



World Aquatics Water Polo Scholarships Programme

2024-2025



About the Programme



The World Aquatics Scholarships Programme was launched in 2014 with the purpose of providing financial and technical assistance to athletes with internationally recognised sporting achievements, but without favourable or sufficient conditions to train locally.

World Aquatics is proud to allocate significant resources to the 2024-2025 World Aquatics Scholarship Programme, recognising its pivotal role in the development of the World Aquatics Members and their talented athletes. The current programme targets a diverse array of aquatic sports, including 100 Swimmers, 20 Open Water Swimmers, 20 Divers and 10 Artistic Swimming Duets.

In a groundbreaking move, World Aquatics is introducing scholarship opportunities for Water Polo players, showcasing the Programme's dedication to nurturing talent in aquatic sports. This initiative provides crucial financial and technical assistance to aid athletes in their growth and preparation for upcoming World Aquatics events.

Expanding the scope of the Programme, athletes from National Federations will have the chance to join a European club for one season, further enhancing their skills and gaining valuable experience. The focus is on identifying athletes with exceptional talent and determination, individuals who not only seek personal development but also aim to inspire their peers and communities back in their home countries.

National Federations are encouraged to nominate promising players, regardless of gender, who demonstrate potential and contribute to the progress of Water Polo within their countries. These athletes are expected to commit to participating in both current and future World Aquatics Events.

Deadline for application: 30 April, 2024

General considerations

TYPE

Selected athletes will have the chance to join a European Water Polo club for one season

PROFILE

Female and/or Male Water Polo players, irrespective of their playing position

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Provided to the designated Water Polo clubs as per the contractual agreements

APPLICATION

Each World Aquatics Member may apply with multiple Water Polo players.
If a World Aquatics Member applies with more than one athlete, at least one application for each gender must be submitted.

TARGET

Athletes with exceptional talent and drive, who have participated at the 2024 Men's/Women's European Water Polo Championships and/or at the World Aquatics Championships –Doha 2024 and/or at a Continental Championship held in 2023-2024

PRIORITY

The scholarships will be allocated to talented athletes who have limited exposure to a high-level competition environment and training conditions.
Quotas per continent and gender equality will be considered

Athlete profile

- 1** | The candidate must be an active National Team member, who has represented his/her country at the international competitions. He/she should have **tournament experience** at the **World Aquatics Championships, European Championships and/or Continental Championships**
- 2** | The candidate should have played Water Polo for a minimum of **8 consecutive years**
- 3** | The candidate **will participate at the upcoming World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025** or at the next **Continental Championships**
- 4** | He/she is ready to move to a foreign country, **to the club designated by World Aquatics**
- 5** | He/she will comply with the **World Aquatics' Regulations**, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations), with the **club's Code of Conduct**, as well as with the **Olympic Charter**
- 6** | The athlete must be in **good physical & psychological condition** to undertake a high-performance training and competition programme. The club is allowed to conduct some tests to evaluate the athlete's skills, physical fitness and overall suitability for the team before accepting him/her
- 7** | He/she will put his/her **best efforts** to develop as an athlete and a person while contributing the utmost to the club
- 8** | He/she will **share the experience and knowledge** acquired at the World Aquatics Scholarships Programme **within the local community**, through workshops and trainings for athletes and coaches organised in his/her home country

Water Polo Scholarships

World Aquatics Members may apply with female or male Water Polo players, irrespective of their playing position

APPLICATION

1. AGE LIMITS

Applicants must be 18 years to 26 years old by the start of the scholarship

2. UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

The athlete has limited exposure to a high-level competition environment and training conditions

3. ATHLETIC BACKGROUND

The applicant must have played Water Polo for a minimum of 8 consecutive years and must have represented his/her country internationally*

*PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

European athletes may apply if they participated at the **2024 Men's/Women's European Water Polo Championships**, provided that their teams were not placed within the top 14 positions

Non-European athletes may apply if they participated at the **World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024**, provided that their teams were not placed within the top 8 positions

Athletes from non-European countries who did not participate at the World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024 may apply if they have attended a **Continental Championship held in 2023-2024**.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4. ACADEMIC PROFILE

The applicant has graduated from High School and is fluent in English, with a minimum level of B2 proficiency

5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants do not benefit from alternative financial sources (e.g. Olympic Solidarity/University Scholarship, Governmental support)

6. COMPLIANCE

The applicant must comply with World Aquatics regulations, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations), with the club's Code of Conduct and with the Olympic Charter

TARGET

FUTURE PLANS

The athlete will participate at the **World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025** or at the upcoming **Continental Championships**

Scholarship programme

Athletes placed at the European clubs will receive the following services:

- 1** | Assistance in obtaining an entry visa and the necessary permits to stay in the country for the duration of the scholarship
- 2** | A round trip ticket from the athlete's home country to the club's location at the beginning and at the end of the scholarship (in Economy class), as well as the airport transfers
- 3** | Full board accommodation
- 4** | A specialized coach or coaching team
- 5** | Access to appropriate training facilities, including gym and fitness area
- 6** | Regular training sessions as determined by the club (at least 7 practices per week, including one game)
- 7** | Registration in the team roster according to National/European regulations (practice and competition team) and participation at first division competitions
- 8** | Dedicated medical assistance and regular scientific control
- 9** | Health and accident insurance
- 10** | Administrative support and a designated point of contact

Responsibilities of the World Aquatics Members

LOGISTICS

- World Aquatics Members must assist their athletes during the visa application process

IMPORTANT: the visa application expenses must be covered by the athlete's World Aquatics Member

COMPETITIONS

- During their scholarship, athletes may participate at a maximum of three (3) competitions with their National Teams
- Transparency regarding the competition plan is critical. At the start of the season, World Aquatics Members must inform the clubs about their National calendar, ensuring they are informed about scheduled National Team events

IMPORTANT: the athlete's World Aquatics Member is responsible for the necessary arrangements and must cover any expenses related to the athlete's travel and participation at National Team events.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- World Aquatics Members must ensure to provide essential support to facilitate the athlete's reallocation and daily life at the clubs (e.g. winter clothes, hygiene products, etc.)

Application process

To apply for the World Aquatics Water Polo Scholarships programme, World Aquatics Members are kindly requested to fill out the online application form by 30 April 2024:

<https://forms.office.com/e/c7ejyy08kW>

For additional information or questions please contact:

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