stage of heat are not allowed at the competition site.

All dogs must have current Rabies vaccinations. Vaccinations for Parvovirus and Kennel Cough are strongly recommended.

## DISCS ALLOWED IN COMPETITION

The following discs are allowed for competition at all AWI competitions:

All Hero Disc USA dog style models (includes size 235, 215 and the Atom 185)

All Wham-O fastback models (includes Eurablend)

All Hyperlite disc models (Jawz are allowed)

All Dogstar disc models

All mamadisc models

All Trixie disc models

Any dog friendly "pup" (smaller diameter) disc will be allowed. If a competitor chooses to use a smaller diameter disc for the freestyle round(s) the competitor may choose to use a larger disc to use for the Toss and Catch round. Any special disc requests to accommodate special needs dogs should be made to the AWI Tournament Director and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Any dog-friendly disc not mentioned on this list will be subject to the approval of the AWI Tournament Director or head judge at events with no AWI official around.

## SCORING STRUCTURE

At the World Championship, all Open Overall teams will complete one round of Freestyle and one round of Toss and Catch. These two scores will be added together and the field will be cut to the top 15 teams AFTER any ties have been broken. (Second-round cuts are made at the discretion of the Tournament Director and may be greater than 15 if time and other considerations permit.) These 15 teams from Open Overall Division will then run one more round of Freestyle. At the World Championships all Toss and Catch teams will run 2 rounds, then cut to the top 15 for one more round to determine Champion. If there is a tie for 1st place, a throw off will determine the Champion.

The Qualifier events may run differently depending on time constraints and number of volunteers. These changes can be made at the discretion of the hosting club, head judge, and/or tournament director, but will be announced before the event when possible, but can also be announced before a divisional round starts, if dangerous weather arrives. However, in order to qualify for the World Championships, teams must complete a minimum of 2 rounds in open overall, or a minimum of 2 rounds in open toss and catch, depending on the division.

AWI qualifying events now include Freestyle Only Division which consists of 2 rounds of freestyle only. There will be no cut or run-off, just two rounds. This is not a qualifying event. Medals will be awarded to the top three competitors in this division.

The US Qualifiers include a Recreational Freestyle class with only one round of Freestyle and a Recreational Toss and Catch class with only one round of Toss and Catch. If more playing time is desired, any competitors can enter the upper divisions.

## APPLICABILITY OF SCORING SYSTEM

The Freestyle and Toss and Catch rules and scoring described herein will be used for the AWI World Championship, and at the Open Qualifiers. Rules for any additional divisions run at the discretion of the hosting club will be determined by the hosting club.

### TIEBREAKERS

For the Open / Freestyle Divisions, the following scores from the FIRST round of freestyle will be used to break any ties in the order given below:

Catch ratio

Team score

Dog score

Human score

Overall score

For the Toss and Catch Divisions the following Tiebreakers rules will be used:

Highest scoring single round

Fewest throws to accomplish highest round

One throw sudden death

## INTERRUPTIONS

If, during the Freestyle routine or the Toss and Catch round, there is an unexpected interruption on the field, such as a loose dog, or debris on the field, time will stop at signal from the head judge, and the player will have one of three choices:

Resume where they left off in the routine, once the field is cleared

Start over right away after the field is cleared

Re-do their routine after all remaining teams have finished that round of freestyle

## NATURE BREAKS

Canine handlers are REQUIRED to clean up if their dog takes a nature break. In consideration of other competitors, and the health and welfare of all competing animals, all competitors must take their competing canine for a nature break before they are called to go on deck. If a nature break takes place while a dog is on the competition field, time will continue to run and the competitor must continue their routine. An appropriate amount of time will be allowed to clean the affected area after time has expired.

## MISCELLANEOUS RULES

All participants should attend the players' meeting before the competition.

Only the competing canine, thrower, officials, and field staff are allowed on the field during competition.

No food or treats are allowed on the competition field at any time.

Teams may not bring items other than discs used for competition and their dogs onto the field of play.

Dogs may wear standard collars on the competition field for the purpose of leash attachment.

No shock, pinch, or other types of training collars are permitted on the competition field.

Competitors must walk their canines on a leash to the on-deck area and when exiting the field of play.

Canines must be KEPT ON A LEASH at all times, except when competing.

Any activity that could be considered distracting should be conducted out of range of the competition so competitors are not distracted.

DISCLAIMER: AT ALL LEVELS OF COMPETITION, OFFICIALS OF THE ASHLEY WHIPPET® INVITATIONAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE FORMAT, COMPETITION RULES, TIME ALLOTMENTS, ETC., AT THEIR DISCRETION TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS AND ENSURE THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF THE EVENT.

