



QUALIFICATION SYSTEM
GAMES OF THE XXXIV OLYMPIAD – LA28

World Aquatics (AQUA)

OPEN WATER SWIMMING



A. EVENTS (2)	MEN (1)	WOMEN (1)
	10km	10km

B. QUOTA PLACES

B.1. Total quota places for open water swimming:		Total
QUOTA PLACES	21	21
HOST COUNTRY QUOTA	1	1
TOTAL	22	22

B.2. Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee

QUOTA PLACES PER NOC	2	2	4
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B.3. Type of allocation of quota places

Quota places are allocated to athletes by name.

C. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

All athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions).

Only those athletes who respect and comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, including the conditions of participation established by the IOC, plus the rules of World Aquatics, may participate in the LA28 Olympic Games.

Age requirements

C.1. All competing athletes at the LA28 Olympic Games must have been born on or before 31 December 2014 (i.e. be at least 14 years old or reaching this age on 31 December 2028), with the date validated by the passport used for accreditation registration.

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

The following qualification pathway is set out in chronological order. Athlete eligibility for qualification must be maintained to ensure eligibility to participate in the LA28 Olympic Games.

The following qualification pathway is applicable separately for each gender (men and women).

Number of quota places	Qualification events
MEN / WOMEN D.1. Priority 1 3 athletes	Budapest 2027 World Aquatics Championships, 26 June – 18 July 2027, Budapest (HUN) The first three (3) finishers- in the 10k event will earn a quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games. NB: Note 1.1 – If there is a tie among the top three finishers in the 10k event at the Budapest 2027 World Aquatics Championships, all athletes involved in the tie will obtain a quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games.

Priority 2 1 athlete	<p>Open Water Swimming World Ranking (as of 1 February 2028)*</p> <p>The highest-ranked athlete in the Open Water Swimming World Ranking (as of 1 February 2028) will earn a quota place invitation by name for the LA28 Olympic Games.</p> <p>*This date may be adjusted slightly based on the World Cup calendar for 2028.</p> <p>NB:</p> <p>Note 2.1 – If the highest-ranked eligible athlete in the Open Water Swimming World Ranking has already obtained a quota place via Budapest 2027, the next highest-ranked eligible athlete in the Open Water Swimming World Ranking will obtain a quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games, adhering to the maximum number of quota places per NOC, as outlined in B.2.</p> <p>Note 2.2 – If the NOC of the highest-ranked athlete in the Open Water Swimming World Ranking has already had two athletes qualify via priority 1, the next highest-ranked athlete in the Open Water Swimming World Ranking will obtain a quota place invitation by name for the LA28 Olympic Games, provided that athlete is not from the same NOC as the two athletes who qualified via priority 1.</p> <p>Note 2.3 – If there is a tie when it comes to the highest-ranked eligible athlete in the Open Water Swimming World Ranking, all athletes involved in the tie will obtain a quota place invitation by name for the LA28 Olympic Games, adhering to the maximum number of quota places per NOC, as outlined in B.2.</p>
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Priority 3 18 athletes	<p>Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event:</p> <p>A. Continental representation (up to five athletes) B. Host country quota (one athlete) C. Remaining athletes based on the results, provided the NOC maximum is not exceeded, for the remaining quota places (22 minus the number of quota places already filled)</p> <p>3.A Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event – continental representation</p> <p>The highest-placed eligible athlete in the Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event from each of the five continents will obtain a quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games. Up to a maximum of one athlete per continent will qualify via this route.</p> <p>Note 3.A.1 – If a continent has already had an athlete qualify via priorities 1 or 2, the highest-placed eligible athlete(s) based on the final results of the Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event will obtain a quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games, up to the maximum of two quota places per NOC, as outlined in section B.2.</p> <p>Note 3.A.2 – If there is a tie between two athletes from the same continent as the highest-placed eligible athlete, this tie will be broken by the World Aquatics World Ranking, and the highest-ranked athlete will earn the quota place.</p> <p>3.B Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event – host country quota</p> <p>If the host country has not had any athletes qualify via pathway priorities 1, 2 or 3.A, the highest-placed host country athlete based on the final results of the Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event will directly obtain a quota place. If the host country has already had one or two athletes qualify via pathway priorities 1, 2 and/or 3.A, the host country quota position will not be granted and will be reallocated in accordance with F.2.</p> <p>Note 3.B.1 – If the host country does not use the quota position referred to in 3.B, section F.2 specifies how this quota place is reallocated.</p> <p>Note 3.B.2 – If there is a tie between two athletes as the highest-placed host country athlete, this tie will be broken by the World Aquatics World Ranking, and the highest-ranked athlete will earn the quota place invitation.</p> <p>3.C Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event – highest-finishing athletes qualified after continental representation and host country quota allocations</p> <p>The highest-placed eligible athletes at the Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event (who have not qualified via pathway priorities 1, 2, 3.A or 3.B above) will obtain a quota place invitation by name for the LA28 Olympic Games.</p> <p>Note 3.C.1 – There are likely to be 12 quota places available via pathway priority 3.C. This estimate is calculated as follows: the total number of quota places available is 22, minus athletes qualified via pathway priorities 1, 2, 3.A and 3.B, which will likely leave a number of 12 athletes (assuming that the conditions for quota places via pathway priorities 1, 2, 3.A and 3.B are all satisfied and there are no ties). If there are ties in any pathway priority, this estimate of 12 quota places via pathway priority 3.C will be reduced accordingly.</p>
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Notes 3.C.2 – The maximum of two athletes per NOC in each event, as outlined in section B.2, applies. Therefore, when assessing which athletes have qualified under section 3.C, any athlete listed in the results of the Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event who has qualified via pathway priorities 1, 2, 3.A or 3.B above:

- will be counted as having a quota place for their NOC; and
- will be skipped over in the results, meaning the next highest-placed athlete will obtain a quota place invitation by name for the LA28 Olympic Games, up to the maximum of two quota places per NOC, as outlined in section B.2.
- In the event of a tie for the final (22nd) quota place, the World Aquatics World Ranking will be used to break the tie, with the best-ranked athlete earning the quota place.

D.2. Host country places

See section D.1, priority 3.B, above, which outlines how the host country obtains its quota place.

E. CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of qualification places

E.1. Following the **Budapest 2027 World Aquatics Championships**, World Aquatics will publish the results on its website (www.worldaquatics.com) and inform the respective NOCs which of their athletes have qualified.

On 1 February 2028, the updated standings of the **World Aquatics Open Water Swimming World Ranking** will be published by World Aquatics on its website (www.worldaquatics.com), and the respective NOCs will be informed which of their athletes have qualified.

Following the **Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event**, World Aquatics will publish the results on its website (www.worldaquatics.com) and inform the respective NOCs which of their athletes have qualified. The NOCs will then have two weeks to confirm if they wish to enter these athletes, as detailed in section H, “**Qualification timeline**”.

F. REALLOCATION

Reallocation of unused qualification places

F.1. If an allocated quota place is not confirmed by the NOC by the confirmation of quota places deadline, or is declined by the NOC, the quota place will be reallocated to the next highest-placed eligible athlete of the same gender from the same qualification event where the quota place was allocated, adhering to the maximum number of quota places per NOC, as outlined above (B.2).

Reallocation of unused host country places

F.2. Unused host country places, including in the event of qualification through the process outlined in section D, “Qualification pathway”, or places declined by the host country will be reallocated to the next highest-placed athlete of the same gender from the Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event, adhering to the maximum number of quota places per NOC, as outlined above (B.2).

G. ADDITIONAL PLACES

In addition to the process above, any NOC with a qualified pool of athletes who have achieved an Olympic Qualification Time (“A” Entry Standard) and have a confirmed quota place in the sport of swimming (within the 830 allocated quota places for swimming) in either the 800-metre or 1,500-metre freestyle (for both genders) may enter those athletes into the open water swimming event, provided such entries comply with B.2.

H. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Period	Date	Milestone
Qualification	26 June – 18 July 2027	Budapest 2027 World Aquatics Championships (4-8 July)
Confirmation	1 February 2028	OWS World Ranking standings published by World Aquatics
Qualification	TBC in 2028	World Aquatics Olympic Games 2028 Qualification Event – TBC
Confirmation and reallocation	Within five days of the previous step	World Aquatics to inform NOCs of their allocated quota places

	Two weeks after the previous step	NOCs to confirm to World Aquatics the use of the allocated quota places
	Three weeks after the Olympic Games Qualification Event (or if required after this date)	World Aquatics to reallocate all unused quota places
Sport Entries Deadline	26 June 2028	LA28 Olympic Games sport entries deadline
	15 July 2028	Team Leaders Meeting – 15 July
Games Time	14 – 30 July 2028	LA28 Olympic Games (open water swimming on 17 and 18 July 2028)