
WAO Qualification Denmark

WAO (World Agility Open Championships) will be held 13-17th May 2026 at KNHS Ermelo, The Netherlands.

GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

- The Danish tryouts will take place on 14 February 2026 at Trøstruplundvej 10, 5210 Odense NV. The surface is similar to the WAO surface in Ermelo. At the end of the tryout day, participants will know who is selected for the Danish team.
- The Danish tryouts are open to anyone as long as you are a Danish citizen, have a Danish birth certificate, have parents or grandparents born in Denmark, or have permanent resident status in Denmark at the time of the tryouts.
- The Danish tryouts are open to any dog aged 18 months or more, meaning you can participate regardless of the grade you compete in. Bitches in season may compete at the event. Dogs that are sick, injured, pregnant, or blind are not eligible. The tryouts are open for all dogs, with or without a pedigree.
- A participant consists of one handler and one dog, and they must remain the same for all runs during the tryout. They must also be the same at the WAO event.
- The dog must run a minimum of 4.3 m/s during the tryouts – only completed (i.e. not disqualified) runs count towards this requirement. Junior handles are exempt from this requirement.
- The costs for entry, travel, accommodation, team clothing, team training and all other costs for participating in the WAO event will be borne by the participants. The team management will make every effort, together with the team members, to find sponsors to reduce the costs. The income will first cover the costs of transportation, accommodation, and clothing for the Danish team managers; any remaining income will help cover costs for the Danish team participants. Management must – upon request – share an overview of income and expenses with the team.
- As we are trying to find sponsors to reduce participants' costs for the event (including clothing, etc.), advertising for personal sponsors during WAO is not permitted unless they sponsor the entire team.
- All participants are required to be in Ermelo, The Netherlands by 11th May 2026 (specific time will be dependent on official check-in and training time of Team Denmark. Participants are expected to take part in all parts of the event, from check-in and opening to the closing ceremony.
- All countries are required to provide helpers at WAO due to event regulations. If you do not volunteer to help as requested by the team management, the team will be charged a "no-show" fee set by the WAO organization, which the team managers may impose on those participants who have not signed up as helpers.
- Team Denmark can assist with accommodation for those who are interested, but participants may also choose to book their own accommodation. This includes the option of camping at the WAO venue, staying at other hotels, or choosing other suitable accommodation.

- There will be two days on which the team is required to get together for dinner during the WAO – on Monday and Friday. Any meals are self-funded. There may be other occasions where team members are required to participate in joint team meetings – such are expected to be held every day.
- It is the participants' responsibility to ensure that all dogs applying comply with the Pets Travel Scheme (PETS) to allow travel to and from the Netherlands. Information about each country's travel scheme can be obtained from local vets or the relevant country's embassy homepage. More information can be found on: <https://foedevarestyrelsen.dk/dyr/om-dyr-og-kaeledyr-til-private/alt-om-kaeledyr/rejse-med-kaeledyr>
- The participants are expected to familiarize themselves with the WAO rules and regulations, which can be found at: <https://worldagilityopen.com/about/rules-regulations>
- The tryouts will consist of 3–4 runs, of which at least 2 will be agility runs.

The categories and jump heights differ from the Danish and FCI regulations. Below you will find an explanatory table:

The WAO will adhere to the following jump heights for all events:

JUMP HEIGHT NAME	DOG HEIGHT AT WITHERS	JUMP HEIGHT	A-FRAME HEIGHT	ASCENDING SPREAD LENGTH *	LONG JUMP LENGTH	TYRE HEIGHT AT CENTER
250	320mm & under	250mm	1.7m	215-235mm	500mm 2 boards	400mm
300	380mm & under	300mm	1.7m	260-280mm	600mm 2 boards	450mm
400	440mm & under	400mm	1.7m	350-370mm	800mm 3 boards	550mm
500	500mm & under	500mm	1.7m	440-460mm	1000mm 4 boards	650mm
600	Over 500mm	600mm	1.7m	530-550mm	1200mm 5 boards	750mm

If you do not have an official WAO height measurement for your dog, the dog will have to be measured before the tryouts. All dogs will also be measured at the WAO during check-in.

SENIOR HANDLERS

Team Denmark will send 4 participants per size category. The qualification for the Danish WAO team will consist of 3–4 runs, of which at least two will be agility runs. The qualification is based on a point score system in which all runs count. The 4 participants with the lowest total point score in each size category will be offered a spot on the Danish WAO team. If one of the top 4 chooses not to participate, the spot will be offered to the 5th, and so on.

- 1st place in each size category will be offered to represent Team Denmark in Biathlon, Pentathlon, and Games (165 EUR – 2025 prices, there may be an increase in 2026).
- 2nd place in each size category will be offered to represent Team Denmark in Biathlon, Pentathlon, and 2 team runs
- 3rd place in each size category will be offered to represent Team Denmark in Pentathlon and Games
- 4th place in each size category will be offered to represent Team Denmark in Biathlon, Games, and 2 team runs

If we don't have 4 participants in each size category with scored points from completed runs, then a re-run will be offered at the end of the day for the remaining participants to determine who will get the remaining spot(s) for Team Denmark. This run will be an agility run, and its result (and this run only) will determine who gets the remaining spot(s).

The results of the individual runs, as well as the overall results from the tryouts will be published on the tryout day itself.

Participants are permitted to swap events among themselves but must inform team management about any swaps. Once the entries have been sent to WAO, it is no longer possible to swap events.

If reserve participants are appointed and utilized, positions will move up unless the participants wish to retain their original placement.

Who will run which of the team runs will be decided by the team participants in collaboration with the team managers. This also includes the team relay run, if applicable. If no agreement can be reached, the team management ultimately decides who runs which team runs.

Traveling reserves may be appointed from additional dogs of already participating handlers that did not directly qualify/participate in the tryouts. This is only relevant if, in that size category, there were not enough participants during the tryouts to fill all the reserve spots. Participants who took part in the tryouts will always have priority for the reserve spots.

JUNIOR HANDLERS

Team Denmark will aim at sending 1 junior handler per size category, provided that they fulfill the qualification requirements, and there are enough junior handlers present at the tryouts. The tryouts for juniors will be the same as those for senior handlers (they will run the same courses). The junior handler with the lowest total points (based on the requirements above) in each size category will be offered a spot on the Danish WAO team. If the top-placed junior handler chooses not to participate, the spot will be offered to the 2nd best, and so on, as long as they fulfill the requirements. The qualified participant in each size category will represent Team Denmark in the Junior Championship (Games, Biathlon, and Pentathlon). (100 EUR – 2025 price, price may increase in 2026).

Junior handlers must be born on or after 1st May 2007.

POINT COLLECTION

The runs at the tryouts will be scored according to Pentathlon rules.

Course faults will be converted to time; for example, a 5-fault penalty will result in 5 seconds being added to a dog's time in any tryout class. For instance, a dog that has a clear round in 28 seconds in the Jumping round and incurs 5 faults with a time of 32 seconds in the Agility 1 round will have a total point score of 65 (28 seconds + 32 seconds + 5 faults = 65), thereby beating a dog that is clear in both runs but with times of 32 seconds and 34 seconds, resulting in a total point score of 66 (32 seconds + 34 seconds = 66). An elimination in any class is scored as 50 faults, and dogs that are eliminated will be assigned a course time of 50 seconds, regardless of the standard course time. The maximum course faults a dog can accumulate is 50, whether by elimination or by other combined course faults. The maximum total point score that can be accumulated in a single class is 100; any dog scoring over this will have its score changed to an elimination. Time faults will be treated the same as course faults. For example, if the course time is 50 seconds and a dog runs clear in 51.123 seconds, its point score will be 52.246 (51.123 seconds + 1.123 time faults = 52.246).

The participant with the fewest points at the end of the tryouts will be the winner. In the event of a tie, agility runs will be weighted more heavily than jumping runs.

ADDITIONAL POINTS

- Team managers and assistants are elected every 3rd year. If you wish to put your name forward for the position of team manager and/or assistant, you must provide your set of qualification rules and guidelines before the election.
- An evaluation will be held after each WAO with the aim of making the tryouts and the event itself an even better experience for the participants.
- The team management will do their best to organize a training day before WAO. Participation is voluntary, but we strongly encourage participants to take part on this day.