



Canoe Polo

QUALIFICATION - WORLD CANOE POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the 2010 World Championships (and until further 'Appendix' Revision – now revised to include U21 Women) the following qualification criteria will apply to be eligible to compete.

Number of Teams

The 'final rounds' of the World Canoe Polo Championships will be open to the following National Federation teams:

Category	Maximum number of teams
Men	24
Women	20
U21 Men	16
U21 Women	8
	68

Qualification System

Invitations to participate in the 'final rounds' of each World Championships will be based on the finishing position at the previous World Championships, **and*** participation in the following years Continental Championship, and will be allocated as follows:

1. From the previous World Championships the following numbers of teams will **automatically*** qualify for the next World Championship.

Men	Top 16
Women	Top 12
U21 Men	Top 10
U21 Women	Top 3

2. **Each** of the five **continental** groupings will be awarded **one (1) place in all four categories**. This position will be allocated in accordance with the continental qualification system below.
3. In the category of **Men** and **Women** there will be **three (3) 'wildcard' places**. These places will be allocated by the ICF Canoe Polo Committee.
4. In the **U21 Men** category there will be **one (1) 'wildcard' place**. This place will be allocated by the ICF Canoe Polo Committee.
5. In the **U21 Women** category there will **no 'wildcard' place**.

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Continental Qualification

Where there is a Continental Association the ICF Canoe Polo Committee invites this association, in conjunction with their Continental Championship (or such other event agreed by the ICF Canoe Polo Committee), to conduct the 'Continental Qualification Round' of the World Canoe Polo Championship Finals.

After each Continental Championships, the highest ranked National Federation in each of the Men, Women and U21 Men categories, which has not already automatically qualified from the previous World Championships, will be invited to participate in the next World Championships.

Allocation of Wildcards

The ICF Canoe Polo Committee will allocate Wildcards in their sole discretion. The Committee will in the first instance allocate a Wildcard to the host, and the next host of the World Championships, if they have not already qualified automatically, or through their Continental Qualification event.

Acceptance of Qualification

Each National Federation qualifying for the World Canoe Polo Championship Finals must confirm in writing to the ICF Canoe Polo Committee the acceptance of their qualification for the championship finals. Where no confirmation is received, or where a National Federation does not accept their position, the ICF Canoe Polo Committee will then offer the position to the next ranked National Federation from the same continent.

1. Teams who have automatically qualified from the previous World's must confirm their entry by 31st December of the year **before** the next World Championship **AND*** must have participated in their Continental Championships (where they are held in that Continent) to have ratified their place.
2. Teams who have qualified via their Continental Championship must also confirm their entry by 31st December of the year **before** the next World Championship.
3. Wildcard entry invites will be issued by the 1st February latest in the year of the competition AND entry must be confirmed in writing by 31st March latest.
4. Teams withdrawing after accepting an entry are not eligible for the World Championships in that category after the one they withdrew from (they are eligible for continental championships).

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Note: Where there is no Continental Championship

Where a continent does not have a Continental Championship, the highest ranked in each category from the previous World Championship will be used to determine which National Federation from that continent 'provisionally qualify' for the next World Canoe Polo Championship Finals.

A 'challenge' to this place may be made by any National Federation from that Continent who advises that they desire to challenge the 'provisionally qualified' team/s.

This 'challenge' must be made via the ICF Canoe Polo Committee by the 31st December in the year of the World Canoe Polo Championships at which the Federation 'provisionally qualified'.

Where the ICF Canoe Polo Committee receive notice of a 'challenge' they will notify the 'provisionally qualified' National Federation from that continent that they must host a qualification tournament prior to 1st November of the year before the next World Championships.

This tournament must be held in a fair location, in their country, in which any Federation from their continent can participate. The qualification tournament will be conducted in accordance with ICF Rules, and results must be sent immediately to the ICF Canoe Polo Committee

The continental qualification place will then be awarded to the best placed Federation based on their result at the qualification tournament.

The ICF will determine any issues of disagreement by the challenging Federation in terms of agreement of location and dates of the qualification tournament.

An example:

- For Africa – South Africa are outside of the automatic places but highest in their continent. They have the 'provisional place'.
- Provided say, Namibia 'challenge' by the end of that year, South Africa are obliged to hold a tournament in South Africa the following year where Namibia can compete for the place.
- Results are then required by the ICF Canoe Polo Committee so that all official invites can be made in due time for the World Championships the following year.