



2026 World Agility Open Team New Zealand Selection Document



Thank you for your interest in joining Team New Zealand for the 2026 World Agility Open Championships that will be held May 13-17, 2026 at KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands. Official training will be held on May 12-13 and unofficial training is to be held on May 11-12.

To try out for Team New Zealand for this event, candidates will need to submit 2 videos (one agility and one jumping) to the team manager. Courses for submission will be selected and provided by team management. In the event that more than 3 dogs per height submit applications, priority will be given to applicants residing in New Zealand. If no such candidate exists or more than 3 dogs per height meet this criteria, yards per seconds will be calculated to make final team selection decisions.

Note: Due to travel and quarantine restrictions for New Zealand it may not be possible for a resident of New Zealand to compete with their own dog. Video submission must include the candidate with their own dog and the same courses run by the candidate's loaner dog and their owner. Team management is not responsible for finding loaner dogs.

Applications for Team New Zealand may only be submitted online. Please go to the following link:

[Application](#)

Team Selection – Summary

Spots per height will be selected as follows:

- Biathlon, Pentathlon and Games – Will be chosen by Team Management based on video submission.
- If there are more than 3 applicants per height, then priority will be given to applicants living in New Zealand followed by yards per second to award the win on spot

Dogs will need to be prepared to compete at their WAO height. The chart below lists the jump height and cutoffs:

WAO Jump Height in mm	WAO Jump Height in inches	WAO Dog's Height at Withers	UKI Jump height at which dog must compete at US Open
250	9.84	12.60 inches & under	8 inches
300	11.81	14.96 inches & under	12 inches
400	15.75	17.32 inches & under	16 inches
500	19.69	19.69 inches & under	20 inches
600	23.62	Over 19.69 inches	24 inches

Applications for Team New Zealand will be accepted via online application from Nov 15, 2025 through 11:59pm PST Jan 1, 2026. All video submissions will be due by Jan 15, 2026. Team applicants will be notified of their selection by February 1, 2026.

When applying for a position on Team New Zealand you acknowledge and accept that you are entering a selection process that is opinion based.

Dog & Handler Requirements for Application

All dogs and handlers applying for Team New Zealand must meet the following requirements.

- The dog must have a microchip.
- The dog must have an official WAO measurement and/or a measurement by an official judge from an agility organization to determine that dog is not close to the height cutoff
- At the time of team selection, handlers must be a citizen of New Zealand, or have a birth certificate from New Zealand, have parents or grandparents born in New Zealand or have permanent resident status and be able to travel internationally with the team by the time of the team's departure and return
- Please note that your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your planned day of departure from the Shengen area and have at minimum two blank pages left inside.

- The handler who submits videos for selection MUST be the same handler who is listed on the application form and who will run the dog at the WAO.

Team New Zealand Financial Information

The average cost for a handler and dog to attend the WAO as a part of Team New Zealand is estimated at \$4,000 to \$5,000. These expenses typically include (but are not limited to) flights, dog's flight, hotel, ground transportation, dog health paperwork, meals, incidentals, etc., WAO Team New Zealand is entirely self-funded, and does not receive any direct financial support from any outside organization.

Team New Zealand Policies

- You are responsible for paying for all of your own expenses including (but not limited to) flights, dog's flight, hotel, ground transportation, dog health paperwork, meals, incidentals, etc., This includes costs for a parent/guardian for juniors. Parents/guardians are not eligible for any reimbursement from Team New Zealand for costs incurred.
- You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to the Netherlands and while at the event. There will not be a team bus and so ground transportation should be arranged by each team member.
- Your dog must be in good health and fit to fly at the time of the team's departure.
- You are solely responsible for obtaining all of the veterinary paperwork that is required to fly internationally and to enter the Netherlands with a dog (see the WAO website).
- You will put your dog's needs ahead of your personal desires.
- As a member of Team New Zealand, and a representative of New Zealand, you will always conduct yourself in a positive and respectful manner, both in person and online.
- You will be respectful of the playing of any national anthem, whether for New Zealand or another country.
- For Juniors, the Parent or Guardian will be 100% accountable for their junior.

Everything stated in this document will become a binding contract between the team member and team management once a spot on the team is accepted.

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