EUROPEAN AQUATICS

EUROPEAN WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

(UPDATED 22 September 2025)

In addition to the European Aquatics General Events Rules the following REGULATIONS shall apply:

EC – WP 1 EVENTS AND ORGANITSATION

EC – WP 1.1 The Championships shall be held in two (2) parts separately for Men and Women each.

EC – WP 1.2 The Championships shall be held in three (3) stages:

- Qualification Round I
- Qualification Round II
- Final Round

EC – WP 1.3 The Championships shall be held over a period of a maximum of 24 months and shall be finished in the even year.

EC – WP 2 EUROPEAN WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN AND WOMEN

EC – WP 2.1 Event & Participation

EC – WP 2.1.1 Every Federation may enter one (1) Men team and one (1) Women team.

EC – WP 2.1.2 The Final Round shall be held with Sixteen (16) teams, including the team of the Organizing Federation.

EC – WP 2.1.3 The first eight (8) classified teams from the previous Championships are automatically qualified for the Final round.

The teams ranked 9th to 16th place from the previous Championships are automatically qualified to the Qualification Round II.

The Organizing Federation team, in case that didn't participate at the previous Championships, will be automatically qualified for Qualification Round II.

EC – WP 2.1.4 All of the other teams entered shall play the Qualification Round I.

EC – WP 2.2 QUALIFICATION ROUND I

EC – WP 2.2.1 The teams participating in the Qualification Round I shall be seeded into 4 groups.

Depending on the number of teams entered, the TWPC may decide on a different system.

EC – WP 2.2.2 Each of the 4 groups shall be played in a tournament at different venues.

9, rue de la Morâche
CH 1260 Nyon
SWITZERLAND
Tel +41 22 552 99 99
Fax+41 22 552 99 89

EC – WP 2.2.3 In each group each team shall play against each of the other teams on a round-robin system.
Each team shall play only one match per day. Exceptions may be accepted.

EC – WP 2.2.4 All Matches shall be played according to the World Aquatics Water Polo rules.

EC – WP 2.2.5 The teams classified 1st and 2nd in the four (4) groups shall qualify for the Qualification Round II.

EC – WP 2.3 QUALIFICATION ROUND II

EC – WP 2.3.1 The Qualification Round II shall be held with sixteen (16) teams.

EC – WP 2.3.2 The teams ranked 9th to 16th from the previous Championships.
The Organizing Federation Team in case they didn't participate in the previous Championships.
The eight (8) teams qualified from the Qualification Round I.

EC – WP 2.3.3 The participating teams in the Qualification Round II shall be drawn into four (4) groups.

EC – WP 2.3.4 The seeding shall be according to the classification of the previous Championships, the ranking of the Qualification round I.
Each of the 4 groups shall play in a tournament at four different venues.

EC – WP 2.3.5 In case that group consists of up to four (4) teams, each team shall play only one match per day.
In case that group consists of more than four (4) teams, the TWPC has the right to make exceptions if necessary.

EC – WP 2.3.6 All Matches shall be played according to the World Aquatics Water Polo rules.

EC – WP 2.3.7 The Organizing Federation Team and highest ranked teams from his group will qualify for the Final Round.
The first two teams from the all other groups shall qualify for the Final Round.
In case the Organizing Federation Team is directly qualified for the Final Round according to EC – WP 2.1.3.
The first two teams from the four groups shall qualify for the Final Round.

EC – WP 2.4 FINAL ROUND MEN

EC – WP 2.4.1 The Final Round shall be held in one Final Tournament with sixteen (16) teams:

- The eight (8) teams directly qualified according to EC – WP 2.1.3
- The eight (8) qualified teams of the Qualification Round II according to EC – WP 2.3.7

EC – WP 2.4.2 All 16 Teams will be drawn into four (4) groups of four (4).

The draw to decide the groups shall be held according to the following system:

- 1st batch: The teams ranked 1st – 4th place at the previous Championships
- 2nd batch: The teams ranked 5th - 8th place at the previous Championships
- 3rd Batch: The teams ranked 1st from Qualification Round II
- 4th Batch: The teams ranked 2nd from Qualification Round II

EC – WP 2.4.3 All matches in Group Stage I shall be played according to the World Aquatics Water Polo rules.

EC – WP 2.4.4 In each group each team shall play against each of the other teams as follows:

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
1 C1 – C3	5 D1 – D3	9 A4 – A3
2 C2 – C4	6 D2 – D4	10 A1 – A2
3 A1 – A3	7 B1 – B3	11 C4 – C3
4 A2 – A4	8 B2 – B4	12 C1 – C2

DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
13 B4 – B3	17 C1 – C4	21 D1 – D4
14 B1 – B2	18 C2 – C3	22 D2 – D3
15 D4 – D3	19 A1 – A4	23 B1 – B4
16 D2 – D1	20 A2 – A3	24 B2 – B3

EC – WP 2.4.5 The final ranking will be decided according to the number of points gained in the games played in the Group Stage I, and according to these Regulations.

EC – WP 2.4.6 The point scale for Group stage games shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC - WP 2.5 Group Stage II

After the endof the Group Stage I and confirmation of the final ranking in the groups, two groups of 6 teams will be composed of the Teams that have finished Group Stage I in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place,

New group E will combine groups A and C, while group F will combine B and D, following the order:

GROUP E	GROUP F
1 A	1 B
2 A	2 B
3 A	3 B
1 C	1 D
2 C	2 D
3 C	3 D

EC – WP 2.5.1 Teams in new groups E and F will pass their results (points and goals scored/received) from internal games played in Group stage I.

EC – WP 2.5.2 In Group Sage II teams will play only against the teams whith whom they didn't play in Group Stage I.

EC – WP 2.5.3 The point scale for Group stage II games shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC – WP 2.5.4 Final classification games 13th – 16th place

Teams that will be ranked in 4th place after the Group stage I will play the games on the Round Robin system to decide the final classification of 13 – 16 places.

The final classification will be decided by the results gained in this phase, not passing the results from Group stage I.

Group Stage II and Final classification 13th – 16th places game will be played as follows:

DAY 7	DAY 8	DAY 9
25 4A – 4C (13-16)	30 4B – 4C (13-16)	35 4A – 4B (13-16)
26 4B – 4D (13-16)	31 4D – 4A (13-16)	36 4D – 4C (13-16)
27 3A – 1C (E)	32 3B – 1D (F)	37 3A – 2C (E)
28 1A – 3C (E)	33 1B – 3D (F)	38 2A – 3C (E)
29 2A – 2C (E)	34 2B – 2D (F)	39 1A – 1C (E)

DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12
40 3B – 2D (F)	43 3C – 3A (E)	46 3D – 3B (F)
41 2B – 3D (F)	44 2C – 1A (E)	47 2D – 1B (F)
42 1B – 1D (F)	45 1C – 2A (E)	48 1D – 2B (F)

EC-WP 2.5.5 The point scale for Final classification games shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC – WP 2.6 Final classification 5th – 12th place

EC – WP 2.6.1 DAY 13

- 49 6E – 6F (11th – 12th place)
- 50 5E – 5F (9th – 10th place)
- 51 4E – 4F (7th – 8th place)
- 52 3E – 3F (5th – 6th place)

EC – WP 2.7 Semifinal Round

EC – WP 2.7.1 DAY 14

- 53 1E – 2F
- 54 1F – 2E

EC – WP 2.8 Final Classification 1st – 4th place

EC – WP 2.8.1 DAY 15 – REST DAY

DAY 16

- 55 L53 – L54 (3rd – 4th places)
- 56 W53 – W54 (1st and 2nd places)

EC – WP 2.8.2 The winner of the Final game for 1st place, shall be declared «European Water Polo Champion Men».

The Team shall be awarded with a Trophy, engraved with the title.

EC – WP 2.8.3 After each semifinal, bronze medal and final gold medal game the MVP of the game will be chosen and awarded with appropriate awards.

EC – WP 2.8.4 At the end of the Final Round the best seven (7) players of whole Final Round will be chosen and awarded with appropriate awards.

EC – WP 2.9 FINAL ROUND WOMEN

EC – WP 2.9.1 The Final Round shall be held in one Tournament - Final Tournament with sixteen (16) teams:

- The eight (8) teams directly qualified according to EC – WP 2.1.3
- The eight (8)qualified teams of the Qualification Round II EC – WP 2.3.7

EC – WP 2.9.2 All 16 Teams will be drawn into four (4) groups of four (4).
The draw to decide the groups shall be held according to the following system:

- 1st batch: The teams ranked 1st – 4th at the previous Championship
- 2nd batch: The teams ranked 5th - 8th at the previous Championship
- 3rd Batch: The teams ranked 1st from Qualification Round II
- 4th Batch: The teams ranked 2nd from Qualification Round II

EC – WP 2.9.3 All Matches shall be played according to the World Aquatics Water Polo rules.

EC – WP 2.9.4 In each group each team shall play against each of the other teams as follows:

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
1 C1 – C3	9 D4 – D3	Rest Day	17 C1 – C4
2 C2 – C4	10 D1 – D2		18 C2 – C3
3 D1 – D3	11 C4 – C3		19 D1 – D4
4 D2 – D4	12 C1 – C2		20 D2 – D3
5 A1 – A3	13 B4 – B3		21 B1 – B4
6 A2 – A4	14 B1 – B2		22 B2 – B3
7 B1 – B3	15 A4 – A3		23 A1 – A4
8 B2 – B4	16 A1 – A2		24 A2 – A3

EC-WP 2.9.5 The point scale for Group stage games shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC - WP 2.10 Group Stage II

EC – WP 2.10.1 Group Stage II for 1 – 8 place

After the end of the Group Stage I and confirmation of the final ranking in the groups after the Group Stage I, two groups of four (4) teams will be composed of the teams that have finished in 1st and 2nd place of the Group Stage I.

New group E will combine groups A and C, while group F will combine B and D, following the order:

Group E	Group F
1A	1B
2A	2B
1C	1D
2C	2D

EC – WP 2.10.2 Teams in groups E and F will pass their results (points and goals scored/received) from internal games played in the Group Stage I.

EC-WP 2.10.3 The point scale for Group stage II games shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC – WP 2.10.4 In the Ranking stage teams will play only against the teams with whom they didn't play in the Group Stage I.

EC – WP 2.10.5 Group stage II for 9 – 16 place

After the end of the Group Stage I and confirmation of the final ranking in the groups, two groups of four (4) teams will be composed of the teams that have finished 3rd and 4th in Group Stage I.

New composed group G will combine groups A and C, while group H will combine B and D, following the order:

Group G	Group H
3 A	3 B
3 C	3 D
4 A	4 B
4 C	4 D

EC – WP 2.10.6 Teams in groups G and H will pass their results (points and goals scored/received) from internal games played in Group stage I.

EC – WP 2.10.7 In the Group Stage II teams will play only against the teams whom they didn't play in Group Stage I.

EC – WP 2.10.8 Group Stage II for 1st – 8th place and 9th – 16th place will be played as follows:

DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
25 3A – 4C (G)	29 2A – 2C (E)	33 4A – 4C (G)
26 3C – 4A (G)	30 2B – 2D (F)	34 4B – 4D (H)
27 3B – 4D (H)	31 1A – 1C (E)	35 3A – 3C (G)
28 3D – 4B (H)	32 1D – 1B (F)	36 3B – 3D (H)
		37 1A – 2C (E)
		38 1B – 2D (F)
		39 1C – 2A (E)
		40 1D – 2B (F)

EC-WP 2.10.9 The point scale for Group stage II games shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC – WP 2.11. Final classification games 9th – 16th place

DAY 8

- 41 4G – 4H (15th – 16th place)
- 42 3G – 3H (13th – 14th place)
- 43 2G – 2H (11th – 12th place)
- 44 1G – 1H (9th – 10th place)

EC – WP 2.12 Semifinal Round 1st – 4th place and Final classification games 5th – 8th place

DAY 9

- 45 3E – 4F (semifinals 5th – 8th place)
- 46 3F – 4E (semifinals 5th – 8th place)
- 47 1E – 2F (semifinals 1st – 4th place)
- 48 1F – 2E (semifinals 1st – 4th place)

EC – WP 2.13 Final classification 5th – 8th place

DAY 10

- 49 L45 – L46 (7th – 8th place)
- 50 W45 – W46 (5th – 6th place)

EC – WP 2.14 Final classification 1st – 4th place

DAY 11

- 51 L47 – L48 (3rd – 4th place)
- 52 W47 – W48 (1st – 2nd place)

EC – WP 2.14.1 The winner of the Final game for 1st place, shall be declared «European Water Polo Champion Women».
The Team shall be awarded with a Trophy, engraved with the title.

EC – WP 2.14.2 After each semifinal, bronze medal and final gold medal game the MVP of the game will be chosen and awarded with appropriate awards.

EC – WP 2.14.3 At the end of the Final Round the best seven (7) players of whole Final Round will be chosen and awarded with appropriate awards.

EC-WP 3 ENTRIES

EC-WP 3.1 Preliminary Entries and Confirmation of Participation

EC-WP 3.1.1 Preliminary Entries for the European Championships shall be submitted to the EA Office no later than the date announced by the EA Office.
A Federation having made a Preliminary Entry may withdraw no later than the day before the draw.

EC-WP 3.1.2 Teams qualified for the final round shall confirm their participation to the EA Office no later than the date announced by the EA Office.

EC-WP 3.1.3 The Time and place of any draw shall be announced by the Secretary of the EA TWPC and circulated by the EA Office.

EC-WP 3.2 Named Entries

EC-WP 3.2.1 Named entries of players and officials shall be submitted for each of the following

stages to the Secretary of the EA TWPC and copy to the EA Office no later than ten (10) days before the first competition of:

a) the Qualification Rounds;
b) the Final Round;

The number of players who entered the Qualification Rounds is not restricted.

For the final round up to twenty (20) players shall be listed on the official form and before the beginning of the final round.

The player's list shall comprise their name, surname, and passport number. The lists of entered players may not be changed after the time limit for its submission.

EC-WP 3.2.2 The names on the lists to be submitted before each of the above-mentioned stages may be changed. The list submitted before the final round may not be changed for the further stages of the Championships.

EC-WP 3.2.3 At the Technical Meeting before the first match of the above-mentioned stages, fifteen (15) players of those listed on the official form, together with the names of the coach and the officials to sit on the bench, shall be nominated for participation in the competitions.

EC-WP 3.2.4 Nominated players shall be numbered one (1) to fifteen (15), and wear a cap with the same number under which he/she is listed throughout the whole competition.

The goalkeeper shall wear a red cap numbered 1. A substitute goalkeeper shall wear any cap, numbered from 2 to 15, which must be a red cap. ~~and the substitute goalkeeper shall wear a red cap numbered 13.~~ A player shall not be allowed to change his cap number during the final stage of the Championships.

EC-WP 3.2.5 The names of the fourteen (14) players and the names of the coach and the officials to be present at the pool deck shall be submitted to the EA Technical Delegate no later than one hour before the match.
A player suspended for one or more matches may be substituted.

EC-WP 3.2.6 The EA Technical Delegate shall check the player's and official's personal identification documents and ensure that the names of the players and officials are in accordance with the list of entered players and in conformity with Rule E 13.1.
Players and officials who cannot prove identity and citizenship correspondingly to the list of entered players or who are not listed shall not be eligible to play.

EC-WP 3.3 Accreditations

EC-WP 3.3.1 Federations entering any of the Championship events shall receive accreditation free of charge for:

a) the President of the Federation;
b) the Head of the Delegation;
c) the entered athletes;
d) one medical person per team;
e) six team staff members per team;
f) one Media or Social media representative.

EC-WP 3.3.2 Team staff members include everybody servicing the team: Team Leaders, Coaches, Physiotherapists, Interpreters, etc., but not officials such as referees, etc.

EC-WP 4 REFEREES

EC-WP 4.1 In all stages of the competition, from the Qualification Rounds to the Final each Federation of the participating team shall be financially responsible for a referee affiliated to the Federation and to be nominated by the EA DRC.

Financial responsibilities towards referees mean that the Federation has to cover the following expenses for their referee:

• Travel costs

• Accommodation on a full board basis in the Official Hotel for the Referees

If no referee affiliated with the Federation may be nominated, the Federation shall be financially responsible for one (1) referee per team of another Federation to be nominated by the EA DRC.

EC-WP 4.2 Each Federation of participating team is responsible to transfer to EA Office the amount of referees Per Diem, according to EA Regulations. The amount of Per Diem is adequate to the number of the appointed referees from Federation. The EA Office will transferred the full amount of Per Diem to the bank account of the appointed referees.

EC-WP 4.3 Additional referees may be appointed at the Final Round as Neutral referees.

The number of the appointed Neutral referees will be decided by the EA DRC.

EC-WP 4.4 The appointed members of the EA DRC shall nominate for each match the Technical Delegate, the referees, and the other officials.

EC-WP 4.5 Referees may be evaluated.

EC-WP 5 CLASSIFICATION

EC-WP 5.1 Scores and Points

EC-WP 5.1.1 All matches will be played under the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC-WP 5.1.2 The point scale for all matches shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC-WP 5.1.3 The point scale for games played in Group stage I and II shall follow the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

In Group Stage II the Teams will pass their results (points and goals scored/received) from internal games played in Group stage I.

EC-WP 5.1.4 For each match in which a team is disqualified a goal score of 10:0 shall be awarded to the opposing team.

EC-WP 5.2 Equality of Points

EC-WP 5.2.1 If two (2) teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established according to the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC-WP 5.2.2 If three (3) or more teams have equal points, further classification and possible comparison shall be established according to the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules.

EC-WP 5.3 Exclusion and Suspension of Teams

EC-WP 5.3.1 The EA Code of Discipline shall apply.

EC-WP 5.3.2 EA Delegate(s) may exclude a teams not complying with the Rules, the Regulations and/or the instructions issued to all participating teams or forfeiting a match.

All results achieved by the excluded team in that stage of the Championships shall be expunged.

EC-WP 5.3.3 The EA Bureau may suspend a team if:

a) the Rules, the Regulations and/or the instructions issued to all participating teams are not complied with by the team, or
b) the financial liabilities in regard to the team are not fulfilled.

EC-WP 6 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

EC-WP 6.1 The Organizing Federation of any of the Championships events shall provide:

a) transport from the nearest airport to the official hotels and back for participating teams, Delegates, Referees and EA Representatives.
b) transport from official hotels to the pool and back for training and competitions for participating teams, Delegates, Referees and EA Representatives.
c) sessions of a minimum one (1) hour per day for training preferably in the competition pool one (1) days before the competition.

All other requirements, including the reimbursement of the expenses of the EA

Delegate(s), neutral referees, and EA Representatives are as fixed in the relevant Contract (see Rule E 9.4).

EC-WP 6.2 Each participating Federation shall be financially responsible:

a) for the expenses of accommodation and travel of their team(s)
b) for the expenses of accommodationand travel
c) for the expenses of the referees per diem according to EC-WP 4.2.