

Qualification Pathway for the 2026 WWR Wheelchair Rugby World Championship

Introduction

This document describes the competition pathway for teams aiming to qualify for the 2026 WWR Wheelchair Rugby World Championship. The associated WWR competitions may include the following events:

- 2025 WWR European Championship Division A
- 2025 WWR Americas Championship
- 2025 WWR Asia-Oceania Championship
- 2025 WWR Asian Regional Competition
- 2025 WWR South American Regional Competition
- 2026 WWR World Championship Qualification Tournament (WCQT)
- 2026 WWR Wheelchair Rugby World Championship (WC)

Information is provided to describe the pathway for members in each zone to qualify for the 2026 WWR World Championship from 2024 to 2026.

WWR European Qualification Pathway

- The 2025 WWR European Championship Division A will include:
 - Top 6 placed teams from the 2023 WWR European Championship Division A
 - Two teams placing first and second in the 2024 WWR European Championship Division B.
 - The top six (6) teams will receive direct qualification to the 2027 WWR European Championship Division A

WWR Americas Qualification Pathway

- The 2025 WWR South America Regional Competition may include:
 - All teams in South and Central America
 - The top two finishing teams, not otherwise qualified, will advance to the 2025 WWR Americas Championship
- The 2025 WWR Americas Championship will include
 - Teams receiving direct qualification to attend this event comprise Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia and USA
 - The top two teams from the 2025 WWR South America Regional Competition
 - The top four teams will receive direct qualification to the 2027 WWR Americas Championship

WWR Asia Oceania Qualification Pathway

- The 2025 WWR Asia Regional Competition may include:
 - All teams in the Asia Oceania Zone excluding Australia and New Zealand
 - The top two to four finishing teams not otherwise qualified will advance to the 2025 WWR Asia Oceania Championship
- The 2025 WWR Asia Oceania Championship will include
 - Teams receiving direct qualification to attend this event comprise Australia, Japan, Korea and New Zealand.
 - The top two to four teams from the 2025 WWR Asia Regional Competition
 - The top four teams will receive direct qualification to the 2027 WWR Asia-Oceania Championship

Reallocation of unused slots for the above events

If a team declines its qualification or invitational slot, this will be reallocated to the next highest placed team from the event that slot was awarded. If this is not applicable WWR reserves the right to invite the next highest ranked team within that zone, not otherwise qualified, from the WWR World Ranking List closing one week after the date that the slot had been declined.

If a regional competition is not held, any associated qualification slots may be allocated to the highest ranked team(s) within that zone, not otherwise qualified, from the WWR World Ranking List at a date no less than three (3) months prior to the start of the associated Zone Championship.

WWR at its sole discretion may continue to reallocate slots if considered appropriate. WWR at its sole discretion may also determine not to reallocate further slots if they deem this appropriate.

2026 WWR World Championship Qualification Tournament

Teams must have attended their associated Zone Championship within the qualification period in order to be eligible for any WCQT slots.

- The 2026 WWR World Championship Qualification Tournament (WCQT) will include up to 8 teams
- The host receives direct qualification
- Top 2 placing teams not already qualified from the 2025 WWR European Championship
- Top 2 placing teams not already qualified from the 2025 WWR Americas Championship
- Top 2 placing teams not already qualified from the 2025 WWR Asia Oceania Championship
- The final slot(s) will be allocated from the WWR World Ranking List to the highest ranked eligible team(s) not already qualified the day after all 2025 Zone Championship events have concluded or were scheduled to conclude.
- Top three finishing teams will qualify to attend the 2026 WWR World Championship

Reallocation of unused slots for the 2026 WCQT.

If a team declines its qualification or invitational slot, or a slot is not allocated, these will be reallocated to the highest placed team, from the WWR World Ranking List at 1 December 2025 that has not yet qualified for the 2026 WCQT or the 2026 World Championship.

WWR at its sole discretion may continue to reallocate slots if considered appropriate. WWR at its sole discretion may also determine to not reallocate further if they deem this appropriate. This may result in fewer than 8 teams competing at the 2026 WCQT.

2026 WWR Wheelchair Rugby World Championship

- The 2026 WWR Wheelchair Rugby World Championship (WC) will include 12 teams
- The host receives direct qualification
- Additional slots are allocated as follows;
 - Top 4 placing teams not already qualified from the 2025 WWR European Championship
 - Top 2 placing teams not already qualified from the 2025 WWR Americas Championship
 - Top 2 placing teams not already qualified from the 2025 WWR Asia Oceania Championship
 - Top 3 placing teams from the 2026 WWR World Championship Qualification Tournament

Reallocation of unused slots for the 2026 WC.

Teams must have attended their associated Zone Championship in order to be eligible for any reallocated 2026 WC slots.

If a team declines its qualification or invitational slot, this will be reallocated to the highest ranked team, that has not yet qualified from the 2026 WCQT.

WWR at its sole discretion may continue to reallocate slots if considered appropriate. WWR at its sole discretion may also determine not to reallocate further if they deem this appropriate. This may result in fewer than 12 teams competing at the 2026 WC.

Championship event cancellation

If a scheduled WWR Championship event is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, the associated event qualification slots will be allocated to the highest ranked, not already qualified, eligible teams on the most recent WWR World Ranking List, based on those teams that were eligible to attend or had registered to attend the event.

For the purposes of determining event World Ranking Points, the placings of teams at such events will be determined based on the most recent WWR World Ranking List at the time the event was scheduled to conclude.

Championship event not held

If a WWR Zone Championship does not proceed due to lack of appropriate host bids, the associated qualification slots will be allocated as follows

1. To maintain minimum zone representation, one 2026 WC slot will be randomly awarded to one of the teams that attended the most recent zone championship.
2. If this slot is declined, further random reallocation will be performed until this slot is accepted.
3. The remaining slot(s) from that zone championship will be allocated to the 2026 WCQT, therefore increasing the overall 2026 WC qualification slots at the 2026 WCQT.
4. Teams must have attended their associated Zone Championship within the qualification period in order to be eligible for any 2026 WCQT slots.

WCQT and WC Allocation Timeframe detail

At latest, 15 December 2025 - WWR will confirm via email to teams the allocation of known WCQT slots.

At latest, 30 April 2026 – WWR will confirm via email to teams the allocation of known WC slots.

Further timeframe details will be published as events are confirmed.

WWR at its sole discretion may amend these criteria if considered appropriate. This would only be due to exceptional circumstances that were unforeseen at the time of publication.