



WAO2026 Republic of South Africa Team Selection



Thank you for your interest shown in participating as part of the South African Team for the 2025 World Agility Open.

The World Agility Open Championships will take place in the Netherlands at the KNHS Equestrian Centre in Ermelo from 13-17 May 2026.

<http://www.worldagilityopen.com>

Selection Criteria

All interested handlers are to advise SouthAfricaWao@gmail.com of their intention to compete by completing the “notice of intent form” by no later than 15 November 2025. It is assumed that if a handler completes this form and qualifies, they will attend.

By 30 November 2025 the Team Management will advise if a selection process is required. If there are 3 or less dogs in a height category then no qualifier will be held. Exceptions can be discussed if more than 3 dogs entered in a height category, e.g. if a handler runs with two dogs or is happy to share his spot with somebody).

Date and venue to be advised. The selection rounds will consist of 2 Agility, 2 Jumping, 1 Snooker and 1 Gamblers rounds.

The distribution of points is as follows:

Place 1 – 15 points

Place 2 – 12 points

Place 3 – 10 points

Place 4 – 8 points

Place 5 – 6 points

Place 6 – 4 points

Place 7 – 2 points

The total sum of the points in all six runs will be the result of the dog. If points are even with two or more dogs in the same height category, they will do a re-run on the last competition format of the day. The dog with highest points in each jump height, in the overall results of the qualifying rounds has a win on spot for the Biathlon and Pentathlon.

Final Individuals according to placements and total points/height division:

1st will get a spot in all three classes

2nd will get spot in all three classes

3rd will get spot in all three classes

4th will get a spot as a reserve (shall travel to venue if wants)

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Dogs with placings 5th to 7th will be registered as team's reserve dogs and they will travel to competition if they want.

The team management reserves the right to amend the points according to the amount of entries. A change in the distribution of points will be announced two weeks before the selection rounds.

Team event:

The team will be announced closer to the time of the Team event out of the 3 dogs competing in Individuals. More than one dog per height may compete in the Team Event by alternating rounds.

Junior Handlers

Juniors must be born on or after 1st May 2007 in order to qualify as a junior team spot. The qualification is on the same weekend and on the same courses as the regular tryout, if there is more than one Junior per height category. Juniors run against senior handlers and receive points. There is no separate scoring. The junior with the most points will qualify for the junior spot. If this opens up a spot on the regular team (because the junior was in 1-4 place), the fifth place dog will receive the spot. The junior spot at WAO includes Games, Pentathlon and Biathlon.

Qualification rounds will be competed in five jump height divisions, same as in WAO:

Jump Height Name	Dog Height at Withers	Jump Height	A-Frame Height	Ascending Spread Length	Long Jump Length	Tyre Height at Centre
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

ELIGIBILITY

Handler: At the time of team selection, handlers must be a citizen of South Africa, or have a birth certificate from South Africa, have parents or grandparents born in South Africa, or have lived in South Africa for a minimum of 2 years.

Handlers must be available for the selection rounds unless team management decides there are no qualifying rounds. The handler and dog must also be available to commence travel to the venue by in a reasonable time before the event with the team.

Dogs: Must be 18 months old at the time of team selection. The dog must be able to meet the vet requirements for South Africa and for Netherlands as well as for international air travel (in particular Rabies titre certificate).

All dogs can be measured at the tryouts if there should be doubts about the correct height. At the end of the tryouts all dogs on places one to seven will be measured.

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No Pedigree is required.

No affiliation to a specific Union is required.

Pregnant, blind or dogs that are not medically fit are not allowed to start and won't be considered for the team. If a dog out of medical reasons is taped or bandaged it will not be allowed to take part. The team management has the right to request the handler to do a veterinary check before the team selection is concluded.

A handler can enter any number of dogs but can only qualify with two dogs. If the handler qualifies with more dogs the team management and handler will decide which two dogs will be nominated for the team.

Please note that the trip is self-funded i.e. you will need to pay for all expenses related to the trip including, but not limited to, travel, vet and quarantine expenses, as well as WAO entry fees, team jackets and t-shirts, etc.

Penalization

Anyone not obeying or breaching against these rules must be aware they will be banned from the team and competition as a consequence.

Contact details:

Team South Africa Management

Team Manager: Dr Carolyn Chelchinsky +27 828234618

Team Assistant: Jason van der Nest +27824112342

Email: SouthAfricaWao@gmail.com

ABOUT WAO

Classes and Events

Competitors will vie for four World Championship titles at the WAO, three individual and one team.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

Pentathlon Championship

The Pentathlon consists of 2 rounds of Agility, 2 rounds of Jumping, and 1 round Speedstakes. The combined results from the 5 classes determine the Individual Pentathlon World Champion. One Pentathlon world champion will be declared in each jump height. Scoring is cumulative; faults are added to time, and the lowest score wins in all aspects of the Pentathlon. Each country can enter 3 dogs per jump height.

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Biathlon Championship

The Biathlon consists of 1 round of Agility followed by 1 round of Jumping. The combined results of the two classes determine the Biathlon World Champion. One world champion will be declared in each jump height. Scoring is cumulative; least faults wins with time as tie breaker only, in all aspects of the Biathlon. Each country can enter 3 dogs per jump height.

Games Championship

The Games Championships consists of 1 round of Snooker followed by 1 round of Gamblers. The combined results of the two classes determine the Games World Champion. One world champion will be declared in each jump height. Scoring is cumulative; highest number of points wins with time as tie breaker only, in all aspects of the Games Championship. Each country can enter 3 dogs per jump height.

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITION

The Team event will consist of 2 (two) Agility runs, 2 (two) Jumping runs, and a Team Relay class. The combined results from the five (5) classes determine the country that will be named the WAO Team World Champion. A country must have at least 1 (one) dog in each of the 4 (four) height divisions in order to be eligible to enter the Team Championship. All of the country's team members listed on the official team entry form are eligible for this event, providing the following height requirements are met: Each country will enter 4 (four) dogs in each of the first four rounds: the 2 (two) Agility rounds and the 2 (two) Jumping rounds. Each of the 4 (four) dogs must compete in a different jump height. Three scores per round will count with the lowest score in the team being dropped.

If at any time during the Team Championship competition, a country has an injury or withdrawal that prevents them from meeting the height requirements above, the team must withdraw from the competition.

For the fifth round of the event, the Team Relay class, each country will enter 4 (four) dogs, 1 (one) dog from each jump height. The course will be designed so that each dog will jump its correct height during the relay. All four scores from this round will count.

Scoring is cumulative; faults are added to time, and the lowest score wins in all aspects of the Pentathlon.

Junior Championship

The Junior Championship will consist of combining results from the three Individual events (Pentathlon, Biathlon and Games) to determine the WAO Junior World Champion. There will be a separate competition for each jump height and one world champion will be declared in each jump height.

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OVERVIEW OF CLASSES

Agility

The object of this class is to negotiate a full course of agility equipment. There are a minimum of 19 obstacles and a maximum of 22.

Jumping

The object of this class is to negotiate a course without contact equipment. There are a minimum of 19 obstacles and a maximum of 22.

Speedstakes

The object of this class is to negotiate a Jumping course that also includes an A-frame. There are a minimum of 19 obstacles and a maximum of 22.

Team Relay

The object of this class is for 4 (four) dogs and 3 (three) or 4 (four) handlers to work together to perform a relay course as a team. There is 1 dog from each jump height on a team. A handler may run 2 (two) dogs in the relay as long as there is a different handler separating that handler's dogs. A team must run their dogs in jump height order from small to tall. So, a handler with 2 (two) dogs could run a 300 dog and a 500 dog or 600 dog, but they could not run a 300 dog and a 400 dog. The 300 and 400 dogs will run at 300mm, and the 500 and 600 dogs will run at 500mm. Each dog on the team will perform a minimum of 15 obstacles and a maximum of 20 obstacles.

Gamblers

The goal of Gamblers is to accumulate as many points as possible within the time allotted by the judge, and then to make a strategic decision to perform one of the two short "gamble" sequences within a specified time period to earn bonus points.

Snooker

The object of the game is to earn as many points as possible within the course time set by the judge. Scoring is similar to the billiards game of Snooker; however, the judge may place the obstacles in the ring in any position.

A full description of the events and the rules can be found on the website-

<https://www.worldagilityopen.com/rules-regs/>