

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE NATIONAL TEAM FOR WAO 2026

The national team for the WAO 2026 will be selected during the National Finals, which will take place in Cattolica (RN) from December 5th to 8th, 2025.

This event has been designed to fulfill two distinct goals, each with different requirements, within a single competition.

The first goal is to award the national titles established by the CSEN Agility regulations and the agreement with FIDASC:

- CSEN Italian Agility Champion – Senior Pentathlon Winner
- CSEN Italian Agility Promise – Junior Pentathlon Winner
- CSEN Italian Games Champion – Senior Games Winner
- CSEN Italian Games Promise – Junior Games Winner
- Italian Under-14 Agility Champion – Under14 Junior Biathlon Winner
- Italian Under-18 Agility Champion – Under18 Junior Biathlon Winner
- FIDASC-CONI Absolute Italian Agility Champion – Winner of the FIDASC Competition

These titles will be awarded exclusively based on the performance during the finals. The winner of each height category (250, 300, 400, 500, and 600) and class (Junior or Senior) will earn the corresponding title.

For further details, refer to the official CSEN Agility Regulation available on the Csen Cinofilia section's website.

The second goal is to form the national team that will represent Italy at the WAO 2026 World Championship.

The event will include all the individual specialties that handlers will face at WAO 2026: Biathlon, Pentathlon, and Agility Games.

The national team members will be selected based on the Senior Finals of the CSEN Agility and Agility Games Championship, as well as the FIDASC-CONI Absolute Italian Championship rounds.

Since the FIDASC-CONI Absolute Championship is an OPEN competition (both Juniors and Seniors compete together), Junior athletes may also earn a spot on the national team.

At the time of team selection, handlers must be Italian citizen, or have an Italian birth certificate, have parents or grandparents born in Italy or have Italian permanent resident status.

Composition of the Italian National Team for WAO 2026

The team representing Italy at WAO 2026 in the Netherlands will be composed of the following athletes per height category, in the order listed below:

- First place finishers in the CSEN Agility Games ranking per height category
- First place finishers in the FIDASC-CONI Absolute Italian Championship Biathlon ranking per height category (if already selected via Games, the second-place athlete will be chosen)
- First place finishers in the CSEN Senior Pentathlon ranking per height category (if already selected for Biathlon or Games, the next eligible athlete will be chosen)
- One athlete selected by the team selector among the five CSEN Under-25 National Champions
- First place finishers in the Junior qualification ranking – details in the dedicated section below

Additional athletes at the Team Manager discretion, who may be Junior or Senior, regardless of results in the finals. At least five of these athletes will be selected among the FIDASC ELITE category.

The winners of the Biathlon and Pentathlon finals will compete at WAO in at least the event they won during the Finals.

Junior Team Selection Criteria for WAO 2026

UNDER18 athletes will receive points based on their placement in the CSEN Italian Championship ranking. The top-ranked athlete in each of the five height categories (250/300/400/500/600) will join the national team.

Each UNDER18 athlete may compete with only one dog on the national team. Therefore, the Junior team will consist of five handlers in total, one per height category. If a handler qualifies with multiple dogs, the selector will choose one dog at their discretion. According to WAO regulations, athletes born on or after May 1st, 2007 are eligible to compete in the WAO Junior Championship (UNDER18).

Once the team is formed, attendance at a mandatory team training session (stage) will be required.
Failure to attend may result in replacement.