

Qualification System for 2026 FIH Hockey World Cups

Updated with Continental Quotas

February 1st, 2023

Women

The FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026 will consist of 16 teams

1. The following teams are eligible to play in the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026

1.1. Host Nations

2 quotas

The host nations of the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026 shall be automatically qualified:

Belgium and the Netherlands

1.2. Teams Qualified via the FIH Pro League

2 quotas

The FIH Pro League quotas are as follows:

- Season 5 (2023/24) – the highest placed nation at the end of the season not already qualified as a host of the World Cup - **Germany**
- Season 6 (2024/25) - the highest placed nation at the end of the season not already qualified as a host of the World Cup, or through Pro League Season 5 – **TBC June 30, 2025**

1.3. Teams Qualified by Continental Federation

5 quotas

The Continental quotas are the highest placed nation, not already qualified as a host or through the Pro League quotas in:

- **Africa:** The in the Africa Cup of Nations 2025
- **Asia:** The Asia Cup 2025
- **Europe:** The EuroHockey Championships 2025
- **Pan America:** The Pan American Cup 2025
- **Oceania:** The Oceania Cup 2025

1.4. Teams Qualified via the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Qualification Tournaments **7 quotas**

There will be 2 (two) FIH Hockey World Cup Qualification Tournaments, consisting of eight (8) teams each (16 teams in total), held in early 2026. The tournament format will be as follows:

- Two (2) pools of four (4) teams each;
- Semi-Final will be played by the top two (2) teams from each pool;
- Team not qualified to the semi-finals will play classification matches from 5-8



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- Winners of the Semi-Finals are qualified to the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026
- Winners of the Bronze medal matches are qualified to the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026
- The highest World Ranked team (at midnight on the final day of the qualification tournaments) that finishes in 4th place in each Event will be also qualified to the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026

The teams invited to participate in these FIH Qualification Tournaments will be based on continental quotas, determined by the number of nations from each continent who are World Ranked in the top 25 eligible nations on 31 January 2025.

From these 25 quotas, the continents of the nine (9) nations already qualified (the 2 hosts, the 2 FIH Pro League Qualified Teams and 1 from each of the 5 Continental Championships) will be removed, leaving 16 continental quotas. These 16 continental quotas will be filled by the highest finishing nations in each continental championship who have not already qualified for the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026.

Based on the FIH World Rankings on 31 January, 2025, the Continental quotas for the women's FIH World Cup Qualifiers are as follows:

Continent	Top 25 ranked	Hosts	CF Champs	Pro League*	World Cup Qualifiers quota
Europe	12	2	1	1	8
Asia	5		1		4
Pan America	5		1		4
Oceania	2		1		1
Africa	1		1		0
Totals	25	2	5	1	17*

*The second Pro League quota place will not be known until the end of the current season (June 30, 2025). At this point, the continent from which they come will reduce the number of quotas in the World Cup Qualifiers by 1. For example, if a Pan American nation take the Pro League quota, then Pan America will have 3, not 4, quotas in the World Cup qualifiers. The total number of teams in the World Cup Qualifiers will then be 16.

Should any nation not accept their invitation to participate in the qualifying tournament, the next reserve nation will be invited. The reserve nations are determined using the same continental quota system as above, and not by replacing a nation with the next nation in that particular continent. Therefore, the nation from the continent with an eligible team ranked 26th in the FIH World Rankings on January 31, 2025, will be the first reserve.

The continental quotas, including reserves, will be published on February 1st, 2025. The snake system will be used to allocate the 16 nations into the two FIH World Cup Qualification Tournaments, as shown below.

Snake system

Ranking order of 16 teams in the FIH World Cup Qualification Tournaments

Tournament A	1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16
Tournament B	2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15

Note: If the 2 hosts are allocated by the snake system to participate in the same tournament, then the lower ranked of the two hosts will be swapped into the other tournament with the equivalent ranked team allocated to the other tournament.

2. Reallocation of Unused Quota Places

1. Host quotas – if a host does not accept their invitation to participate then their quota will be added into the quotas available through the FIH World Cup Qualifying tournaments
2. Pro League quotas – if a nation does not accept their invitation to participate, the next highest placed nation in the relevant Pro League Season will be offered the PL quota place. If they do not accept, this will continue down the PL rankings until all PL teams have been offered the PL quota place. If the PL quota remains unfilled, the quota will be added to the quotas available through the FIH World Cup Qualifying tournaments
3. Continental Federation quotas - if a nation does not accept their invitation to participate, the next highest placed nation from the same Continent will be offered the Continental Federation quota place. If they do not accept, this will continue down the CF Championship standings until all teams from that CF have been offered the CF quota place. If the CF quota

remains unfilled, the quota will be added to the quotas available through the FIH World Cup Qualifying tournaments

4. FIH World Cup Qualifier quotas - if a nation does not accept their invitation to participate, the next highest placed nation in the standings from the 2 tournaments will be offered the quota place. If there are 2 nations with the same final standing, then the highest World Ranked team (at midnight on the final day of the qualification tournaments) of the 2 nations will be invited. If they do not accept, this will continue down the FIH World Cup Qualifier standings across the 2 tournaments until all teams that participated in the FIH World Cup Qualifier tournaments have been offered a quota place. If the quota remains unfilled, then the highest ranked nation that has not qualified for the FIH World Cup will be invited, and this will continue down the World Rankings until the quota is filled.

Qualification Timeline - Women	
October 2023	FIH Executive Board approves qualification system
TBC	13 th Oceania Cup (TBC)
August 8-17, 2025	16 th EuroHockey Championships (Mönchengladbach, Germany)
TBC	10 th Africa Cup of Nations (TBC)
TBC	10 th Asia Cup (TBC)
24 July – 3 Aug, 2025	8 th Pan American Cup (Montevideo, Uruguay)
28 Feb – 4 Mar, 2026	FIH Women's Hockey World Cup Qualification Tournaments (TBC)
TBC	Invitations to participate issued to qualified National Associations
TBC	National Associations to confirm in writing to FIH their participation in the 16 th FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026
15-30 August, 2026	16 th FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026 (Belgium and Netherlands)

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Men

The FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026 will consist of 16 teams

3. The following teams are eligible to play in the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026

3.1. Host Nations

2 quotas

The host nations of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026 shall be automatically qualified:

Belgium and the Netherlands

3.2. Teams Qualified via the FIH Pro League

2 quotas

The FIH Pro League quotas are as follows:

- Season 5 (2023/24) – the highest placed nation at the end of the season not already qualified as a host of the World Cup - **Australia**
- Season 6 (2024/25) - the highest placed nation at the end of the season not already qualified as a host of the World Cup, or through Pro League Season 5 - **TBC June 30, 2025**

3.3. Teams Qualified by Continental Federation

5 quotas

The Continental quotas are the highest placed nation, not already qualified as a host or through the Pro League quotas in:

- **Africa:** The in the Africa Cup of Nations 2025
- **Asia:** The Asia Cup 2025
- **Europe:** The EuroHockey Championships 2025
- **Pan America:** The Pan American Cup 2025
- **Oceania:** The Oceania Cup 2025

3.4. Teams Qualified via the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup Qualification Tournaments

7 quotas

There will be 2 (two) FIH Hockey World Cup Qualification Tournaments, consisting of eight (8) teams each (16 teams in total), held in early 2026. The tournament format will be as follows:

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- Winners of the Bronze medal matches are qualified to the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026
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From these 25 quotas, the continents of the nine (9) nations already qualified (the 2 hosts, the 2 FIH Pro League Qualified Teams and 1 from each of the 5 Continental Championships) will be removed, leaving 16 continental quotas. These 16 continental quotas will be filled by the highest finishing nations in each continental championship who have not already qualified for the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026.

Based on the FIH World Rankings on 31 January, 2025, the Continental quotas for the men's FIH World Cup Qualifiers are as follows:

Continent	Top 25 ranked	Hosts	CF Champs	Pro League**	World Cup Qualifiers quota
Europe	11	2	1		8
Asia	6		1		5
Pan America	4		1		3
Oceania	2		1	1	0
Africa	2		1		1
Totals	25	2	5	1	17**

**The second Pro League quota place will not be known until the end of the current season (June 30, 2025). At this point, the continent from which they come will reduce the number of quotas in the World Cup Qualifiers by 1. For example, if a European nation take the Pro League quota, then Europe will have 7, not 8, quotas in the World Cup qualifiers. The total number of teams in the World Cup Qualifiers will then be 16.

Should any nation not accept their invitation to participate in the qualifying tournament, the next reserve nation will be invited. The reserve nations are determined using the same continental quota system as above, and not by replacing a nation with the next nation in that particular continent. Therefore, the nation from the continent with an eligible team ranked 26th in the FIH World Rankings on January 31, 2025, will be the first reserve.

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4. Reallocation of Unused Quota Places

1. Host quotas – if a host does not accept their invitation to participate then their quota will be added into the quotas available through the FIH World Cup Qualifying tournaments
2. Pro League quotas – if a nation does not accept their invitation to participate, the next highest placed nation in the relevant Pro League Season will be offered the PL quota place. If they do not accept, this will continue down the PL rankings until all PL teams have been offered the PL quota place. If the PL quota remains unfilled, the quota will be added to the quotas available through the FIH World Cup Qualifying tournaments
3. Continental Federation quotas - if a nation does not accept their invitation to participate, the next highest placed nation from the same Continent will be offered the Continental Federation quota place. If they do not accept, this will continue down the CF Championship standings until all teams from that CF have been offered the CF quota place. If the CF quota

remains unfilled, the quota will be added to the quotas available through the FIH World Cup Qualifying tournaments

4. FIH World Cup Qualifier quotas - if a nation does not accept their invitation to participate, the next highest placed nation in the standings from the 2 tournaments will be offered the quota place. If there are 2 nations with the same final standing, then the highest World Ranked team (at midnight on the final day of the qualification tournaments) of the 2 nations will be invited. If they do not accept, this will continue down the FIH World Cup Qualifier standings across the 2 tournaments until all teams that participated in the FIH World Cup Qualifier tournaments have been offered a quota place. If the quota remains unfilled, then the highest ranked nation that has not qualified for the FIH World Cup will be invited, and this will continue down the World Rankings until the quota is filled.

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