

INFORMATIN BULLETIN

VERSION 1.0 – 4 March, 2026



**WORLD AQUATICS
MEN'S U18 WATER POLO
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

RIO MAIOR 2026

27 JUNE – 4 JULY 2026



RIO MAIOR, PORTUGAL



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Organizers	3
Qualified teams	4
Officials	5
Host	6
Milestones	8
Visa procedure	9
Registration	9
Accreditation procedure	9
Accommodation	10
Transportation	13
Competition schedule	14
Training schedule	16
Venue and facilities	17

Organizers**WORLD AQUATICS**

Address	Chemin de Bellevue 24a/24b, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland
Official website	www.worldaquatics.com
Email	gabor.karpati@worldaquatics.com

FEDERAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DE NATAÇÃO

Address	Moradia do Complexo do Jamor, Estrada da Costa, 1495-688 Cruz Quebrada-Dafundo, Portugal
Official website	www.fpnatacao.pt
President	Miguel Arrobas
Organizing Committee	Mariett Matias
Email	mariett.matias@fpnatacao.pt

TEAMS

The national teams listed below have gained right to participate In the Men's U18 Water Polo Championships Rio Maior 2026 as per World Aquatics Competitions Regulations and the Continental Qualification events. The Asian Qualification Tournament will finish on 15th March 2026. The Draw will take place on 9th April 2026.

Europe	Americas	Asia	Oceania	Africa
MNE	CAN		AUS	RSA
SRB	BRA		NZL	EGY
GRE	USA			
ITA	COL			
ESP	ARG			
HUN				
POR				

QUALIFICATION

4.1.1. Number of Teams

The competition shall consist of twenty (20) teams.

4.1.2 Composition of the 20 Teams. When the maximum number of teams is reached, the participating teams shall include:

- The highest-ranking team from the preceding U20/U18 World Aquatics Championships (automatic qualifier). The Host Country, included within its continental quota.
- Additional qualified teams determined through continental qualification or continental championships according to the following quotas:
 - Europe: 7 teams
 - Americas: 5 teams
 - Asia: 4 teams
 - Africa: 2 teams
 - Oceania: 2 teams

4.1.3 Continental Quota Regulations

- The Host Country counts within its own continental quota.
- The highest-ranking team from the preceding U20/U18 Championships is regarded as representing its continent for the purpose of applying the quota formula.
- The highest-ranked teams from each continental qualification tournament or continental championship earn the quota places for that continent.
- If a team declines participation, the next highest-ranking continental team willing to participate will replace it.
- 4.2. Unfilled Continental Quotas
- 4.2.1. Replacement of Declining Teams (U20 & U18)
- If a qualified team declines participation, World Aquatics shall allocate the vacant position to the highest-ranked team that has not yet qualified from the actual World Junior Ranking, regardless of continent.
- This means: Replacement teams will not be selected from the same continent as the declining team. Selection shall be based solely on the

World Junior Ranking, ensuring the strongest available team fills the vacancy.

- 4.2.2. If a continent cannot fill its allocated quota:
- The vacant position(s) shall be awarded to the highest-ranked non-qualified team(s) from the World Aquatics Water Polo World Ranking, regardless of continent.
- This ensures the competition field reaches up to twenty (20) teams while maintaining competitive integrity.

4.4.2. Allocation to Groups

Teams shall be allocated pot by pot according to the following rules:

- For Pots 1 and 2 (Groups A & B):
 - The first team drawn goes to Group A,
 - The second team drawn goes to Group B,
 - The next two teams fill open positions in the same order.
- For Pots 3 and 4 (Groups C, D, E, F):
 - Teams are allocated in rotational order into Groups C → D → E → F as they are drawn.

If a pot contains fewer teams than required, all remaining teams are allocated to open group positions in the order drawn.

Milestones

<i>DUE DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
3rd March	Bulletin send-out
16th March	GMS Opens
2nd April	Officials Appointment
2nd April	Accommodation Reservation
2nd April	50% accommodation deposit payment of accommodation
9th April	DRAW
18th April	Final Competition Schedule
15th May	Registration deadline (up to 25 players, and 10 officials)
27th May	Full accommodation payment
27th May	and Travel details added into the GMS
15th June	Online team-leaders meeting and officials' workshop
22nd June	Sport Entry deadline (15 players)
24th June	Start of training and transportation services
26th June	Meet and Greet for the Teams
27th June	Start of the competition
4th July	Final day of the competition, Awarding ceremony
5th July	Departure day - end of transportation services

Host**CITY OF RIO MAIOR**

Welcome to Rio Maior,



Rio Maior is a Portuguese city belonging to the District of Santarém, with around 8,000 inhabitants.

Rio Maior calls itself the city of sports because, despite its small size, it has vast and award-winning sports facilities (sports complex ranked 3rd in the international competition IOC/IAKS AWARD 2007) and three clubs with some projection. The Rio Maior Sports Union (football), the Rio Maior Swimming Club, whose main sports are swimming and athletics.

Rio Maior has invested heavily in sports facilities, having a well-equipped sports park, which includes the modern Training Centre and the Olympic Swimming Pool, although it is largely underused locally.



COMPETITION VENUE – RIO MAIOR SPORTS CENTRE

The Rio Maior Sports Centre is well-known for its high quality being the Portuguese High Performance Swimming Centre in a partnership with the Portuguese Swimming Federation having the recognition of the Portuguese Government.

With two indoor swimming pools, with 25 and 50 meters, a indoor learning pool and an outdoor diving tank our Centre full fills all requirements for any aquatic activity. Two gyms are part of these facilities, one of them equipped with VASA swimming ergometers. ent and testing possibilities related with swimming video recording, which include with a double frame shoot possibility. There are also two kinds of power platforms, one placed under the starting block platform for start analysis on three axes, reaction time recording, and another power platform placed on the top wall of the pool for back starts and different turns power data recording.

The 50m swimming pool is also equipped with an electronic timing system that allows the simulation of time recording and relay transitions. All Together, these devices installed in the lab and in the Olympic 50m pool allow the complete assessment of different sports in order to maximize your performance.

Address: Estrada das Marinhas do Sal 2040 - 332 Rio Maior

Site: WWW.DESMOR.PT



TRAINING VENUES

Piscinas Municipais de Óbidos

Address: Bairro dos Arcos, 2510-081 Óbidos

Site: <https://www.cm-obidos.pt/viver/bem-estar-e-sustentabilidade/desporto-saude-e-bem-estar/desporto-intro/complexo-desportivo-municipal/piscinas-municipais>

Distance form the hotels: 25-30 minutes drive

Pool size: 25m



Complexo Aquático de Santarém

Address: R. Prof. Américo Marinho 2, 2005-444 Santarém

Site: <https://viversantarem.pt/piscinas/>

Distance form the hotels: 25-30 minutes drive

Pool size: 25m



Visa procedure

We strongly recommend all national federations who need visa to enter Portugal to start the procedure as soon as possible.

For any inquiry and assistance related to visa and entry requirements for Portugal, please contact the LOC as soon as possible on mariett.matias@fpnatacao.pt.

Registration

The registration will run through the World Aquatics General Management System. All entries shall be made electronically via the link:

<https://data.worldaquatics.com/nomination/events>

Access to the registration system should be via the logins previously supplied to your Federation. If you require any assistance of support with the registration process, please contact gms@worldaquatics.com

A federation can enter a maximum 25 players during the registration period for this Event. By the Sport Entries deadline, the Federation will need to specify (through the sport's entry) a maximum of 15 players who will be confirmed for the competition. The remaining registered players will be rejected and their participation in the competition cancelled. A team delegation can consist of a maximum of 25 members including the referee with the team. Please keep in mind that for each game the coach has the possibility to change players from the 15-squad list.

Mandatory Anti-Doping Education

- **Athlete** – [ADEL International Level Athletes Education Program \(ILA\)](#)
- **Coach, Head Coach, Chef de Mission, Team Leader, Support Staff** – [ADEL Coaches of High Performance Education Program \(COA\)](#)
- **Doctor, Medical Professional, Massage Therapist, Physiotherapist** – [ADEL Medical Professional's Education Program](#)

ADEL Helpdesk: [Link](#)

AQIU Mandatory Education Section on the Website: [Link](#)

Contact: info@aquaticsintegrity.com

Accreditation procedure

All national federations participating in the World Aquatics Men's U18 Water Polo Championships must complete the accreditation process in order to obtain the accreditation card for their members. This process will be done through the management system available online.

The accreditation card is personal, non-transferable and must be displayed at all times in the areas requiring accreditation. The right to hold and/or use may be revoked at any time at full discretion by an official of the Organizing Committee.

Accommodation

The official competition hotels are presented hereinafter. For more information and bookings, please contact LOC at gonçalo.casquinha@fpnatacao.pt as soon as possible, and no later than **2nd April 2026**.

Reservations are on a "first-come, first served" basis and subject to availability at the time of booking.

All prices are in Euros per person per night on a full board basis. VAT and city tax are included in the displayed price.

All extra charges are to be paid directly at the hotel.

ALL Teams need to book their accommodation via the Organizing Committee in one of the official hotels.

TEAM HOTELS

RESIDÊNCIA DE ESTUDANTES CAMPUS DE RIO MAIOR

Address: Av. Dr. Mário Soares 110, 2040-413 Rio Maior

Location: 1 hour from airport by bus | 13 min walking to competition venue (1 Km)

Capacity for 2 teams

Rooms with no TV

All meals at Rio Maior Sports Centre (5 minutes walking)



TYPE	PRICE (FULL BOARD) PER PERSON/PER NIGHT
SINGLE	175€
TWIN	170€

**RESIDÊNCIA DE APOIO À COMUNIDADE ESTUDANTE
DE RIO MAIOR**

Address: Rua Serpa Pinto 6, 2040-249 Rio Maior

Location: 1 hour from airport by bus | 11 min walking to competition venue (750m)

Capacity for 2 teams

Rooms with no TV

All meals at Rio Maior Sports Centre (11 minutes walking)



TYPE	PRICE (FULL BOARD) PER PERSON/PER NIGHT
SINGLE	175€
TWIN	170€

RIO MAIOR SPORTS CENTRE

Address: Centro de Estágios e Formação Desportiva - Pá da Ribeira, Av. Paulo VI 29, 2040-227 Rio Maior

Location: 1 hour from airport by bus | on the competition venue

Capacity for 6 teams

2 single rooms, 1 twin and 4 quadruples rooms per Team (20 pax)

All meals at Rio Maior Sports Centre



TYPE	PRICE (FULL BOARD) PER PERSON/PER NIGHT
SINGLE	175€
TWIN	165€
QUADRUPLE	160€

PEDRA DE SAL HOSTEL & SUITES

Address: Praça da República 10, 2040-230 Rio Maior

Location: 1 hour from airport by bus | 11 min walking to competition venue (800 m)

Capacity for 2 team



TYPE	PRICE (FULL BOARD) PER PERSON/PER NIGHT
SINGLE	195€
TWIN	180€
TRIPLE	165€

HOTEL MH ATLÂNTICO****

Address: Avenida Do Golfe, Praia Da Consolação, 2525-150 Peniche

Location: 1h10 from airport by bus | 40 min by bus to competition venue (45,9km)

Capacity for 7 teams



TYPE	PRICE (FULL BOARD) PER PERSON/PER NIGHT
SINGLE	265€
TWIN	205€

REFEREES HOTEL
HOTEL MH PENICHE** - Referees**

Address: Avenida Monsenhor Bastos 2520-206 Peniche

Location: 1h10 from airport by bus | 35 min by bus
 to competition venue (44,2km)



TYPE	PRICE (FULL BOARD) PER PERSON/PER NIGHT
SINGLE	265€

Payments

An invoice will be issued upon booking confirmation. To secure room reservations, **a 50% booking deposit must be paid by 2nd April 2026.**

The remaining balance amount must be paid by **27th May 2026** to guarantee your booking.

Below are the bank details for the payment.

Account Name: Federação Portuguesa de Nataçã

Bank Name: Banco Santander

Bank Address: Rua Alves Redol 17/21, 2600-099 Vila Franca de Xira - Portugal

Account Number (IBAN): PT50 0018 0003 1333 0170 02088

Swift Code: TOTAPTPL

REF^a 2026U18M followed by your country code.

MEALS INFORMATION

Meals will be served at the hotel or at Rio Maior Sports Centre for team members participating at the competition. The timing of meals may vary from different accommodation places and according to training and game schedules, but all will maximally adapt to accommodate the team's needs.

Teams must communicate all special requests at least one day in advance directly with the hotel restaurant.

HOTEL EXTRAS

All hotel extras (snacks, lunch boxes, sandwiches, wellness and spa, parking, minibar, etc.) should be paid before check-out directly at the hotel reception.

Transportation

Competition transportation details are presented hereinafter. Please make sure to provide us with your travel details through GMS as soon as possible, and no later than 27th May 2026.

TRAVEL BY PLANE

Official airport is **Aeroporto Internacional de Lisboa Humberto Delgado** that has regular daily connections to most of the important flight hubs. Transportation to and from official airport is provided free of charge to all accredited participants. The airport is located 1 hour drive from the competition venue.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for the official match and training sessions will be provided to all participating teams from their arrival to Rio Maior until departure.

Local transportation does not include extra transfers to go sightseeing and similar requests. This can be arranged but is charged extra subject to availability.

Requests to change or cancel transportation service must be communicated at least 24hrs in advance via Info desk.

Training and match transfers are set to arrive at the venue 30min before the training session and 90min before the start of the match.

Training and match transfers are set to leave the venue 90min after the training session and 105min after the start of the match.

Teams will be provided with detailed online transportation schedules for each day.

Competition schedule
PRELIMINARY ROUND

DAY 1	1	C1	C3
	2	D1	D3
	3	E1	E3
	4	F1	F3
	5	A1	A3
	6	B1	B3
	7	A2	A4
	8	B2	B4
DAY 2	9	D2	D3
	10	E2	E3
	11	F2	F3
	12	C2	C3
	13	B1	B2
	14	A1	A2
	15	B3	B4
	16	A3	A4
DAY 3	17	E1	E2
	18	F1	F2
	19	C1	C2
	20	D1	D2
	21	A2	A3
	22	B2	B3
	23	A1	A4
	24	B1	B4

CROSSOVERS

The first and second placed teams in Group A, Group B have a bye.

DAY 4	25	2C	3D
	26	2E	3F
	27	3C	2D
	28	3E	2F
	29	1D	1C
	30	1E	1F

QUARTER FINAL ROUND, SEMI FINAL ROUND AND FINAL ROUND

DAY 5	31	2E	2C
	32	3F	3D
	33	3E	3C
	34	2F	2D
	35	L29	3A
	36	L30	3B
	37	W29	4A
	38	W30	4B
DAY 6	39	2C	3F
	40	2E	3D
	41	3C	2F
	42	3E	2D
	43	1A	W38
	44	1B	W37
	45	2A	W36
	46	2B	W35
DAY 7	47	4G	4H
	48	3G	3H
	49	L35	L38
	50	L36	L37
	51	L43	L46
	52	L44	L45
	53	W43	W46
	54	W44	W45
DAY 8	55	2G	2H
	56	1G	1H
	57	L49	L50
	58	W49	W50
	59	L51	L52
	60	W51	W52
	61	L53	L54
	62	W53	W54

Training schedule

All teams will be allocated a minimum of one training session on a match.

The training schedule prior to the start of the competition is subject to the arrival of all teams.

Due to many participating teams, requests for changes and/or cancellations have to be communicated on time and will be considered only if possible. The training schedule cannot be changed without the consent of the LOC.

Requests to change or cancel training session must be communicated at least 24hrs in advance via Info desk or pedro.brandao@fpnatacao.pt

DAY -2	C1	C3
	D1	D3
	E1	E3
	F1	F3
	A1	A3
	B1	B3
	A2	A4
	B2	B4
DAY -1	D2	D3
	E2	E3
	F2	F3
	C2	C3
	B1	B2
	A1	A2
	B3	B4
	A3	A4
DAY 3	E1	E2
	F1	F2
	C1	C2
	D1	D2
	A2	A3
	B2	B3
	A1	A4
	B1	B4

DAY 4	2C	3D
	2E	3F
	3C	2D
	3E	2F
	1D	1C
	1E	1F
DAY 5	2E	2C
	3F	3D
	3E	3C
	2F	2D
	L29	3A
	L30	3B
DAY 6	W29	4A
	W30	4B
	2C	3F
	2E	3D
	3C	2F
	3E	2D
	1A	W38
	1B	W37
2A	W36	
2B	W35	

DAY 7	4G	4H
	3G	3H
	L35	L38
	L36	L37
	L43	L46
	L44	L45
	W43	W46
	W44	W45
DAY 8	2G	2H
	1G	1H
	L49	L50
	W49	W50
	L51	L52
	W51	W52
	L53	L54
	W53	W54

Venue and facilities

INFO DESK

Info desk will be operating in the competition venue (in the 25 meters pool).

FIRST AID AND TEAM MEDICAL SERVICES

The Chief Medical Officer will lead a first aid team at the competition venue for the duration of the event, including training and competition, and will take care of general medicine needs.

Lifeguards will be stationed at the competition and training venues.

We urge you to take travel healthcare insurance for all delegation members.

DOPING CONTROL

Athletes can be requested to take a doping test at anytime during the competition. A number of tests and types of samples and analyses are at the sole discretion of the World Aquatics and/or International Testing Agency. Any player selected to do the test, will be escorted by the doping chaperones to the Medical & Doping designated areas of the venue.

TEAM STANDS

Accredited team members can enter the competition venues and watch the games free of charge. However, all group visits to watch the games must be communicated with the LOC at least 24hrs prior.

TEAM VIDEO POSITIONS

Team video analysts will have designated places to record the games at the competition venues.

PRESENTATION

12 minutes before the start of the game teams will be called into the Call area. Strict protocol for the sports presentation will be established and share well in advance at the team leaders' meeting that must be followed.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The results system will be provided by Microplus. Official scoring websites will be available soon.

Live streaming of all matches will be available on a World Aquatics platform.

TICKETING

Spectators have to buy tickets for the competition through:

wawpmu18c.ticketswaterpolo.com