



QUALIFICATION SYSTEM
GAMES OF THE XXXIV OLYMPIAD – LA28

International Handball Federation (IHF)

HANDBALL



A. EVENTS	MEN	WOMEN	
	12-team tournament	12-team tournament	
B. QUOTA PLACES			
B.1. Total quota places for discipline			Total
QUOTA	154 (11 teams)	154 (11 teams)	308 (22 teams)
HOST COUNTRY QUOTA	14 (1 team)	14 (1 team)	28 (2 teams)
TOTAL	168 (12 teams)	168 (12 teams)	336 (24 teams)
B.2. Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee			
QUOTA PER NOC	14 (1 team)	14 (1 team)	28 (2 teams)
B.3. Type of allocation of quota places			

The quota place is allocated to the NOC.

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 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 the IHF, may participate in the LA28 Olympic Games.

Age Requirements

- C.1.** Athletes must be at least 16 years of age as stipulated in Regulations for [IHF Competitions article I.3.2.1.2.](#) meaning that players eligible to participate have to turn 16 on the day of their first match at the latest, as validated by the passport used for ACR registration.

Additional IF Requirements

- C.2.** Athletes must be eligible to play for their national team as per the [IHF Regulations](#). Details are stipulated in the [IHF Player Eligibility Code](#) and in the [IHF Regulations for Transfers between Federations](#).

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

Number of quota places	Qualification events
MEN D.1. 1 Team (14 athletes)	<p>The qualification events are listed in hierarchical order of qualification:</p> <p>2027 IHF Men's World Championship (Germany, 13-31 January 2027)</p> <p>The highest placed NOC at the 2027 IHF World Championship will obtain one quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games.</p> <p>If the USA as the host country will be World Champions, the quota place will be allocated to the next highest placed NOC.</p>

D.2.**4 teams
(56 athletes)****Continental Qualification Events**

Four places will be allocated through continental qualification events.

The continental representatives from Asia, Africa and Europe will be the NOCs of the highest ranked teams at the respective continental qualification events. The continental representative from North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America will be the highest ranked NOC at a combined continental qualification event.

No dedicated continental qualification event for Oceania will take place. However, the NOCs of the Continental Confederation of Oceania are invited to take part in the Asian continental qualification event for the World Championships. If a representative from Oceania is ranked 5th or higher at the Asian continental qualification event, the team concerned will qualify for the IHF World Championship, where they will have the possibility to qualify directly for the Olympic Games or the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournament.

In the event that the 2027 world champions or the host country of the LA28 Olympic Games also wins the continental qualification event, the NOC of the next highest ranked team of the respective continental qualification event will obtain the quota place.

Continental qualification events:

- Men's qualification event of the Continental Confederations of North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America: Pan-American Games, 16 July to 1 August 2027, PER
- Men's Asian qualification event: Autumn 2027 (TBC)
- Men's European qualification event: European Championship, 13-30 January 2028, ESP/POR/SUI
- Men's African qualification event: African Championship, January 2028 (TBC)

D.3.**6 teams
(84 athletes)****Men's Olympic Games Qualification Tournaments 2028 (3 – 9 April 2028)**

Six quota places will be allocated through three Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments of four teams. The two highest placed NOCs from each of these three Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments will obtain one quota place each.

The teams eligible to participate in these tournaments are selected as follows:

	Tournament 1	Tournament 2	Tournament 3
Teams selected through ranking at the 2027 World Championship	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
	7 th	6 th	5 th
	3 rd best continent (QS*3)	2 nd best continent (QS2)	Best continent (QS1)
	4 th best continent (QS4)	Best continent (QS5)	2 nd best continent (QS6)

*QS = Qualification quota place for the IHF Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament

If one or more teams placed between 2nd and 7th at the 2027 World Championship have already obtained a quota place for the Olympic Games at their respective continental qualification events, the team placed 8th (or thereafter) at the 2027 World Championship will be eligible to participate in the IHF Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments, and all the other teams will move one spot forward. QS1 to QS6 are not affected by this as these teams are determined through continental qualification events.

Example: If the team placed third at the 2027 World Championship has already obtained a quota place for the Olympic Games at its continental qualification event, the team placed fourth at the World Championship will advance to the place which was originally allocated to the third-placed team (and consequently participate in Tournament 2). Hence, all following teams (5th – 7th) will also move one spot forward, with the spot originally intended for the seventh-ranked team now open for the team ranked eighth at the World Championship.

The same system will be applied mutatis mutandis in the event that several eligible teams have already qualified through their continental qualification events.

QS1 and QS5 will be allocated to the highest placed continent at the 2027 World Championship. The highest ranked team (QS1) and next highest ranked team (QS5) at the respective continental qualification event not yet qualified and not yet selected to participate in the IHF Qualification Tournaments will obtain the corresponding quota place.

QS2 to QS4 are allocated to the second (QS2), third (QS3) and fourth (QS4) highest placed continents at the 2027 World Championship. The highest placed teams at the respective continental qualification event not yet qualified and not yet selected to participate in the IHF Qualification Tournaments will obtain the corresponding quota place. In the case of the Continental Confederations of North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America, the "best continent" positions will be allocated based on the ranking at the respective combined continental qualification event.

Example: Even though e.g. BRA (belonging to South and Central America) is the best team from North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America, the corresponding place to be allocated to the next highest ranked NOC at the combined continental qualification event might be allocated to e.g. CUB (belonging to North America and the Caribbean).

QS 6: If any team from Oceania places between 8th and 12th at the 2027 World Championship, this qualification quota place will be allocated to the highest placed NOC at the event in which Oceania can qualify which is not yet qualified. If this is not the case, this qualification quota place will be allocated to the second highest placed continent at the 2027 World Championship, in addition to QS2. The NOC of the highest placed team at the respective continental qualification event which is not yet qualified for the Olympic Games or the Olympic Qualification Tournament will be allocated the quota place.

The NOCs/NFs participating in the Olympic Qualification Tournaments must confirm their Olympic Games participation to the IHF if they obtain a quota place at the same time as registering their team(s) for the Olympic Qualification Tournaments, i.e. by date TBC.

MEN	<p>D.4. 1 team (14 athletes)</p>	<p>The host country will automatically qualify one men’s team of 14 athletes on condition that the selected athletes meet the eligibility requirements described under section C of this document.</p>
	WOMEN	<p>D.5. 1 team (14 athletes)</p>
<p>D.6. 4 teams (56 athletes)</p>		<p>Continental Qualification Events</p> <p>Four places will be allocated through continental qualification events. The continental representatives from Asia, Africa and Europe will be the NOCs of the highest ranked team at the respective continental qualification event. The continental representative from North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America will be the highest ranked NOC at a combined continental qualification event.</p> <p>No dedicated continental qualification event for Oceania will take place. However, the NOCs of the Continental Confederation of Oceania are invited to take part in the Asian continental qualification event for the World Championship. If a representative from Oceania is ranked fifth or higher at the Asian continental qualification event, the team concerned will qualify for the IHF World Championship, where they will have the possibility to qualify directly for the Olympic Games or the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournament.</p> <p>In the event that the 2027 World Champion or the host country of the LA28 Olympic Games also wins the continental qualification, the NOC of the next highest eligible ranked team of the respective continental qualification event will obtain the quota place.</p> <p>Continental qualification events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s European qualification event: European Championship, 3-20 December 2026, POL/ROU/CZE/SVK/TUR • Women’s African qualification event, tbc • Women’s qualification event of the Continental Confederations of North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America: Pan-American Games, 16 July to 1 August 2027, PER • Women’s Asian qualification event, JPN Date TBC

D.7.
6 teams
(84 athletes)

Women's Olympic Games Qualification Tournaments 2028 (28 February – 5 March 2028)

Six quota places will be allocated through three Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments of four teams.

The NOCs of the first- and second-highest placed teams from each of these three Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments will obtain one quota place each.

The teams eligible to participate in these tournaments are selected as follows:

	Tournament 1	Tournament 2	Tournament 3
Teams selected through ranking at the 2027 World Championship	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
	7 th	6 th	5 th
	3 rd best continent (QS*3)	2 nd best continent (QS2)	Best continent (QS1)
	4 th best continent (QS4)	Best continent (QS5)	2 nd best continent (QS6)

*QS= Qualification quota place for the IHF Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament

If one or more teams placed between 2nd and 7th at the 2027 World Championship has/have already qualified for the Olympic Games at their respective continental qualification events, the team placed 8th (or below) at the 2027 World Championship will be eligible to participate in the IHF Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments, and all the other teams will move one spot forward. QS1 to QS6 are not affected by this as these teams are determined through continental qualification events.

Example: If the team placed third at the 2027 World Championship has already qualified for the Olympic Games at its continental qualification event, the team placed fourth at the World Championship will advance to the place that was originally allocated to the third placed team (and consequently participate in Tournament 2). Hence, also all the following teams (5th – 7th) will move one spot forward, with the spot originally intended for the 7th ranked team now being open for the team ranked 8th at the World Championship.

QS1 and QS5 will be allocated to the highest placed continent at the 2027 World Championship. The highest ranked team (QS1) and next highest ranked team (QS5) at the respective continental qualification event not yet qualified and not yet selected to participate in the IHF Qualification Tournaments will obtain the corresponding qualification quota place.

QS2 to QS4 are allocated to the second (QS2), third (QS3) and fourth (QS4) highest placed continents at the 2027 World Championship. The highest placed teams at the respective

continental qualification event not yet qualified and not yet selected to participate in the IHF Qualification Tournaments will obtain the corresponding qualification quota place.

In the case of the Continental Confederations of North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America, the “best continent” positions will be allocated based on the ranking at the respective combined continental qualification event.

Example: Even though e.g. BRA (belonging to South and Central America) is the best team from North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America, the corresponding place to be allocated to the next highest ranked NOC at the combined continental qualification event might be allocated to e.g. CUB (belonging to North America and the Caribbean).

QS6: If any team from Oceania places between 8th and 12th at the 2027 World Championship, this qualification quota place will be allocated to the highest placed NOC at the event in which Oceania can qualify, and which is not yet qualified. If this is not the case, this qualification quota place will be allocated to the second highest placed continent at the 2027 World Championship, in addition to QS2. The NOC of the highest placed team at the respective continental qualification event which is not yet qualified for the Olympic Games or the Olympic Qualification Tournament will be allocated the qualification quota place.

The NOCs/NFs participating in the Olympic Qualification Tournaments must confirm their Olympic Games participation to the IHF if they obtain a quota place at the same time as registering their team(s) for the Olympic Qualification Tournaments, i.e. date TBC.

D.8.
1 team
(14 athletes)

The host country will automatically qualify one women’s team of 14 athletes on condition that the selected athletes meet the eligibility requirements described under section C of this document.

E. CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of Qualification Places

E.1. IHF will publish the final results after each qualification event on the official website and inform the qualified NOCs/NFs accordingly.

The NOCs will then have two weeks to confirm if they wish to use these quota places, as detailed in paragraph H. Qualification Timeline.

The qualified NOCs from the IHF Men’s and Women’s Olympic Qualification Tournaments must confirm to the IHF their participation in the LA28 Olympic Games in the event of qualification at the same time as registering their team(s) for the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments.

Confirmation of Host Country Places

- E.2. The NOC of the host country must confirm in writing to the IHF by 31 July 2026 the use of its host country places.

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 place deadline or if it is declined by the NOC, the quota place will be reallocated to the next highest-ranked eligible team, not yet qualified, at the event at which the quota place was obtained.

Reallocation of unused Host Country Places

- F.2. Unused host country place(s) will be allocated to the continent of the 2027 World Champions in the respective gender and allocated to the highest placed NOC from this continent which has not yet qualified at the corresponding continental qualification event.

G. AP ATHLETES

Definition

- G.1. Ap athletes are non-competing athletes accredited in the “Ap” category who have different entitlements to competing athletes (accredited as “Aa”) as described in the “Ap” accreditation quotas and conditions outlined in the IOC ACR Annex 1 - Accreditation at the Olympic Games - Detailed specification. These alternate athletes are not part of the athlete quota as described in Paragraph **B. Quota Places**. “Ap” alternate athletes could become competing athletes only under the conditions outlined in the IOC/LA28 Late Athlete Replacement policy.

Eligibility

- G.2. Alternate athletes must comply with the same eligibility rules as competing athletes, as described in paragraph **C. Athlete Eligibility**.

Quota

- G.3. Each qualified team is entitled to three Ap alternate athletes.

H. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Period	Date	Milestone
Qualification	3-20 December 2026	Women's European qualification event: European Championship, POL/CZE/ROU/SVK/TUR
	13-31 January 2027	Men's World Championship, GER
	TBC	Women's Asian qualification event, JPN
	TBC	Women's African qualification event, ANG
	TBC	Men's Asian qualification event, QAT
	16 July to 1 August 2027	Women's qualification event of the Continental Confederations of North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America: Pan-American Games, PER
	16 July to 1 August 2027	Men's qualification event of the Continental Confederations of North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America: Pan-American Games, PER
	1 - 19 December 2027	Women's World Championship, HUN
	13 - 30 January 2028	Men's European qualification event: European Championship, GER
	January 2028	Men's African qualification event: African Championship, EGY
	28 February - 5 March 2028	IHF Women's Olympic Games Qualification Tournament, location tbc
	3 - 9 April 2028	IHF Men's Olympic Games Qualification Tournament, location tbc
	Confirmation and Reallocation	Within five days after the event
Two weeks after the event		The NOCs confirm to the IHF their use of the allocated quota places.
Within five days after the previous step		IHF to reallocate all unused quota places.

Sport Entries deadline	26 June 2028	LA28 Olympic Games Sport Entries deadline
Games Time	14 – 30 July 2028	LA28 Olympic Games

USEFUL LINKS

IHF Website	https://www.ihf.info/
IHF Regulations	https://www.ihf.info/regulations-team-types/355
IHF Player Eligibility Code	https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2025-02/03%20-%20Player%20Eligibility%20Code_E.pdf
IHF Regulations for Transfers between Federations.	https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2025-07/04%20-%20Regulations%20for%20Transfer%20between%20Federations_E.pdf
Regulations for IHF Competitions (Article I.3.2.1.2.)	https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-12/Regulations%20for%20IHF%20Competitions_Indoor%20Handball_E.pdf