

**EUROPEAN WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
(UPDATED 15 September 2023)

In addition to the LEN General Events Rules the following

**REGULATIONS**

Shall apply:

- EC – WP 1                   EVENTS AND ORGANISATION**
- EC – WP 1.1                The Championships shall be held in two (2) parts separately for Men and Women each.  
Both competitions, Men and Women, will be held according to the same competition system.
- EC – WP 1.2                The Championships shall be held in three (3) stages:
- Qualification Round I
  - Qualification Round II
  - Final Round
- EC – WP 1.3                The Championships shall be held over a time period of maximum 24 months and shall be finished in the even year.
- EC – WP 2                   EUROPEAN WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- EC – WP 2.1                Event & Participation**
- EC – WP 2.1.1             Every Federation may enter one (1) team
- EC – WP 2.1.2             The Final Round shall be held with Sixteen (16) teams, including the team of the Organizing Federation.
- EC – WP 2.1.3             The first eight (8) classified teams from the previous championship are automatically qualified to the final round.  
The teams ranked 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> from the previous championship are automatically qualified to the Qualification Round II.  
The Organizing Federation team in case that didn't participate at the previous championships will be automatically qualified for Qualification Round II.
- EC – WP 2.1.4             All the other teams entered shall play the Qualification Round I.

**EC – WP 2.2                    Qualification Round I (Stage I)**

EC – WP 2.2.1                The teams participating in the Qualification Round I shall be seeded into 4 groups by geographical positioning.  
Pending of the number of teams entered, the LEN TWPC may decide on a different system.

EC – WP 2.2.2                Each of the 4 groups to be played in a tournament at different venues.

EC – WP 2.2.3                In each group each team shall play against each of the other teams on a round robin system.  
Each team shall play only one match per day.  
Exceptions may be decided.

EC – WP 2.2.4                All matches shall be played to a final result. There shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result according World Aquatics Water Polo rules.-

EC – WP 2.2.5                The teams classified 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the four groups shall qualify for the Qualification Round II.

**EC – WP 2.3                    Qualification Round II (Stage II)**

EC – WP 2.3.1                The Qualification Round II shall be held with sixteen (16) teams.

EC – WP 2.3.2                The team ranked 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> from the previous championships.  
The Organizing Federation team in case that didn't participate at the previous championships.  
The eight teams classified from the Qualification Round I.

EC – WP 2.3.3                The participating teams in the Qualification Round II shall be drawn into four (4) groups.

EC – WP 2.3.4                The seeding shall be according to the classification of the previous Championship, the ranking of the Qualification round I and geographical positioning.  
Each of the 4 groups to be played in a tournament at four different venues.

EC – WP 2.3.5                In case that group consists of up to four (4) teams, each team shall play only one match per day.  
In case that group consists of more than four (4) teams, exceptions may be decided.

EC – WP 2.3.6                All matches shall be played to a final result. There shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result according World Aquatics Water Polo rules

EC – WP 2.3.7                The Organizing Federation team and highest ranked team from his group will qualify for the Final Round.  
The first two teams classified from the other groups shall qualify for the final Round.  
In case that Organizing Federation team is directly qualified to Final Round according to EC – WP 2.1.3, the first two teams classified from the four groups shall qualify for the Final Round.

**EC – WP 2.4                    Final Round (Stage III)**

EC – WP 2.4.1 The Final Round shall be held in one Tournament (Final Tournament) with sixteen (16) teams:  
The eight (8) teams directly qualified according to EC – WP 2.1.3  
The eight (8) winning teams of the Qualification Round II (EC – WP 2.3.7)

EC – WP 2.4.2 The 8 teams directly qualified according to EC – WP 2.1.3, shall be drawn into two (2) groups with four teams each (Group A and B)  
The 8 teams of the Qualification Round II (EC – WP 2.3.7), shall be drawn into two (2) groups with four teams each (Group C and D)

EC – WP 2.4.3 For the groups A and B, the draw shall be held according to the following system:  
1<sup>st</sup> batch: The teams ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the previous Championship  
2<sup>nd</sup> batch: The teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the previous Championship  
3<sup>rd</sup> Batch: The teams ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the previous Championship  
4<sup>th</sup> Batch: The teams ranked 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the previous Championship

For the groups C and D, the draw shall be held according to the following system:  
1<sup>st</sup> batch: The teams ranked 1<sup>st</sup> at the Qualification Round II  
2<sup>nd</sup> batch: The teams ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Qualification Round II

EC – WP 2.3.6 All matches shall be played to a final result. There shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result according World Aquatics Water Polo rules

EC – WP 2.4.4 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

EC – WP 2.4.5 The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams in Group A and Group B have a bye.

#### EC - WP 2.5 Ranking Games

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams in Group A and Group B, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams in Group C and Group D play against each other in a cross group format.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams in each of Group C and Group D form a new group will consist of Four (4) teams. They shall play for places 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in cross group format.

EC – WP 2.5.1 Day 4 (crossing games)  
25 3D – 4C  
26 4D – 3C  
27 4A – 1C  
28 4B – 1D  
29 3B – 2D  
30 3A – 2C

**EC – WP 2.6 Quarter Final round**

- EC – WP 2.6.1 Day 5  
31 Loser Game 25 – Loser Game 26 (15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> place)  
32 Winner Game 25 – Winner Game 26 (13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> place)  
33 Loser Game 27 – Loser Game 29  
34 Loser Game 28 – Loser Game 30  
35 1B – Winner game 27  
36 1A – Winner game 28  
37 2A – Winner game 29  
38 2B – Winner game 30

**EC – WP 2.7 Semifinal Round**

- EC – WP 2.7.1 Day 6  
39 Loser Game 33 – Loser Game 34 (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> place)  
40 Winner Game 33 – Winner Game 34 (9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> place)  
41 Loser Game 35 – Loser Game 37  
42 Loser Game 36 – Loser Game 38  
43 Winner Game 35 – Winner Game 37  
44 Winner Game 36 – Winner Game 38

**EC – WP 2.8 Final Classification Round**

- EC – WP 2.8.1 45 Loser Game 41 – Loser Game 42 (7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> place).  
46 Winner Game 41 – Winner Game 42 (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> place)  
47 Loser Game 43 – Loser Game 44 (3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> place)  
48 Winner Game 43 – Winner Game 44 (1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- EC – WP 2.8.2 The team ranked 1<sup>st</sup> shall be declared «European Water Polo Champion Men/Women».  
It shall be awarded a Trophy, engraved with this title.

**EC-WP 3 ENTRIES**

**EC-WP 3.1 Preliminary Entries and Confirmation of Participation**

- EC-WP 3.1.1 Preliminary Entries for the European Championships shall be submitted to the LEN Office no later than the date announced by the LEN Office.  
A Federation having made a Preliminary Entry may withdraw no later than the day before the draw.
- EC-WP 3.1.2 Teams qualified for the final round shall confirm their participation to the LEN Office no later than the date announced by the LEN Office.
- EC-WP 3.1.3 Time and place of any draw shall be announced by the Secretary of the LEN TWPC and circulated by the LEN Office.

**EC-WP 3.2 Named Entries**

- EC-WP 3.2.1 Named entries of players and officials shall be submitted for each of the following

stages to the Secretary of the LEN TWPC and copy to the LEN Office no later than ten (10) days before the first competition of:

- a) the Qualification Rounds;
- b) the Final Round;

The number of players entered the Qualification Rounds **is not restricted**. For the final round up to **twenty (20)** players shall be listed on the official form and before the beginning of the final round.

The players list shall comprise their name, surname and passport number. The lists of entered players may not be changed after the time limit for its submission.

EC-WP 3.2.2 The names on the lists to be submitted before each of the above mentioned stages may be changed. The list submitted before the final round may not be changed for the further stages of the Championship.

EC-WP 3.2.3 At the Technical Meeting before the first match of the above mentioned stages, fifteen (15) players of those listed on the official form, together with the names of the coach and the officials to sit on the bench shall be nominated for participation in the competitions.

EC-WP 3.2.4 Nominated players shall be numbered one (1) to thirteen (13) and wear a cap with the number under which he/she is listed.  
The goalkeeper shall wear a red cap numbered 1 and the substitute goalkeeper shall wear a red cap numbered 13. A player shall not be allowed to change his cap number during the final stage of the Championships.

EC-WP 3.2.5 The names of the 13 players and the names of the coach and the officials to sit on the pool deck shall be submitted to the LEN Technical Delegate no later than one hour before the match.  
A player suspended for one or more matches may be substituted.

EC-WP 3.2.6 The LEN Technical Delegate shall check the players and officials personal identification documents and ensure that the names of the players and officials are in accordance with the list of entered players and in conformity with Rule E 13.1.  
Players and officials who cannot prove identity and citizenship correspondingly to the list of entered players or which are not listed shall not be eligible to play.

### **EC-WP 3.3 Accreditations**

EC-WP 3.3.1 Federations entering any of the Championship events shall receive accreditation free of charge for:

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

EC-WP 3.3.2 Team staff members include everybody servicing the team: Team Leaders, Chaperones, Coaches, Physiotherapists, Interpreters, etc., but not officials such as judges, referees, etc.

## **EC-WP 4                    REFEREES**

EC-WP 4.1                    In all stage of the competition, from the Qualification Rounds to the Final each Federation of the participating team shall be financially responsible for a referee affiliated to the Federation and to be nominated by the LEN TWPC.  
If no referee affiliated to the Federation may be nominated, the Federation shall be financially responsible for one (1) referee per team of another Federation to be nominated by the LEN TWPC.

EC-WP 4.2                    Additional referees may be appointed at the Final Round

EC-WP 4.3                    The appointed members of the LEN TWPC shall nominate for each match the Technical Delegate, the referees and the other officials.

EC-WP 4.4                    Referees may be evaluated.

## **EC-WP 5                    CLASSIFICATION**

### **EC-WP 5.1                    Scores and Points**

EC-WP 5.1.1                    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

EC-WP 5.1.2                    The final classification within a group shall be established according to the points gained by each team in all matches of its group.

EC-WP 5.1.3                    For each match in which a team is disqualified a goal score of 10:0 shall be awarded to the opposing team.

### **EC-WP 5.2                    Matches to be played to a final result**

EC-WP 5.2.1                    All matches shall be played to a final result. There shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result according World Aquatics rules

### **EC-WP 5.3                    Equality of Points**

EC-WP 5.3.1                    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.

EC-WP 5.3.2 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.

#### **EC-WP 5.4 Exclusion and Suspension of Teams**

EC-WP 5.4.1 The LEN Code of Discipline shall apply.

EC-WP 5.4.2 LEN 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.

EC-WP 5.4.3 The LEN 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.

#### **EC-WP 6 FINANCIAL REGULATION**

EC-WP 6.1 The organizer Federation of any of the Championship events shall provide:  
a) transport from the nearest airport to the official hotels 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 minimum one (1) hour per day for training preferably in the competition pool one (1) days before the competition.

All other requirements, including the reimbursement of the expenses of the LEN

Delegate(s) and the neutral referees, are as fixed in the relevant Contract (see Rule E 9.4).

EC-WP 6.2

Each **participating Federation** shall be financially responsible:

- a) for the expenses of accommodation and travel of their team(s)
- b) for the expenses of accommodation, travel and per diem according LEN Regulations for their referee(s) nominated according to EC-WP 5.1.