EUROPEAN 16 AND UNDER, 18 AND UNDER & 20 AND UNDER

WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

(UPDATE 22 September 2025)

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

JU-WP 1 ORGANISATION

JU-WP 1.1 The European 16 and under and 18 and under Waterpolo Championships shall be held in odd years, those for 20 and under in even years.

JU-WP 1.2 They shall be held separately for men and women.

JU-WP 1.3 The organizing Federations and the places where the Championships will be held will be

decided by the European Aquatics Bureau and circulated by the European Aquatics Office.

JU-WP 1.4 For any of the Championship events, there will be appointed:

a) by the European Aquatics Bureau one (1) European Aquatics Bureau Delegate;

b) by the European Aquatics Delegates and Referees Committee (DRC), the Referees and Delegates from each country as decided by the European Aquatics Bureau. The number of members will be according to the number of teams taking part and fixed in the respective contract (see E 9.4).

c) by the European Aquatics Technical Water Polo Committee (TWPC) as many members are needed for the TWPC.

The European Aquatics Bureau Delegate and the appointed members of the TWPC will be responsible for and supervise the correct conduct of the competitions according to European Aquatics Rules and Regulations.

They will decide on all matters arising on-site at the competitions which require an immediate decision.

JU-WP 1.5 Both Elite and First Division EWPC competitions should be played on the same dates and/or in different locations. With the TWPC proposal, and the EA Bureau approval the dates and location can be changed.

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

JU-WP 2 PARTICIPATION

JU-WP 2.1 The age groups are (Men and Women):

a) European 16 and under Championships
b) European 18 and under Championships
c) European 20 and under Championships

JU-WP 2.2 Federations may enter one (1) team per event.

JU-WP 2.3 The Championship of each category and gender will be divided into the Elite European Water Polo Championship (Elite EWPC) and First Division European Water Polo Championship (First Division EWPC).

The Elite EWPC will be held with a maximum of sixteen (16) teams, including the team of the organizing Federation.

The number of participant national teams in the First Division EWPC is unlimited.

JU-WP 2.4 The last two Federations of the Elite EWPC are relegated to the First Division EWPC of the same age category

JU-WP 2.5 The first two Federations from the First Division EWPC advance to the Elite EWPC of the same age category.

JU-WP 2.6 In case the number of participating National teams in the First Division EWPC women's competition is up to four (4), these teams will be considered participants in the Elite EWPC competition which may have a maximum of twenty (20) participating teams. In this case, immediately after entry submission, all participating Federations will be informed about the system of the competition

JU-WP 3 FORMAT OF COMPETITION

JU-WP 3.1 The Championships shall be held with:

a) Preliminary Round
b) Crossing games
c) Ranking Matches for the 5th place and further ranking
d) Final Round with Quarterfinals, Semi-Finals, Ranking Match for the 3rd place, and Final.

JU-WP 3.2 Each team will play only one match per day. Exceptions may be decided.

JU-WP 3.3 All matches shall be played to a final result. There shall be a penalty shoot-out to determine the result according to World Aquatics rules.

JU-WP 3.4 Classification of teams will be decided according to JU-WP 6.1 and JU-WP 6.3. In case that group consists of more than four (4) teams, exceptions may be decided.

JU-WP 3.5. Preliminary Round

JU-WP 3.5.1 The Preliminary Round of the Elite EWPC shall be held with sixteen (16) teams:

a) The Federations ranked 1st to 8th in the previous 16 and under, 18 and under, or 20 and under Elite EWPC;

b) The Federations ranked 9th to 14th at the previous 16 and under, 18 and under, or 20 and under Elite EWPC, and the first two Federations from the previous First Division EWPC including the organizing Federation if not qualified in accordance with point a).

JU-WP 3.5.2 The 8 teams directly qualified according to EC – WP 3.5.1

a) shall be drawn into two (2) groups with four teams each (Group A and B).

The rest 8 (EC – WP 3.5.2)

b) shall be drawn into two (2) groups with four teams each (Group C and D).

JU-WP 3.5.3 For groups A and B, the draw shall be held according to the following system:

- 1st batch: The teams ranked 1st and 2nd at the previous Championships
- 2nd batch: The teams ranked 3rd and 4th at the previous Championships
- 3rd Batch: The teams ranked 5th and 6th at the previous Championships
- 4th Batch: The teams ranked 7th and 8th at the previous Championships

For the groups C and D, the draw shall be held according to the following system:

- 1st batch: The teams ranked 9th and 10th at the previous Championships
- 2nd batch: The teams ranked 11th and 12th at the previous Championships
- 3rd Batch: The teams ranked 13th and 14th at the previous Championships
- 4th Batch: The teams ranked 1st and 2nd at the previous First Division EWPC

JU-WP 3.5.4. The Preliminary Round of the First Division EWPC shall be held with a maximum of sixteen (16) teams:

a) The Federations ranked 15th and 16th of the previous 16 and under, 18 and under, or 20 and under Elite EWPC;

b) The Federations that do not qualify for the Elite EWPC and apply for the First Division EWPC.

JU-WP 3.5.5. The teams shall be drawn into two (2) groups with four teams each (Group A and B).

The rest 8 (EC – WP 3.5.2 b), shall be drawn into two (2) groups with four teams each (Group C and D).

JU-WP 3.5.6. For the groups A and B, the draw shall be held according to the following system:

- 1st batch: The teams ranked 15th and 16th at the previous Elite EWPC
- 2nd batch: The teams ranked 3rd and 4th at the previous First Division EWPC
- 3rd Batch: The teams ranked 5th and 6th at the previous First Division EWPC
- 4th Batch: The teams ranked 7th and 8th at the previous First Division EWPC

All remaining teams entered in the competition will be in the draw for groups C and D.

JU-WP 3.5.7 In each group each team shall play against each of the other teams as follows:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
1 C1 – C3	9 D4 – D3	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

JU-WP 3.5.8 The 1st and 2nd placed teams in Group A and Group B have a bye.

JU-WP 3.5.9 Day 4, Ranking Games

The 3rd and 4th placed teams in Group A and Group B, and the 1st and 2nd placed teams in Group C and Group D play against each other in a cross-group format.

The 3rd and 4th placed teams in each of Group C and Group D form a new group that will consist of Four (4) teams. They shall play for places 13th – 16th in a cross-group format.

25 3D – 4C
26 4D – 3C
27 4A – 1C
28 3A – 2C
29 4B – 1D
30 3B – 2D

JU-WP 3.5.10 Day 5, Quarter Final round

31 Loser Game 25 – Loser Game 26 (15th - 16th place)
32 Winner Game 25 – Winner Game 26 (13th- 14th place)
33 Loser Game 27 – Loser Game 30
34 Loser Game 28 – Loser Game 29
35 1B – Winner Game 27
36 2B – Winner Game 28
37 1A – Winner Game 29
38 2A – Winner Game 30

JU-WP 3.5.11 Day 6, Semifinal Round

39 Loser Game 33 – Loser Game 34 (11th – 12th place)
40 Winner Game 33 – Winner Game 34 (9th – 10th place)
41 Loser Game 35 – Loser Game 38
42 Loser Game 36 – Loser Game 37
43 Winner Game 35 – Winner Game 38
44 Winner Game 36 – Winner Game 37

JU-WP 3.5.12 Day 7, Final Round

45 Loser Game 41 – Loser Game 42 (7th – 8th place).
46 Winner Game 41 – Winner Game 42 (5th – 6th place)
47 Loser Game 43 – Loser Game 44 (3rd – 4th place)
48 Winner Game 43 – Winner Game 44 (1st – 2nd place)

The Winner shall be declared «European Water Polo 16 and Under/18 and Under/20 and Under Champion Men/Women».

JU-WP 3.5.12 The system of playing in the First division EWPC may be decided differently by the TWPC according to the number of participating teams. Immediately after the submission of the entries, TWPC will inform all participating teams about any eventual change in the competition system.

JU-WP 4 ENTRIES

JU-WP 4.1 Preliminary Entries

Preliminary Entries shall be submitted to the European Aquatics Office no later than the date circulated by the European Aquatics Office.

JU-WP 4.2 Named Entries

JU-WP 4.2.1 Named entries of players shall be submitted for each of the following stages to the organizing Federation, with a copy to the European Aquatics Office, no later than ten (10) days before the first competition day of the Preliminary Round.

Up to twenty (20) players shall be listed on the official form and all officials, comprising name, surname, and passport number.

The lists of entered players may not be changed after the time limit for its submission.

JU-WP 4.2.2 The names on the lists to be submitted before each of the above-mentioned stages may be changed. The list of players submitted before the Preliminary Round may not be changed for the further stages of the Championship.

JU-WP 4.2.3 At the Team Leaders Meeting before the first match at the competition, fifteen (15) players, of those listed on the official form, together with the names of the coach and the officials to sit on the pool deck shall be nominated to participate in the competitions.

JU-WP 4.2.4 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, ~~and the substitute goalkeeper shall wear a red cap numbered 13.~~ A substitute goalkeeper shall wear any cap, numbered from 2 to 15, which must be a red cap.

JU-WP 4.2.5 The names of the fourteen 14 players shall be submitted to the European Aquatics Technical Delegate no later than one hour before the match.

A player suspended for one or more matches may be substituted.

JU-WP 4.2.6 The European Aquatics Technical Delegate shall check the players and officials personal identification documents and ensure that:

a) the names of the players are in accordance with the list of entered players;
b) entered players are in conformity with Rule E 14.1;
c) the age of the players is in accordance with JU-WP 2.1.

Players and Officials who cannot present their identification documents correspondingly to the list of entered players or those who are not listed will not be eligible to play.

JU-WP 5 ACCREDITATION

JU-WP 5.1 Entered Federations will receive accreditation for:

a) the President of the Federation;
b) the Head of Delegation;
c) the entered competitors;
d) one medical person per team;
e) five team staff members per team.

JU-WP 5.2 Team staff members include everybody servicing the team: Team Leaders, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Physiotherapists, Interpreters, etc., but not officials such as judges, referees, etc.

JU-WP 6 CLASSIFICATION

JU-WP 6.1 Scores and Points

JU-WP 6.1.1 Each game must have a winner. If a game ends with a tie in regular time, the teams must go into a penalty shoot-out according to the World Aquatics Rules.

The matches shall be scored as follows:

a) win in regular time = 3 points
b) win after penalty shootout = 2 points
c) loss after penalty shootout = 1 point
d) loss in regular = 0 points

JU-WP 6.1.2 The final classification within a group shall be established according to the points gained by each team in all matches of its group.

JU-WP 6.1.3 For each match in which a team is disqualified a goal score of 10:0 shall be awarded to the opposing team.

JU-WP 6.2 Matches to be played to a final result

JU-WP 6.2.1 All matches shall be played to a final result. There shall be a penalty shoot-out to determine the result according to the World Aquatics rules.

JU-WP 6.3 Equality of Points

JU-WP 6.3.1 If two (2) teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

a) The team winning the game between them (including penalty shoot-out if any) shall be placed higher.
b) If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest-placed tie shall be determined first.

JU-WP 6.3.2 If three (3) or more teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

a) The results among the tied teams shall determine which team is placed highest.
~~b) If, at any time during the application of the procedure, the number of tied teams is reduced to two (2), then the above procedure (1.2.1., tie between two teams) shall be used to determine which of the two (2) remaining teams is placed higher.~~

The comparison shall be made:
c) first, upon the points of the games among the tied teams;
d) second, the goal difference (excluding the goals from penalty shootout) among the tied teams,
e) third, based upon goals scored among tied teams;
f) If still tied, the games played against the highest placed team (or teams, if tied, the team or teams not involved in the tie) shall be considered;
g) The first comparison shall be based on goal difference, and if still tied, then based on goals scored;
h) If still tied, the results against the next highest-placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be used in succession until all results have been considered;
i) If still tied, and there is no practical manner to determine the ranking, the final classification between the teams in the tie shall be decided by coin toss;
j) If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest-placed tie shall be determined first.
For the purpose of calculating either goal difference or goals scored, the goals in any penalty shoot-out will not be taken into consideration.

JU-WP 6.4 Exclusion and Suspension of Teams

JU-WP 6.4.1 The European Aquatics Water Polo Code of Discipline shall apply.

JU-WP 6.4.2 European Aquatics Delegate(s) may exclude a team 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.

JU-WP 6.4.3 The European Aquatics 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.

JU-WP 7 REFEREES

JU-WP 7.1 In any of the Championship events, each participating Federation shall be financially responsible for a referee affiliated to the Federation and to be nominated by the DRC.

If no referee affiliated with the Federation may be nominated, the Federation shall be financially responsible for the referee of another Federation to be nominated by the DRC.

JU-WP 7.2 Additional referees may be appointed by the DRC subject to the conditions stated in the relevant contract.

JU-WP 7.3 The appointed members of the DRC will nominate for each match the Technical Delegate(s), the referees, and the other officials.

JU-WP 7.4 Referees may be evaluated.

JU-WP 8 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

JU-WP 8.1 The organizing Federation of any of the Championship events shall provide:

a) transport from the nearest airport or railway station to the official hotel and back for participating teams, Delegates, and Referees;
b) transport from official hotels to the pool and back for training and competitions for participating teams, Delegates and Referees;
c) sessions of a minimum of one (1) hour per day for training preferably in the competition pool beginning two (2) days before the competitions.

All other requirements, including the reimbursement of the expenses of the European Aquatics Delegate(s) and additional referees, are as fixed in the relevant Contract (see Rule E 9.4).

JU-WP 8.2 Each participating Federation shall be financially responsible for the expenses for accommodation and travel of their team and for the accommodation, travel, and per diem of the referee nominated according to JU-WP 7.1.

In reason to provide transparency, neutrality and equality amongst appointed Referees, participating Federations will pay the amount of Per Diem for their Referee to EA Office, according to invoice sent by the EA Office.
EA Office will reimburse the amount of Per Diem to the Referees through Bank transfer.