

## **AGILITY TEAM SURINAME – WAO 2026 SELECTION RULES**

**World Agility Open Championships – Ermelo, Netherlands – May 13–17, 2026**

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### **sr Invitation to Suriname-Eligible Handlers**

This is an open invitation to agility handlers with Surinamese nationality or heritage who are interested in representing Team Suriname at the World Agility Open Championships 2026 in the Netherlands.

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### **Eligibility Criteria**

To apply for the 2026 team, handlers must meet at least one of the following criteria, in accordance with WAO rules:

- Be a citizen of Suriname
  - Have a Suriname birth certificate
  - Have at least one parent or grandparent born in Suriname
  - Hold permanent resident status in Suriname
  - Handlers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
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### **Dog Eligibility**

All dogs, regardless of breed or registration, are welcome if they meet the following criteria:

- Must be at least 24 months of age on the day of the event
  - Must be healthy, sound, and fit for sport
  - Must not have been exposed to infectious disease within 21 days prior to the event
  - Pregnant or blind dogs are not allowed
  - Dogs in season (bitches) may compete with proper notification and will run on a protective mat
  - All dogs are subject to veterinary inspection at registration. Dogs deemed unfit will be disqualified
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### **Selection Procedure**

Up to 3 dogs per jump height may be selected to represent Suriname.

In the event that more than 3 dogs apply per height category, the following process will apply:

- Priority will be given to applicants residing in Suriname.
- If no such candidate exists, or more than 3 dogs per height meet this criterion, candidates will be required to submit 2 videos (one agility and one jumping).
- Courses for video submission will be selected and provided by team management.
- Yards per second (YPS) will be calculated to make final team selection decisions.

The top-scoring dog in each height category will automatically be entered in the Biathlon and Pentathlon.

Remaining available spots may be filled based on merit and team balance at the discretion of the Country Manager.

Additional handlers may apply individually via the WAO wildcard process.

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### **Financial Responsibility**

All costs related to WAO participation must be covered by the handler, including:

- Flights and transportation
- Accommodation and meals
- WAO entry fees

- Optional or mandatory training events or team activities prior to the competition
- Each participant will receive a team t-shirt.
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### **Registration Instructions**

To apply, please send the following information by December 15, 2025 to:

**Bianca Sanstra – Country Manager, Agility Team Suriname**

 agilityteamsuriname@gmail.com

#### **Required Information:**

- Full name of handler
  - Residential address
  - Phone number
  - Email address
  - Handler's date of birth (required for junior handlers)
  - Dog's call name and registered name (if applicable)
  - Breed of dog
  - Sex of dog
  - Dog's date of birth
  - Dog's height at withers (in cm)
  - Microchip number
  - Height category (250 / 300 / 400 / 500 / 600)
  - Description of agility experience (optional but encouraged)
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### **Junior Handlers**

Handlers born on or after May 1st, 2007 are eligible to compete for the WAO Junior World Championship.

- One junior per jump height will be selected, provided they meet the same eligibility and performance criteria.
  - Juniors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at their own expense.
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### **Team Expectations & Conduct**

All handlers representing Team Suriname will be required to:

- Comply with the WAO Rules & Regulations
  - Sign the Team Agreement and Code of Conduct
  - Demonstrate respectful sportsmanship throughout all phases of selection and competition
  - Participate in any designated team meetings, briefings, or training activities as requested
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### **Summary**

This is the first-ever Suriname National Team initiative for WAO. Whether you are an experienced competitor or a passionate up-and-coming handler with roots in Suriname, we invite you to join us on this exciting journey.

Questions? Contact: Bianca Sanstra –  agilityteamsuriname@gmail.com

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### **AGILITY TEAM SURINAME – WAO 2026**

*"Representing roots, running with passion."*