

INFORMATION BULLETIN

VERSION 1.0 – 08 May 2026



**WORLD
AQUATICS**
WATER POLO 4X4
DUBROVNIK 2026

31 August – 6 September
2026



Dubrovnik, Croatia



Old Port

HOST CITY - DUBROVNIK

Dubrovnik, located on the southern coast of Croatia along the Adriatic Sea, is one of the most iconic and historically rich cities in Europe. Known as the “Pearl of the Adriatic,” the city is renowned for its well-preserved medieval architecture and its distinctive Old Town, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Surrounded by ancient stone walls and crystal-clear waters, Dubrovnik offers a unique setting that blends cultural heritage with natural beauty.

The city has a long-standing tradition in aquatic sports, particularly in water polo, with a strong local culture and international success at club and national levels. Its coastal geography and maritime character make it an ideal host for innovative and open-water sporting events such as the Water Polo 4x4 World Championships.

The competition venue, located in the historic Old Port, provides a spectacular backdrop that connects the sport directly with the city’s identity and history. The compact layout of the Old Town allows for easy access between venues, accommodation, and key event locations, creating a highly convenient and engaging experience for athletes, officials, and spectators.

Beyond the competition, Dubrovnik offers a wide range of cultural, culinary, and leisure opportunities, including historic landmarks, seaside promenades, and Mediterranean cuisine. The city’s vibrant atmosphere, combined with its strong tourism infrastructure, ensures a welcoming and memorable stay for all participants.

With its unique combination of history, sporting tradition, and breathtaking scenery, Dubrovnik provides an exceptional stage for the inaugural edition of the World Aquatics Water Polo 4x4 Open World Championships.

LAUNCH OF A NEW DISCIPLINE

The World Aquatics Water Polo 4x4 Open World Championships will mark the official global launch of Water Polo 4x4 (WP4), a new discipline designed to complement traditional water polo.

WP4 introduces a modern, dynamic format of the sport, characterized by:

- fewer players in the water
- smaller fields of play
- faster transitions and increased scoring opportunities
- simplified and spectator-friendly rules

The discipline aims to:

- expand global participation in water polo
- provide additional competitive opportunities for athletes and National Federations
- create a format adapted for urban, coastal, and open-water environments
- enhance the sport’s appeal for broadcast, digital platforms, and new audiences

The Dubrovnik 2026 edition will serve as the first international benchmark event, contributing to the future development and refinement of the discipline.

ELITE COMPETITION

The Elite Competition is open to World Aquatics Member Federations, with participation based on an open and flexible entry model.

Key principles:

- Men's and Women's competitions
- Each National Federation may register up to two (2) national teams
- Final participation will be confirmed based on the total number of entries
- The competition system will be adapted according to the number of teams registered

The Elite Competition will be staged in the historic Old Port of Dubrovnik, providing a unique and iconic setting for the event.

All teams will participate in:

- a structured competition format
- multiple matches
- full classification ranking

ELITE COMPETITION

The competition will follow a two-phase structure:

- Preliminary Phase
- Knockout Phase
 - Top-ranked teams will advance to the knockout stage
 - Knockout rounds will include:
 - Quarterfinals
 - Semifinals
 - Finals
- Classification Matches
 - All teams will continue to compete following the prelim-phase
 - Classification matches will determine final ranking for all positions

This structure ensures:

- competitive balance
- meaningful matches for all teams
- maximum sporting value

COMPETITION PROGRAM

The event will take place over seven (7) competition days, while structure will follow after the registration deadline:

Detailed match schedules will be provided following confirmation of entries.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

VK JUG DUBROVNIK / LOC

- Accommodation and Visa: jug@jug.hr and wp4@jug.hr

WORLD AQUATICS OFFICE

Mr. Pere Miró

Email: pere.miro@worldaquatics.com

Mr. Gabor Karpati

Email: gabor.karpati@worldaquatics.com

Registration: gms@worldaquatics.com

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

In line with the objective of launching WP4 as a truly global discipline, the Championships will adopt an open and flexible participation model:

- All World Aquatics Member Federations are invited to enter national teams
- The competition format will be adapted based on the final number of entries
- The system is designed to accommodate a broad and inclusive field of participants

With the available competition capacity, the event can host a significant number of teams across both genders, while maintaining a high-quality competitive structure.

OFFICIALS

Each participating national federation is financially responsible for the appointed referee(s) from their respective country. The Respective national federation should pay per Diem to their appointed referee.

World Aquatics will appoint neutral referees whose travel, accommodation and per Diem are the responsibility of World Aquatics.

The rules to be applied at the Championships are available on the World Aquatics Website and in the Rules and Regulations.

REGISTRATION

The registration runs through the AQUA GMS. All entries shall be made electronically via the World Aquatics General Management System (GMS) 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 maximum 20 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 8 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 12 members including the referee with the team.

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](#)
- AQUI Mandatory Education Section on the Website: [Link](#)
- Contact: info@aquaticsintegrity.com

ACCREDITATION

Participating national federations must complete the registration procedure to obtain the accreditation card for all their members - including athletes, coaches, staff, NF representatives and guests, etc. This process will be done online through World Aquatics GMS available here. Following standard procedures, the accreditation card is personal, non-transferable, and must always be displayed 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.

MEDICAL & DOPING

Medical services will be at the disposal at the venue during the whole competition. Athletes can be requested to take a doping test at any time 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.

The event will be supported by comprehensive medical and safety services, including:

- on-site medical teams
- emergency response procedures
- water safety and rescue services

Detailed medical and safety protocols will be shared prior to the event.

MILESTONES

- Invitation to all National Federations: 19th April 2026
- First Information package to the Federations: 5th May 2026
- GMS open for Registration: 5th May 2026
- Registration closes: 12th June 2026
- Payment of deposit (5,000 EUR): 12th June 2026
- Final hotel bookings and full payment: 1st July 2026
- Travel details to be entered into the GMS: 1st August 2026
- Sport entries deadline (8 players): 24th August 2026
- Technical Online meeting and Workshop:
- Competition: 31st August – 6th September 2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further updates will include:

- detailed competition schedule
- technical regulations
- venue information
- operational guidelines

will be communicated through subsequent bulletins and official communications.

The World Aquatics Water Polo 4x4 Open World Championships represents a new chapter in the evolution of water polo, combining high-performance competition with innovation and global accessibility.

World Aquatics looks forward to welcoming all participating Federations to Dubrovnik for this inaugural event.

ACCOMMODATION

Valamar Lacroma – 4*



Service: Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Double room: 195,00 € per person and day // Double room for single use: 380,00€

Sunny Club Dubrovnik – 3*



Service: Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Double room: 150,00 € per person and day // Double room for single use: 285,00€

Valamar Dubrovnik President - 5*



Service: Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Double room: 280,00 € per person and day // Double room for single use:480,00€

EXPENSES (teams' responsibilities)

- International travel costs, VISA
- full-board accommodation of the entire delegation in the official hotel.
- expenses of the Teams' accompanying referee including the per diem, international travel cost, lodging
- uniforms
- insurance

National federations will receive an invoice for the deposit and hotel package costs after the registrations and the hotel bookings submitting. The deposit is not refundable. The deposit is part of the final payments of accommodation.

- Payment of deposit (5,000 EUR): 12th June 2026
- Final hotel bookings and full payment: 1st July 2026

Confirmation of hotel can be done after receiving payment.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is arranged by the host Federation:

- > Airport transfer to and from the official hotel.
- > Transfer from the official hotel to the games / training swimming pool and return.

OFFICIAL AIRPORT

The official airport is Dubrovnik Airport which has many daily connections to most of the important European flight hubs. The approximate bus driving time from airport to the official hotel is 15-20 min.

Transportation to and from the official airport is provided free of charge to all team members. Transportation from other Croatian airports can be arranged and, in some cases, may be subject to additional cost.

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

PRELIMINARY HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

TEAM:		GENDER: (M/W)	
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	Email address	Mobile Number
Federation Contact Person		
Contact Person in Dubrovnik (if available)		

TEAM'S TRAVEL	<i>Date of</i>		<i>Departure Date</i>	

<i>Rooms</i>	<i>No. of Rooms</i>	<i>No. of Persons</i>	<i>Cost / person / day</i>	<i>No. of Nights</i>	<i>TOTAL COST</i>
Single					
Double					
Triple					
				Total	

SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT/SECRETARY	DATE	STAMP OF FEDERATION

<p>THIS FORM IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE</p> <p>E-MAIL wp4@jug.hr and jug@jug.hr copied to gabor.karpati@worldaquatics.com</p> <p>BY NOT LATER THAN 12TH JUNE 2026.</p>
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