

WATER POLO

EVENTS (2)

Men's Event (1)	Women's Event (1)
16-team tournament	16-team tournament

ATHLETES

1. Number of Players for Water Polo:

	Qualification Places	Host Country Places	Total
Men	225 (15 teams)	15 (1 team)	240 (16 teams)
Women	225 (15 teams)	15 (1 team)	240 (16 teams)
Total	450 (30 teams)	30 (2 teams)	480 (32 teams)

2. Maximum Number of players per National Federation (NF):

	Quota per NF
Men	15 athletes (1 team)
Women	15 athletes (1 team)
Total	30 athletes (if there are 2 teams)

3. Type of Allocation of Quota Places:

The quota place is allocated to the NF.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

All athletes must comply with the provisions of the World Aquatics Constitution and Competition Regulations currently in force, including but not limited to, Nationality and World Anti-Doping Code and to the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions. Only those athletes who comply with all Regulations may participate in the World Aquatics Championships Budapest 2027.

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

Only the athletes who are eligible to participate at the official World Aquatics Competitions, in accordance with the World Aquatics Constitution, are entitled to participate in the World Aquatics Championships.

QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

QUALIFICATION PLACES

The qualification events are listed in chronological order of qualification. The Continental Qualification Pathway and events are up to the Continental Association.

WOMEN and MEN: (each gender has equal number of teams, and the same qualification pathway applies)

Number of Teams	Qualification Events (per gender)
3 places	World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025 The three (3) highest placed National Federations from the preceding World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025 will obtain a quota place.
3 Places	World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup Final – 2026 The three (3) highest placed National Federations from the 2026 World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup Final (held in Sydney) will obtain a quota place. Should any of these NFs have already obtained a quota from the World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025 or as the Host, the next highest placed NF(s) from the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup Final 2026 will obtain a quota.
1 place	Host Country The Host Country NF of the World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027 will automatically obtain a quota place.
9 places	Continental Championships The highest placed NFs in the results from each of the five (5) Continental Championships or Qualification Event(s) will each obtain one (1) quota place in the following manner: Europe – 3 places Asia – 2 places Americas – 2 places Africa – 1 place Oceania – 1 place Should any of these NFs have already obtained a quota place at the World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025, the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup Final – 2026, or as the Host Country, the next highest placed NF(s) from the respective Continental Championships or Qualification event(s) will obtain a quota place. Should any of the Continental Championships or Qualification event(s) not take place, a play-off match between the top two (2) teams from the respective continent shall be organised by the Continental Organization to determine which NF would represent the specific Continent.

	Should there be only one (1) representative from a specific continent, this NF will obtain a quota place.
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HOST COUNTRY PLACES

The Host Country is guaranteed one (1) team quota place per gender.

CONFIRMATION OF HOST COUNTRY PLACES

The Host NF must confirm in writing its use of the allocated quota places to World Aquatics on or before 1 June 2026.

CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR QUOTA PLACES

CONFIRMATION OF QUALIFICATION PLACES

Following each qualification event, World Aquatics will publish the results on its website (<http://www.worldaquatics.com/>) and inform the respective NFs of their allocated quota places.

The NFs will then have 14 days to confirm if they wish to use these quota places, as detailed in paragraph **G. Qualification Timeline**.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA PLACES

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUALIFICATION PLACES

Any unused quota place(s) shall be reallocated to the highest-ranked NF(s) not yet qualified through the preceding steps of the qualification pathway, based on the final classification of the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup 2027.

If a quota place still remains unallocated, the World Cup 2027 final placings shall be used to reallocate the remaining quota place(s).

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED HOST COUNTRY PLACES

Any unused Host Country quota place will be reallocated to the next highest ranked NF, not yet qualified, according to the ranking of the Continental Championships (for Europe).

QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Date	Milestone
11-25 July 2025	World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025
22-26 July 2026	World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup Finals 2026, Sydney

Until 1 March 2027	Continental Associations to inform World Aquatics about the Continental places.
15 March 2027	World Aquatics to inform NFs of their allocated quota places
30 March 2027	NFs to confirm use of allocated quota places to World Aquatics
7 April 2027	World Aquatics to reallocate all unused quota places
15 April 2027	Draw for the women and men's tournaments
17 June 2027	Budapest 2027 Sport Entries deadline / Water Polo
26 June – 9 July 2027	World Aquatics Championships - Budapest 2027

* These qualification events must be decided by the Continental Associations. Needs to be confirmed individually.