
Selection document World Agility Open 2026

INFORMATION ABOUT WAO 2026

The World Agility Open 2026 will take place in Ermelo (Netherlands), at the KNHS National Equestrian Center from May 13th to May 17th 2026.
Vet Check could be starting at Monday 11th of May.

Team manager: Wendy Willemse

Asst. team manager / coach: to be decided after qualification rounds

The WAO is an international event created and organized by agility competitors. It offers several competitions:

- BIATHLON (jumping + agility)
- PENTATHLON (2 jumpings + 2 agility + final speed event)
- TEAM PENTATHLON (2 jumpings + 2 agility + relay)
- GAMES (Snooker + Gamblers)

ELIGIBLE TO TRY OUT FOR TEAM NL

To be eligible to tryout for the Team NL WAO 2026 the combination (handler + dog) must need to have at least one run with a maximum of 1 fault in grade 3 with a minimum of 4,5 m/s, OR at least 2 clear rounds in grade 2 with a minimum of 4,8 m/s **in the last 12 months before entry closes.**

Exception to this rule are the members of the Team NL for WAO 2025, AWC 2025, EO 2025, JOAWC 2025.

- The tryout is open for all dogs, with or without pedigree.
- Dogs can't be trimmed or should have a veterinary testimonial.
- All dogs attending this event must have a WAO measure before they compete.
- All dogs must be in a good health on the qualification day as on the WAO. (On WAO there will be a veterinary check that will look at the height and health of your dog. When not approved you will not run)
- The tryouts will be judged as in the rules of the WAO.
- All members of the team are expected on the training.
- All combination are responsible for their own costs to compete at the WAO
- Handler: Must be a Dutch citizen or have a Dutch birth certificate, have parents or grandparents born in the Netherlands or have permanent resident status at the time of the Dutch Selection Weekends.
- Entry for try-outs will be done through the website www.wwindoor4all.nl

JUMP HEIGHT/DOG HEIGHT

There are five qualifying height divisions. Dogs may compete in a division larger than the actual dogs' height but cannot compete in a lower division. Example: A dog which measures 450mm may enter & compete in the 600 division but cannot compete in the 400 division.

An official measurement will be taken on the day at the WAO for all dogs applying for the 500 classes and lower, unless an official WAO measurement has already been taken for that dog.

You must compete in the tryout, in the correct WAO height category.

JUMP HEIGHT NAME	DOG HEIGHT AT WITHERS	JUMP HEIGHT
250	320mm & under	250mm
300	380mm & under	300mm
400	440mm & under	400mm
500	500mm & under	500mm
600	Over 500mm	600mm

TRY OUTS RULES

The national team will be divided in two parts.

1. Pentathlon & Biathlon Team (max of 120 teams)
2. Games Team (max of 80 teams)

Pentathlon, Biathlon & Team

The tryouts for Pentathlon & Biathlon will take place 20th and 21th of December 2025 and 17th of January 2026.

8 courses will be run:

20 th of December	21 th of December	17 th of January
1 x Agility	2 x Agility	1x Agility
2 x Jumping	1 x Jumping	1x Jumping

Rules of points awarding for Pentathlon & Biathlon try out WAO 2026:

The standard course time for each category is 115% of the fastest time, with a maximum of 1 fault

However there is always a minimum standard course time as listed below:

Category	Jumping	Agility
250	4,2 m/s	4 m/s
300	4,2 m/s	4 m/s
400	4,2 m/s	4 m/s
500	4,4 m/s	4,2 m/s
600	4,4 m/s	4,2 m/s

The results of individual runs will be evaluated according to the rules of Pentathlon, i.e. penalty points for course mistakes are added as penalty seconds to the time achieved.

Teams will gain points according to the table listed below:

Place	Number of points
1 st place	45
2 nd place	36
3 th place	28
4 th place	21
5 th place	15
6 th place	10
7 th place	6
8 th place	3
Run without course mistakes placed 9 th place	1

Points are awarded only to teams that have completed the course in the standard time. Teams that have a time error (exceeding the standard time) do not get points.

Regulations for nomination for WAO 2026 Pentathlon, Biathlon & Team

In each height category, three teams, who will have, after the end of the qualifiers, gained the most points and who will be meeting the conditions set by this conception, will be nominated for WAO.

They will be nominated according to the key below, where “yes” stands for qualifying for the individual competitions. In the event that a junior handler is placed among the first three teams, the team that placed fourth in the overall table will also be nominated. In each category, two substitutes (reserves) will be nominated who are not participating in the WAO, but can come in, if one of the nominated teams withdraws before the start of the WAO. In the case of a handler with multiple dogs being nominated, a higher number of reserves may be selected in a manner, that in the case of an injury of the handler, a complete team may be nominated (minimum of 3 per competition).

In case of equality of points, the higher number of points obtained in agility competitions is decisive. Another criterion is the number of runs completed. If there is still an equality of points, the implementation team will decide on the nomination.

Place	Pentathlon	Biathlon	Teams
1 st place	YES	YES	YES
2 nd place	YES	YES	Reserve Team
3 th place	YES	YES	

During the WAO the team Management can decide in consultation with the team to use the reserve Team for one of the team runs.

Games

The tryouts for Games will take place 18th of January 2026.

4 courses will be run:

18th of December

2 x Snooker

2 x Gambling

Teams will score points according the rules of snooker and gambling.

The best Snooker and best Gambling score will be counted together and get an accumulative scoring.

The teams with the highest scores will win the games tryout.

Regulations for nomination for WAO 2026 Games

In each height category, three teams, who will have, after the end of the qualifiers, gained the most points and who will be meeting the conditions set by this conception, will be nominated for WAO.

Team NL Junior Selection

For the 2025 World Agility Open

Any Junior handler who wishes to be selected for the Team must enter both the Dutch try-out weekends.

If they do not do this then they will not be selected for the team, regardless of the points they have occurred, unless no Juniors competed in the Selection weekends in their specific height.

If no Juniors try out in a height at the Dutch Selection weekends, Team Management have the right to select any Junior.

The Junior handlers who will represent the Netherlands will WIN their way on to the team. It will not be an opinion based selection unless no Juniors run at the Dutch try-out weekends.

To ensure a level of consistency, results will be taken from the following three events:

- The Dutch Selection days Pentathlon & Biathlon
- The Dutch Selection day Games

Junior Rankings Points to note. At these events the Juniors will be ranked using the scoring system used in the Junior Championship at WAO.

First place will equal 1 point, second place will equal 2 points, third place will equal 3 points, scoring down to last place. If the Junior ends up in a joint place, then they will get that number of points.

For example, if places go down to 14th in the pentathlon and all handlers below this have 5 eliminations, then any Junior Handler in that group would receive 15 points.

The points from the Overall Junior Event, the Overall Pentathlon & Biathlon and the Overall Games will then be combined and the Junior with the lowest points will be in first place and be offered the win on spot.

If there is a tie on points the Overall Pentathlon & Biathlon result will be used.

If there is still a tie the individual class results will be used to determine the winner in the following order: Pentathlon Agility, followed by Gamblers, followed by Pentathlon Jumping, followed by Snooker.

- The dog & handler with the lowest number of points in each height will be invited to represent Team NL at the WAO Championships.
- Handlers must be born on or after 1st May 2007.
- Results from the 4 days must be the same dog and handler combination.
- For Junior handlers to be considered for a WAO place they must have entered the Dutch Selection weekends.
- All Junior Handlers selected must have a parent/guardian available to accompany them to the WAO Event.

For more information <http://www.worldagilityopen.com>

Team NL code of conduct

Team NL's mission is to select a squad of handlers and dogs who will be competitive against the rest of the world, in all disciplines that the WAO offers.

All squad members, by entering the selection events and being selected, understand and agree to the following Team NL participation requirements:

- All squad members will support any fundraising/sponsorship requirements for Team NL.
- All squad members will participate in any team activities with integrity, honesty and good sportsmanship.
- All squad members will put their dog's needs ahead of their personal aspirations.
- All squad members will support, encourage & respect fellow team members and management before and during the WAO competition.

Team NL Management believe that you are proud to be trying out to represent the Netherland, whether this results in your selection or not. This should be reflected in your behaviour at all times. Any rule breaking, bad sportsmanship or any abuse to dogs, other competitors, management or show organisers/helpers either in person or on social media will result in disqualification from the try-outs and team and future selection events for WAO.

If a handler wins on with more than one dog, only two dogs will be guaranteed their places. The selection committee will discuss with the handler before a final decision is made.

Financial requirements:

By submitting the application, the handler undertakes to pay the entry fee to the WAO, possibly other fees determined by the organiser (e.g. penalty for non-participation in helping) and to pay all his travel and other expenses in case of nomination.

The sponsors may contribute an amount approved.

According to the capabilities of the sponsors, participants will be provided with representative clothing. In the event that there are no sponsor and so they cannot provide the clothing, the nominated handler undertakes to cover the cost of the representative jersey in the maximum amount of €100.

The expenses for entry for the WAO are for the handler, knowing:

Pentathlon & Biathlon : €150

Games: €40

Juniors: €100