



QUALIFICATION SYSTEM
GAMES OF THE XXXIV OLYMPIAD – LA28

World Aquatics (AQUA)

WATER POLO



A. EVENTS (2)	MEN (1)	WOMEN (1)
	12-team tournament	12-team tournament

B. QUOTA PLACES

B.1. Total quota places for water polo			Total
QUOTA PLACES	11 teams	11 teams	22 teams
HOST COUNTRY QUOTA	1 team	1 team	2 teams
TOTAL	12 teams	12 teams	24 teams
B.2. Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee			
QUOTA PLACES PER NOC	1 team	1 team	2 teams
B.3. Type of allocation of quota places			

Quota places are allocated to NOCs.

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), as well as the IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport and Guiding Considerations for International Federations and Sports Governing Bodies (the "Policy").

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

Additional eligibility criteria/requirements

- C.1.** All competing athletes at the LA28 Olympic Games must be 14 years of age or older on 31 December 2028, as validated by the passport used for accreditation registration.

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

Women and men

The same qualification pathway will be used for both genders. All teams' eligibility for qualification must be maintained to ensure eligibility to participate in the LA28 Olympic Games.

	Number of quota places	Qualification events
MEN / WOMEN	D.1. 1 team	Host country The host country NOC will automatically obtain a quota place. See paragraph F below for how an unused quota place will be reallocated.
	1 team	World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup 2027, 24-28 February 2027, location TBC The highest-placed NOC at the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup 2027 will obtain one quota place. If this NOC has already qualified as the host, the next highest-placed NOC at the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup 2027 will obtain the quota place.

2 teams	<p>World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027, 26 June – 9 July 2027, Budapest (HUN)</p> <p>The two highest-placed NOCs at the World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027 will each obtain one quota place. If an NOC has already qualified through the World Cup 2027 or if the Olympic host nation takes one of these two places, the next highest-placed NOC(s) at the World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027 will obtain a quota place.</p>
5 teams	<p>Continental qualification, dates and locations TBC</p> <p>The highest-placed NOC in each of the five continental championships will each obtain one quota place.</p> <p>Should any of these NOCs have already obtained a quota place as the host country, or through the World Cup 2027 or the World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027, the next highest-placed NOC in the respective continental championships will obtain a quota place.</p> <p>Should any of the continental championships or continental qualification events not take place, the highest-placed NOC at the World Aquatics World Qualifier 2028 from the continent in question will obtain a quota place.</p> <p>Should there be only one representative from a specific continent, this NOC will obtain a quota place.</p> <p>If there is no team representing a given continent, the vacancy will be filled by the next highest-placed team (that has not already qualified) at the World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027.</p>
3 teams	<p>World Aquatics World Qualifier 2028, 3-9 April 2028 and 17-23 April 2028, location TBC</p> <p>The three highest-placed NOCs at the World Qualifier 2028 that have not yet qualified – as the Olympic host country or through the World Aquatics World Cup 2027, the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest or continental qualification events – will each obtain one quota place. The teams that are eligible to take part in the World Qualifier tournament are specified in the World Aquatics Competition Regulation.</p>
D.2.	<p>Host country places</p> <p>The host country is guaranteed one team quota place per gender.</p>

E. CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of quota places

- E.1. Following each qualification event, World Aquatics will publish the results on its website (<http://www.worldaquatics.com/>) and inform the respective NOCs of their allocated quota places.

The NOCs will then have 14 days to confirm if they wish to use these quota places, as detailed in paragraph H, “**Qualification timeline**”.

Confirmation of host country places

- E.2.** The host country will confirm the use of the allocated quota places to World Aquatics two weeks after the conclusion of the **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027**.

F. REALLOCATION

Reallocation of unused quota places

- F.1.** Any unused quota place will be reallocated to the next highest-placed non-qualified NOC as per the ranking of the **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027**, as applicable.
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Reallocation of unused host country places

- F.2.** Any unused host country quota place will be reallocated to the next highest-ranked non-qualified NOC as per the final classification of the **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027**.
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G. AP ATHLETES

Definition:

The Ap athlete policy, including the athletes’ entitlements and the quota per team, is currently under review and will be updated no later than December 2026.

Eligibility:

“Ap” athletes must comply with the same eligibility rules as competing athletes, as described in paragraph C, “Athlete eligibility”.

H. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Period	Date	Milestone
Qualification	24-28 February 2027	World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup 2027
	26 June – 9 July 2027	World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027
	July 2027 – January 2028	Continental qualification events
Confirmation	31 January 2028	Continental Associations to inform World Aquatics about the continental place and the teams participating in the World Qualifier tournament
	1 February 2028	World Aquatics to inform NOCs of their allocated quota places
	14 February 2028	NOCs to confirm their use of the quota places World Aquatics to reallocate all unused quota places
Qualification	3-9 and 17-23 April 2028	World Aquatics World Qualifier 2028
Confirmation and reallocation	April 2028	World Aquatics to inform the NOCs of their allocated quota places
		Remaining NOCs to confirm their use of the quota places World Aquatics to reallocate all unused quota places if applicable
Draw	May 2028	Draw for LA28 (12 men’s teams and 12 women’s teams)
Sport entries deadline	26 June 2028	LA28 sport entries deadline
Games time	14-30 July 2028	LA28 Olympic Games (specific dates are 12-23 July)