



2026 Fitpaws World Agility Open Selection - Australian Team

Thank you for your interest in the 2026 WAO Team Australia. Successful applicants will be representing Australia in Ermelo, Netherlands.

The following is the selection process for consideration to be a member of the team to represent Australia at the 2026 WAO.

If you have any questions, please contact Mcandrewmurphy@gmail.com. For more information regarding the WAO 2026 please go to <http://www.worldagilityopen.com/index.html>

Where

KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands. www.knhs.nl

When

12th to 17th May 2026

About the Team

The Australian team will consist of 1 to 15 adult handlers and 0 to 5 junior handlers, competing with borrowed dogs (subject to availability of dogs). There will be a maximum of three dogs in each of the five jump heights for adults and a maximum of one dog in each of the five \\ jump heights for juniors.

Jumping Heights

JUMP HEIGHT	ADULT HANDLERS (max)	JUNIOR HANDLERS (max)
250	3	1
300	3	1
400	3	1
500	3	1
600	3	1

Team Requirements

To apply for a place on the 2026 WAO Team Australia, you must meet the following requirements

- Team members must have resided in Australia for at least one year prior to the event (must be Australian residents) and have a current passport (with at least 6 months before expiry)
- Overseas applicants must comply with WAO Rule 1.7.2.



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- *At the time of team selection, handlers must be a citizen of the country they represent, or have a birth certificate from that country, have parents or grandparents born in that country or have permanent resident status.*
- *Note that a permanent resident who competes as a representative for their country of residency will be ineligible to compete for their country of citizenship for a period of 3 (three) years following the WAO competition in which they participated, and vice versa. If, however, there has been a significant change in residency and it is no longer feasible for the individual to compete in agility events on a regular basis for the country he or she formerly represented at the WAO (e.g., it's too far to travel), the handler may apply to the WAO Organising Committee for an exception to this rule. The WAO will have the final decision in determining the residential status of the handler with regard to entry.*
- Overseas applicants are not eligible to participate in the Win on Selection process, however, will be considered for the 2nd or 3rd positions from their application information.
- Team members must be available to travel to Europe at least one week prior to the WAO competition dates to allow time to train with their substitute dog(s);
- Team members will actively participate in fundraising efforts and will either raise the minimum goal or supplement the amount from their own funds;
- Team members, including overseas team members (If selected) will have the option to self-fund and be responsible for all associated team and individual expenses.
- Adult team members must be 19 or over. Junior team members must be born on or after 1 May 2007. Junior handlers younger 18 years must be accompanied by a parent at the parent's expense;
- In addition, all handlers will be expected to sign and comply with the team contract including the code of conduct for Team and comply with all WAO rules, procedures and conduct.
- Dogs sourced from the outside of the Netherlands must be eligible to travel under the laws/regulations of the European Union.
<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad>
- All dogs are required to be microchipped and have an official Pet Passport for the event.



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NB: It is mandatory for all team members to arrive at the hotel (TBA) in the Netherlands by Monday, 11th May 2026 in time for an early evening team meeting. Unofficial training could be on the Monday however so arrival time may change pending notice of the teams training allocation.

Team Selection Process

Up to three adult handlers and one junior handler positions per height division will be available to the team depending on dogs put forward by other countries for handlers to compete with.

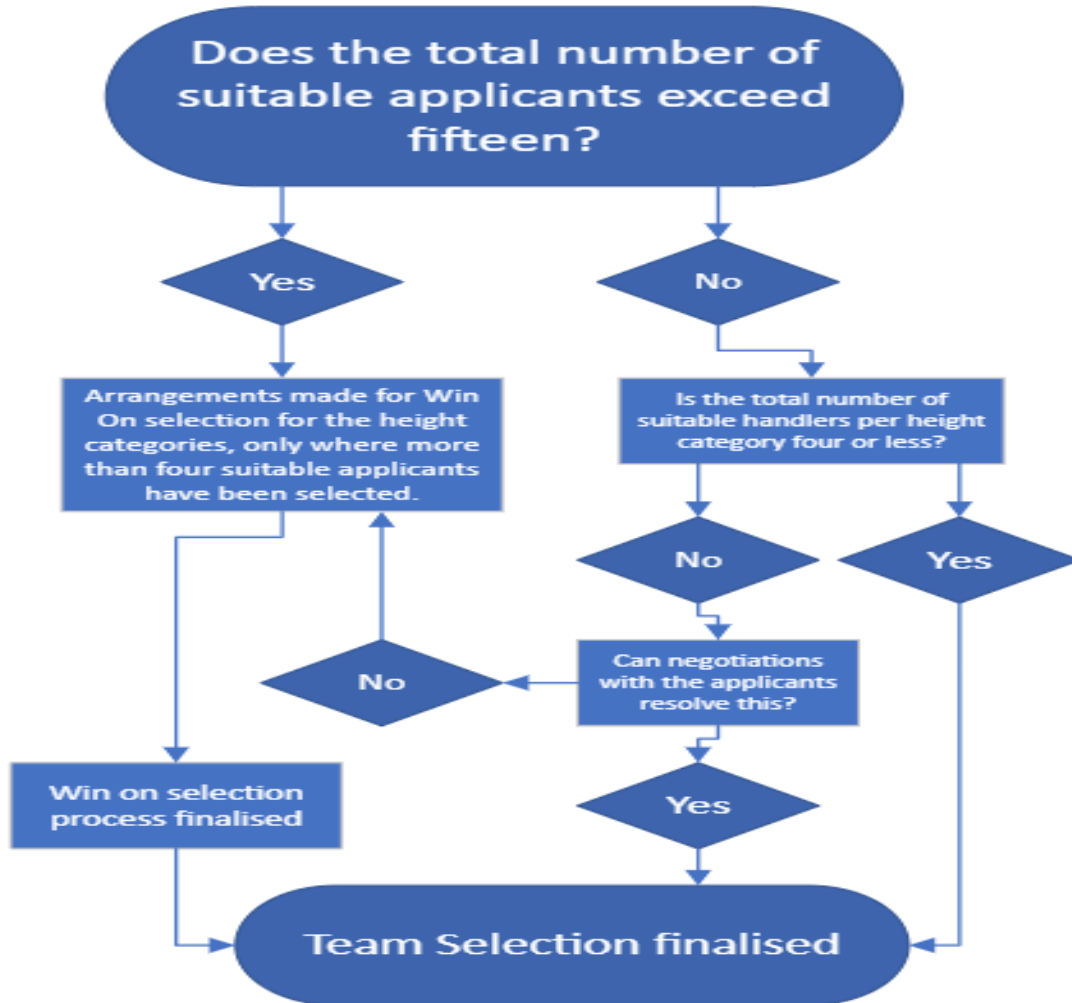
Adult Handler Selection:

With a view to filling a whole adult team of fifteen, the selection for the team will initially be based on written Applications (see Application process below).

If the total number of suitable applicants falls short of filling a whole team then the selection process is finalised, and the team notified. If the total number of suitable Applicants exceeds fifteen or exceeds the maximum number of handlers for a specific height category the flowchart depicts the process for selection onto the Australian Team WAO 2026.



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Junior Handler Selection:

Junior handler selection will only use the 'Application Selection Process' (below). During the Event, junior handlers will be included as if a normal adult competitor. This means they will be walking courses with around 100 adult competitors and running within the event, with all other competitors. This added to the pressure of competing on the world stage requires each junior have a strong support crew during the event. As such the selection committee will also take into account the support each junior handler will be given during the event. Please ensure that as much information as possible is provided to the selection committee, to ensure an informed decision can be made.



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Application Selection Process

The Australia Team Selection Committee (to be announced) will be responsible for assessing each individual Application. Criteria for selecting the positions will include video footage of handling abilities, results of major trial events over the last five years, demonstration of skill when handling someone else's dog, other major achievements in agility and any other relevant information included with the application. An individual can only apply for ONE position in a height category.

All handlers applying for a position are required to submit two videos of them competing. These videos should be a minimum standard of Masters (ANKC), Advanced (ADAA) or any international event (previous WAO or WAC events), showcasing one jumping class and one agility class within the last five years. Videos are to be loaded onto the Internet with links to view the clips included in their application. It is recommended that video's selected best demonstrate your handling abilities. Please note that selection will be based on handling abilities not handling systems or methods used.

Your application should include results from the following ANKC and/or ADAA events – Grand Prix / National Agility Trial or State Agility Trial / Royal Show or International Event.

All Applications are to be emailed to Mcandrewmurphy@gmail.com before 4.00pm on 28th October 2025. Late applications may be considered should any positions on the team not be filled up to 10th January 2026.

Team Members will be announced shortly after each selection date has passed.

Win on Process (If required)

Should the Win On process be required due to the number of applications received, applicants will be notified by the 11th November 2025 of the requirement for them to participate in this process.

Try Outs will be held at a suitable location relative to each applicant i.e. An applicant from Perth would be required to attend a venue in Perth to complete a standard jumping and agility course. Alternatively, an applicant from Melbourne would be required to attend a venue in Melbourne to complete the courses. The applicant/s would be responsible to organise the venue and equipment for this process.



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The selection committee will make arrangements for a judge or nominated person, local to the venue, to oversee the putting down of the course. A single agility and a single jumping course of international design will be sent electronically to this nominated person. All applicants will get one attempt to run each course; their runs will be videoed and forwarded to the Selection Committee for final selection of the team. Scoring for each class will be as per WAO Rules & Regulations using the pentathlon scoring system.

The top applicant/s for each respective height category from across the different venues will automatically be offered a spot on the team. If dogs are tied on points, the results from the first agility class will be used to decide top place. If they do not meet the requirements or decline the invitation, the dog with the second highest score in that height will be invited to fill that position, followed by the next highest scoring dog in that height etc.

The selection committee will determine the second and third positions using the information contained in the application and the results of the Win On trials.

All dogs competing in Win On selection trial must be over 18 months of age.

The selected applicants will be offered the opportunity to compete in both the individual Pentathlon and Biathlon WAO events. The team manager will be responsible for selecting the members for the team event.

There is no win on selection for junior handler positions, these positions are by the Application Selection Process only.

Other Important Team Information

Funding

The trip is self-funded. Team members are responsible to pay for their share of expenses including (but not limited to) flight, host dog vet fees, hotel, car hire, event fee, uniform and team operating expenses.

The WAO Selection Committee will assist the team members with ideas for fundraising and sponsorship.



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Estimated budget

Flight -	\$3500
Host Dog Vet fees -	\$300 to \$700
Accommodation -	\$1200
Uniform -	\$500
Hire Car -	\$700
Team Operating Expenses -	\$700
Event fee -	\$600 per dog
Travel insurance	\$500
Approx. cost of trip – (not including food)	\$8400

Up Front Costs (If requested)

Invited team members must submit a \$800 deposit (if requested) to secure their position on the team. This money will be put toward entry fees, accommodation, hire cars and uniform. There may be expenses where you will be required to use your credit card. **Due 13th January 2026**

Handlers Responsibilities

Each handler is responsible to arrange/organise the following (at a minimum):-

- International travel from Australia to the host dog's country
- Travel from the host dog's country to Ermelo, Netherlands
- All their own airport transfers
- Travel from airports to the host dogs place of residence
- Travel from the WAO accommodation to the WAO venue at Ermelo
- Participate in the WAO Facebook group where the bulk of Team information will be provided.

Every effort will be made to assist handlers with travel arrangements; requests for assistance can be made either on the WAO Facebook group or Mcandrewmurphy@gmail.com

Person's travelling should also consider -

- Travel restrictions, health and lockdowns due to any pandemic
- The Ukraine Conflict

Further information can be found on <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au>

Host Dogs

Team members are encouraged to attempt to source their own host dog for the event to ensure they have an animal to run. If you are unable to source your own dog, every effort will be made to source dogs from within the United



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Kingdom or Europe for the Australian Team. Any costs associated with the care and travel of the host dog (and possibly owner) will lie with the individual handler.

Additional information will be provided to any applicant or potential applicant and interested persons should read the frequently asked questions document.



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Application Form

Form is available online:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZ40ZLaB4-pZfP9NpTR4n4jON6wTvt_H_zF16mOeGldwrgSQ/viewform

Name: (as on passport)

Date of Birth:

Passport Number:

Address:

City:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Oversea mobile (if available)

Applying as Junior Handler Yes / No

Emergency Next of Kin Information

Name:

Relationship to Applicant:

Address:

City:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Junior handler Support Crew

Please list the support that will be provided to the junior handler during the event.

Host Dog Information (If available)

Owner's name if different from handler:

Owner Address

Mobile

Dog's Registered Name

Call Name

Postal Code:

Date of Birth

Height at Shoulder



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Height category I am applying for (please tick height you wish to compete at)

- ☐ Dog jump height 250mm
- ☐ Dog jump height 300mm
- ☐ Dog jump height 400mm
- ☐ Dog jump height 500mm
- ☐ Dog jump height 600mm

Supporting evidence of ability

List titles earned (from any agility organisation)

List any international competition you have competed in and results?

List recent national competition you have competed at and at what level?

As a Team Member, what do you bring to Team Australia?

Please list You Tube links where videos can be viewed

Any additional information relevant to your application?

Please complete the below sections with your qualifying achievements in Masters (ANKC) or Advance (ADAA)

EVENT	CLASS	DATE	PLACING
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About the event:

The World Agility Open Championships (WAO) is an annual international event designed to provide the ultimate in dog agility competition. Showcase the highest level of agility training, human/canine partnership, and athleticism. Enable all dogs, whether pedigreed or not, to compete in an environment that is solely focused on the sport of agility.

The WAO strives to provide jump height divisions where similar types of dogs compete against one another, an excellent competition surface and environment, and several varieties of contests with maximum runs to adequately test teams for all the skill sets necessary to be the best in dog agility.

The WAO is the first international agility event created by agility competitors (Greg Derrett and Monica Percival). It is not run under the auspices of any agility organisation.

The official language of the WAO is English.

More information about the World Agility Open Championships can be found at www.worldagilityopen.com

For more information or to submit your application please email Mcandrewmurphy@gmail.com