

INFORMATIN BULLETIN

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WORLD AQUATICS
WOMEN'S U16 WATER POLO
CHAMPIONSHIPS

ZAGREB 2026



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MEN'S U16 WATER POLO
CHAMPIONSHIPS

ZAGREB 2026

WOMEN: JULY 25-31, 2026
MEN: AUGUST 3-9, 2026

 Zagreb, CRO



Organizers

WORLD AQUATICS

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

CROATIAN WATER POLO FEDERATION

Address	Jarunska ulica 1, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Official website	www.hvs.hr
Emails	zagreb2026@hvs.hr accommodation@hvs.hr

Participating teams

The national teams listed below have gained right to participate In the U16 Water Polo Championships Zagreb 2026 as per World Aquatics Competitions Regulations and the Continental Qualification events.

Men:

ITA, HUN, MNE, CRO, GRE, ESP, SRB, TUR, GER, NED, ROU, GEO, POL, MLT, UKR, POR, CZE, ISR, NAB, BRA, USA, CAN, ARG, PUR, MEX, PER, URU, CHN, KAZ, SGP, UZB, RSA, EGY, ZIM, AUS, NZL

Women: ESP, GRE, HUN, ITA, NED, TUR, GER, CRO, SRB, CZE, ROU, ISR, USA, CAN, BRA, ARG, PER, MEX, CHN, UZB, AUS, NZL, RSA, ZIM

Deposit

All participating federations are required to confirm their participation by submitting a **team deposit**.

A deposit of **10'000 USD per team** must be paid no later than **3 April 2026**.

This deposit serves as a confirmation of participation and commitment to the competition. Detailed payment instructions are provided in the annex to this bulletin.

Please note that:

- Teams that fail to submit the deposit by the deadline may be replaced by teams from the waiting list.
- The deposit will be deducted from the final participation invoice.
- Additional conditions regarding refunds or cancellations are outlined in the competition regulations.

Federations are kindly requested to respect the deadline in order to facilitate planning and organisation of the event.

Officials

Technical Officials are yet to be appointed.

World Aquatics Delegates

- World Aquatics will appoint the Technical Delegate(s) responsible for overseeing rule application, competition management, and officials' evaluation.

Referees and Officials

- The World Aquatics ROC shall nominate one Referee from the current World Aquatics Officials List, subject to World Aquatics approval per each participating team and two neutral referees per tournament.

Responsibilities

- The Participating Federations are financially responsible for the appointed referee. The Participating Federation must arrange the registration and pay for the logistics and the per diem. The referees must be booked in the officials' hotel.
- World Aquatics pays the Per Diem for the neutral referees and for the Delegates.
- The Host covers the lodging and local transportation of the delegates and neutral referees.

Host

CITY OF ZAGREB

Located in the northern part of Croatia, on the banks of Sava River, Zagreb is a city with more than 900 years of fascinating history. As the capital of Croatia, Zagreb has many historical sights, museums, and beautiful green oases that would delight any visitor. It is one of the oldest Central European cities and a perfect combination of rich heritage, lively rhythm of street life, and a multitude of attractions that will awaken all your senses.

For centuries Zagreb has developed as a city of culture, a powerful trading and economic centre. It is also a centre of science and knowledge, housing the largest Croatian university and many important institutions.

Zagreb is a safe city whose doors are always open; a city with a tumultuous history teeming with interesting personalities; a city that warmly invites all those who wish to get to know it. The façades of Zagreb's buildings reflect the ebb and flow of history, while its streets and squares bear witness to the coming together of the many cultures that have shaped the identity of this laid-back capital. The streets and monuments of Zagreb proudly testify to its thousands of years of history.



Zagreb is home to numerous water polo clubs, including HAVK Mladost - the most trophy-winning water polo club of the 20th century, as well as Medveščak, Zagreb, ZPK and others.

Find out more about the city of Zagreb [here](#).

COMPETITION VENUE - SP MLADOST POOL

World Aquatics U16 Water Polo Championships Zagreb 2026 will take place on the SP Mladost pool complex. This legendary water polo venue was previously host to numerous top water polo events, including European Championships, Champions League, World League and many more.

Complex was built in 1987 for the purpose of Universiade and consists of the 50m indoor and 50m outdoor pool with capacities of up to 1200 spectators and all necessary sports equipment for top water polo events.

Matches, training sessions, and warm-ups will be held across both the indoor and outdoor pools of the complex. TWO COMP POOLS!

Address: Jarunska ulica 1, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

<https://goo.gl/maps/Lv3MhUzm41iLpznYA>



Milestones

<i>DUE DATE</i>		<i>EVENT</i>
25th March	WOMEN MEN	GMS Opens
2nd April	WOMEN MEN	Officials Appointment
3rd April	WOMEN MEN	Accommodation Reservation
3rd April	WOMEN MEN	10.000€ per team accommodation deposit payment (this amount will be deducted from the final accommodation sub and added to the final invoice)
10th May	WOMEN MEN	Registration deadline (up to 25 players, and 10 officials)
14th May	WOMEN MEN	Draw
25th May	WOMEN MEN	Travel details in the GMS
25th May	WOMEN MEN	Full accommodation payment
6th July	WOMEN MEN	Online team-leaders meeting and officials

20th July	WOMEN	Sport Entry deadline (15 players)
23rd July	WOMEN	Start of training and transportation services
24th July	WOMEN	Onsite Meet and Greet with Coaches and team leaders
25th July	WOMEN	Start of the competition
31st July	WOMEN	Last day of the competition, Finals
1st August	WOMEN	Departure day - end of transportation services

29th July	MEN	Sport Entry deadline (15 players)
1st August	MEN	Start of training and transportation services
2nd August	MEN	Onsite Meet and Greet with Coaches and team leaders
3rd August	MEN	Start of the competition
9th August	MEN	Last day of the competition
10th August	MEN	Departure day - end of transportation services

Visa procedure

We strongly recommend all national federations who need visa to enter Croatia to start the procedure as soon as possible. Visa requirements overview with more information can be found [here](#).

For any inquiry and assistance related to visa and entry requirements for Croatia, please contact the LOC as soon as possible on zagreb2026@hvs.hr

DEADLINE: latest by 3rd April 2026

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 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 maximum of 24 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 14-squad list.

Accreditation procedure

All national federations participating in the World Aquatics U16 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 GMS.

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 - Athletes' Village

The official tournament accommodation will be provided at the nearby **student dormitory Stjepan Radić**, located within walking distance of the SP Mladost pool complex.

Our vision is to create a unique festival-like atmosphere, a vibrant hub where young athletes from all over the world can connect, celebrate the sport, and build lifelong friendships. To support this, a dedicated "Living Room" area will be established within the residence. This social space is designed for athletes and coaches to meet, relax, and cherish the sport of water polo in a shared, friendly environment.

Accommodation will be provided in double bedrooms with shared bathroom facilities on each floor. Fully renovated in 2016, the facilities are modern, well-equipped, and comfortable, providing an ideal environment for young athletes. However, in keeping with the traditional dormitory setting, also please note that the rooms are not air-conditioned.

All meals (full board) will be served at the student restaurant located within the dormitory complex with menus carefully adapted to the nutritional needs of youth athletes.

For more information and to secure your team's placement, please contact the LOC at accommodation@hvs.hr as soon as possible.

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

Each team must use and book into the official accommodation.

STJEPAN RADIĆ STUDENT DORMITORY

Address: Jarunska ulica 2, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Location: 3 minutes walking distance from the competition venue
20min ride from ZAG airport

Check-in/out time: 14:00h / 10:00h*

Services: Free Wi-Fi | Shared meeting room | Parking** | Gym**

* Early check-in/late check-out times are subject to availability and may result in additional fees.

**Additional fees may apply

Prices

140 EUR Single room

110 EUR Double room



OFFICIALS HOTEL (REFEREES AND DELEGATES)

THE WESTIN ZAGREB HOTEL*****

Address: Ulica Izidora Kršnjavoga 1, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Location: 20min competition venue

30min ZAG airport

Check-in/out time: 15:00h / 11:00h*

Services: Free Wi-Fi | Spa & Fitness | Parking | Swimming pool

* Early check-in/late check-out times are subject to availability and may result in additional fees.

Prices

250 EUR Single room

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 25th May 2026.

TRAVEL BY PLANE

Official airport is Zagreb (ZAG) that has regular daily connections to most of the important European flight hubs. Transportation to and from official airport is provided free of charge to all accredited participants.

TRAVEL BY BUS OR CAR

If traveling by bus or car, please mind the traffic situation. Real time updates on the traffic and road conditions in Croatia can be found [here](#).

If you will need parking space for the bus or car, please contact the LOC immediately on zagreb2026@hvs.hr

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

There will be no local transportation during the competition as the Athletes' Village is within a walking distance (200m) from the competition venue.

Transportation for the officials to and from the official hotel will be available on a fixed daily schedule. Details to be communicated at a later stage.

COMPETITION FORMAT

U16 MEN – 36 TEAMS (REVISED, NO BYES)

The tournament:

- Top 32 → main competition (clean bracket)
- Bottom 4 → mini round robin + integration

Phase 1 – League Phase (Days 1–3)

- 36 teams → 18 + 18
- 3 match days
- 1 match per day

Structure:

- Day 1: A vs A / B vs B
- Day 2: A vs B
- Day 3: A vs A / B vs B (no rematch)
- ➔ Ranking 1–36

Phase 2 – Split after Day 3

- TOP 32 → Main Knockout
 - Teams ranked 1–32
 - Clean Round of 32 → 16 → 8 → 4 → finals
- BOTTOM 4 → Placement Group
 - Teams ranked 33–36
 - Play round robin (3 matches) over Days 4–6

Detailed Schedule

Day 4

- Top 32:
 - Round of 32 → 16 matches
- Bottom 4:
 - Round robin matchday 1 → 2 matches

Day 5

Top 32:

- Round of 16 → 8 matches

Bottom 4:

- Round robin matchday 2 → 2 matches

Day 6

Top 32:

- Quarterfinals → 4 matches
- Classification matches

Bottom 4:

- Round robin matchday 3 → 2 matches

Day 7

Top 32:

- Semifinals → 2
- Finals + classification

Bottom 4:

- Final ranking (based on round robin standings)
- 33 vs 34 → final
- 35 vs 36 → final

U16 WOMEN – 24 TEAMS

Phase 1 – League Phase (4 DAYS)

Structure

- 24 teams → 12 + 12
- 4 match days
- Each team plays 4 matches

Match design

Day 1: A vs B

Day 2: A vs A / B vs B

Day 3: A vs B (new opponent)

Day 4: A vs A / B vs B (new opponent)

- 2 cross-line matches
- 2 same-line matches
- Strong evaluation of level

Ranking after Day 4

→ Rank 1–24

Phase 2 – Knockout + Full Classification

Split:

TOP 8 → Title bracket

9–16 → classification bracket

17–24 → classification bracket

Final Phase Schedule

Day 5 – Quarterfinals (all brackets)

- 3 brackets × 4 matches = 12 matches

Day 6 – Semifinals + classification

- Each bracket continues

Day 7 – Finals & placements

- All positions decided (1–24)

Training schedule

All teams will be allocated a minimum of one training session per day. The training venue is the same like the competition venue.

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

The official training schedule will be released mid-June and will be available online, updated in real time.

Due to a large number of 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 zagreb2026@hvs.hr

Venue and facilities

INFO DESK

The Info desk will be located within the Athletes Village Complex and on the ground floor of the competition venue, near the sports entrance. Both locations will be open daily from 8:00 to 22:00, between 23 July and 10 August.

FIRST AID AND TEAM MEDICAL SERVICES

First aid teams will be present at the competition Venue for the whole time of the duration of the competition. Both venues will also have a lifeguard and a medical doctor assigned for the whole time of the duration of the training sessions and games.

We urge you to take travel healthcare insurance for all delegation members or at least European Health Insurance Card (if applicable).

WORLD AQUATICS TRAVEL AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE

TSM Assistance

Emergency phone: +41 22 819 44 66

Contract no.: 20 00 190

Fax.: +41 22 819 44 99

Email: operations@tsm-assistance.com

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 a designated place to record the games at the competition venues.

WARM-UP

Warm-up session will be held in the same pool where the game takes place. Warm-up will start 60 minutes and end approx. 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. Dry warm-up area is available at the outdoor pool deck due to a limited capacity.

SPORTS 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 that must be followed.

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Immediately following the conclusion of each match, a Player of the Game ceremony will be held on the pool deck. The LOC staff will be on hand to coordinate and facilitate the proceedings.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Results system will be provided by Microplus. Official scoring website will be available soon.

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

TICKETING

General public tickets for the competition will be sold through the LOC platform, starting mid-May.

Tickets will be sold as a "Daily ticket" and a "Tournament Pass" that grants the access to all games of the competition.

For more information, please contact ticketing@hvs.hr



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Organized by



Hrvatski vaterpolski savez
Croatian Water Polo Federation

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