

World Agility Open Championships 2026

Northern Ireland Team Selection

The World Agility Open (WAO) Championships will take place from 13–17 May 2026 at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands. Northern Ireland will once again field a team at this prestigious international event. The venue is approximately 70 miles from both Amsterdam and Rotterdam ports. For full event details, visit www.worldagilityopen.com.

Team Selection Process

A two-day qualifying trial will be held at Hawthorn Farm on 6–7 September 2025.

- All participating dogs must compete in the following five events: Jumping, Agility, Speed Stakes, Snooker, and Gamblers.
- Dogs without an official WAO height measurement will be measured at the trial.
- Points will be awarded based on placement (e.g., 1st place = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points, etc.). Elimination points will be based on the total number of entries.

The 2 dogs with the lowest overall scores in each height category will automatically qualify for the Northern Ireland team and will be entered in the Biathlon, Games, and Individual Pentathlon at WAO 2026. The 3rd dog in each height category will be selected by team management.

Eligibility Criteria

Dogs:

- Must be competing in KC Grades 1 to 7.

Handlers:

- Must be either born in Ireland or a permanent resident.
- Applicants with a parent or grandparent born in Ireland will also be eligible.

Junior Handlers:

- Must be born on or after 1 May 2007.
- Dogs must be competing at KC Grades 1 - 7
- Junior-handled dogs cannot be entered by another handler.
- One Junior Handler will be selected per jump height for the WAO Junior World Championship

WAO Jumping Height Categories

WAO Height	Dog Height at Withers
250	320 mm and under
300	380 mm and under
400	440 mm and under
500	500 mm and under
600	Over 500 mm

Availability Requirements

- If a competitor cannot attend the trial due to unavoidable circumstances, their application may still be considered at the discretion of Team Management.
- Competitors must be available for the entire WAO Championships, including official training on Tuesday, 12 May 2026.
- Travel may be required from 10–11 May through 18–19 May 2026.

Costs

- Trial Entry Fee: £40.00 per dog (non-refundable), contributing toward the team entry cost. Remaining balance will be subsidized by K9Activities.
- Team Deposit: Selected handlers must pay a £140 non-refundable deposit toward team travel and accommodation.
- All team members are responsible for their personal travel and accommodation costs.

Training & Fundraising Commitments


- Each selected team member must:
 - Attend a minimum of three (3) official training sessions and will be responsible for their own costs.
 - Participate in at least two (2) team fundraising events.
- Non-compliance may result in disqualification from receiving team-raised funds.
- Training sessions may be combined with fundraising events to maximize participation.

Application Deadline

Submit applications to the Team Manager by 29 August 2025.

Contact

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