



CANOE POLO 2026 – RULES APPENDICES

Published on the 12th December 2025

VERSIONS

- 1st January 2023 – initial version.
- 12th December 2025 – UPDATED - Appendix 2 – World Championships Qualification System– to enable additional invites in other categories if a particular category is not full entry.
- 12th December 2025 – UPDATED - Appendix 4 – ICF Referee Code of Conduct updated – anti-doping amended as updates required, fitness testing clarified.
- 12th December 2025 – NEW - Appendix 6 –Mixed 4's category development recommendations.

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APPENDIX 1: WORLD GAMES – QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

This appendix is published as a sole document.

2029 World Games – Karlsruhe, Germany - to be included in due course.

APPENDIX 2: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

This appendix is published as a sole document.

For the 2026 ICF Canoe Polo Worlds World Championships (Duisburg, Germany) please find the link:

https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2026_cap_-_worlds-qs_v2.pdf

APPENDIX 3: ICF CANOE POLO WORLD RANKING – POINT SYSTEM

A. Reminder

As mentioned within the 2023 ICF Canoe Polo competition rules book (article 18.1.4), the ICF World Ranking is taken from the most recent World Championships and the most recent Continental Championships results.

B. Principle

The team having the highest ICFpoint is ranked higher than the other.

C. Calculation of the point (ICFpoint) for a team

$$ICFpoint = Pw + Pc$$

Pw → points that a team earn at the most recent World Championships

Pc → points that a team earn at the most recent Continental Championships

D. Calculation of the point at a World Championships (Pw)

$$Pw = 100 + (4 \times (NBteam - TEAMrank + 1))$$

$NBteam$ → Number of team enter in one event

$TEAMrank$ → Rank of the concerned team at the concerned World Championships

Example:

- In Men U21 at the last World Championships:
 - We have 23 teams
 - We want to calculate the point (Pw) for a KAZ team ranked 5th

$$Pw = 100 + (4 \times (23 - 5 + 1))$$

$$Pw = 176$$

E. Calculation of the point at a Continental Championships (Pc)

$$Pc = (50 + (NBteam - TEAMrank + 1)) \times \left(1 + \frac{NBteam}{100}\right)$$

NBteam → Number of team enter in one event

TEAMrank → rank of the concerned team at the concerned World Championships

Example:

- In Men U21 at the last Asian Continental Championships:
 - We have 9 teams
 - We want to calculate the point (Pc) for the same KAZ team who win this competition (1st)

$$Pc = (50 + (9 - 1 + 1)) \times \left(1 + \frac{9}{100}\right)$$

$$Pc = (50 + 9) \times 1,09$$

$$Pc = 64,31$$

- This KAZ team will have its ICFpoint as follow:

$$ICFpoint = Pw + Pc$$

$$ICFpoint = 176 + 64,31$$

$$ICFpoint = 240,31$$

APPENDIX 4: ICF CANOE POLO REFEREE CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Purpose

A.1. - The International Canoe Federation (ICF) is recognised by the International Olympic Committee as the sole ultimate governing body for the sport of Canoeing throughout the world and the Code of Conduct is adopted and implemented as part of the ICF's continuing efforts to preserve the integrity of the sport and specifically the discipline of Canoe Polo.

A.2. - The Code of Conduct aims to promote the highest standard of behaviour and conduct in the International Technical Official (Referee), of Canoe Polo and is an effective means to deter any Referee from conducting themselves improperly both on and off the field-of-play or in a manner that is contrary to the spirit of Canoe Polo.

A.3. - All ICF Canoe Polo Referees are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct. Accordingly, by their participation in an International Competition, such Referees shall be deemed to have agreed that it is their personal responsibility to familiarise themselves with all of the requirements of the Code of Conduct, including what conduct constitutes an offence under the Code of Conduct.

A.4. - All ICF Canoe Polo Referees are bound by the Code of Conduct at all times and shall continue to be bound by and required to comply with the Code of Conduct while a recognised ICF Canoe Polo Referee of grade A, B or C.

A.5. - The appointed Referee Manager/s shall have jurisdiction to deal with breaches of the Code of Conduct during a competition (unless the Referee Manager/s is in breach, in which case, the matter will be dealt with by the Chief Official). After the competition has been completed and at all other times, any breaches of the Code of Conduct may be referred to the ICF Canoe Polo Committee for additional decision, if appropriate.

B. General Behaviour

B.1. - ICF Canoe Polo Referee (ICF CAP Referee) shall comply at all times with:

- The current ICF Statutes.
- The current ICF Canoe Polo Rules.
- The Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.
- Any other rules and regulations that may come into force from time to time.

B.2. - An ICF CAP Referee must always referee to the best of their ability in a fair and impartial manner during a competition.

B.3. - An ICF CAP Referee must conduct themselves in a professional and acceptable manner on and off the field of play, in all competition areas, around the venue, at social functions and at their accommodation.

B.4. - An ICF CAP Referee, as a member of the ICF Referee team, must respect the decisions of other ICF CAP Referees at a competition and officiate as a team in accordance with ICF CAP Rule 7.18.6.

B.5. - An ICF CAP Referee must not act in any way which may harm the interests and reputation of the ICF, their respective Continental Association, National Association or bring Canoe Polo into disrepute.

B.6. - An ICF CAP Referee must be active in order to be considered for invitation to a competition in accordance with the ICF CAP rules 14.3.8 – 14.3.12 inclusive.

B.7. - An ICF CAP Referee must arrive and depart from a competition in accordance with their invitation letter sent, depending on the competition, by the ICF, Continental Association, National Association or Competition Organiser. Any changes due to extenuating circumstances must be requested and approved or declined before the competition begins.

Note: The access period for ICF CAP Referee is negotiated with the organisers prior to invitations and accordingly variations incur additional costs.

B.8. - All ICF CAP Referee will be accommodated (so far as is possible) in the same accommodation. The accommodation at competitions is most likely to be in twin rooms and ICF CAP Referees of the same gender are expected to share with each other.

B.9. - An ICF CAP Referee must attend the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, referee briefings and any official functions as required during a competition. Exceptions may be made in extenuating circumstances, by prior arrangement with the Referee Manager/s or Competitions Organiser.

B.10. - An ICF CAP Referee must not drink any alcohol prior to their first game on any day and until they have completed their allocated games for that day. They must also check with the Referee Manager/s they are no longer required that day.

B.11. - An ICF CAP Referee must not engage in social drinking whilst in their referee clothing or be found incapable through alcohol at any time at a competition.

B.12. - An ICF CAP Referee when engaged in social drinking should be in an area out of sight of athletes or in the public areas of the competition.

Note: This is more for impression rather than any particular issue. With accreditation into areas unavailable to others, referees must be aware of the impression given if viewing a game from such positions while drinking alcohol.

B.13. - An ICF CAP Referee must not engage in any recreational drug taking at a competition irrespective of the law in any particular country.

B.14. - An ICF CAP Referee must, like athletes and coaches, complete the recognised ICF online anti-doping education 'coaches' course prior to officiating:

- The Anti-Doping education link is: <https://www.canoeicf.com/anti-doping-education>
- The ICF will update records in SDP with completed certificates.

B.15. - An ICF CAP Referee must not publicly comment negatively (verbally, social media or via any other means) on other referees' performance, teams or individual players performance, the current rules by which they are officiating, the host organisers, the ICF, their respective Continental Association, National Association and in summary do nothing to that can bring their own or others positions into disrepute.

B.16. - An ICF CAP Referee has a personal responsibility to maintain their fitness for their role.

B.17. - An ICF CAP Referee must be ready at a competition to undergo simple fitness testing.

This will be by way of the 20m Multistage Fitness Test (Beep Test):

- The required standard will be the same for all referee genders with the aim being proof of basic fitness and not the fitness of an elite athlete.
- The required minimal time targets are dependent on the surface used:
 - Grass (must be dry) – Level 5
 - Tarmac/paving (must be dry) – Level 5.4
 - Gymnasium - Level 5.4
- For World Championships, an initial fitness test will be conducted at Continental level – either at the Continental Championships (or other designated competition with video or in-person verification) in the year prior to the World Championships.
- A Referee must pass at the Continental level to be considered for World Championship selection.
- A second fitness test will take place at the World Championships. If an ICF CAP Referee fails this test the Referee Manager/s decide which games they are allocated during the championships.

Notes:

- *There is no intention to lose long standing Referees through fitness, but the sport is developing and targets for Grade's A, B and C will be considered after consultation and feedback.*
- *Diagnosed health issues, injury, pregnancy or any disability will of course be taken into consideration by the Referee Manager/s, ICF Canoe Polo Committee and ICF as necessary.*

C. General Notes

C.1. - An ICF CAP Referee will not be allowed to participate in a competition until he/she has signed this acknowledgment and agreement.

C.2. - This acknowledgment and agreement must be lodged with the Chief Official via the Referee Manager/s at the latest at the Referees Meeting at which the ICF CAP Referee is to participate.

Name of National Association:	
Name of Competition:	
Name of Participant: [Print Name Block Letters – Last Name / First Name]	
Date of Birth: [Day/Month/Year]	
I hereby acknowledge and agree as follows: • I have received and had an opportunity to review the ICF Canoe Polo Referee/Manager (ICF CAP Referee) Code of Conduct. • I consent and agree to comply with and be bound by all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct.	
Signature and date:	

APPENDIX 5: UNDER 15 AGE GROUP DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Polo Rules are specific regarding minimum age:

- ICF Sport Governance Rule (CR) 1.4.1 states 'The first year an athlete can compete in an ICF competition (level 1 to 3) or an international competition (level 4) is the year of their 15th birthday'.
- ICF Sport Governance Rule (CR) 1.4.2 states 'An athlete starting from the year of their 13th birthday can compete in an international competition (level 4) in a specific age group event with a suitably adapted competition format/rules defined by the HOC'.
- As a Sport Governance Rule (CR) this can only be changed by vote at ICF Congress.

Accordingly, the following **are not ICF rules** but are published to try and get consistency in the development of Under 15 Canoe Polo around the world.

They are recommended for consistent development following the 2019 ICF Canoe Polo Seminar at which 13 countries were present including most that already support the existing Men, Women, Under 21 Men and Under 21 Women categories and having feedback on different variations tried by different federations.

Format	Rationale
4 in each team	Adult car driver, 4 passengers and 4 kayaks on the roof of a car = 1 team.
Size 3 ball	More suitable for the hand size of the young paddler - better grip, accuracy in passing and easier to score goals.
Goal 1.8 metres high	Reduced from 2 metres to enable goals to be scored more easily and not too low that body position/equipment needs to be different from the normal game.
Pitch length 25 metres	Easier to play as age and fitness develops.

It is appreciated that many games involving Under 15 players are at existing venues/during Under 21 and Senior Competitions.

There is no suggestion that these existing venues need adjustment – simply 4 per team and size 3 ball and IF possible adjustable goals reduced to 1.8 metres high or left at 2 metres if non-adjustable.

APPENDIX 6: MIXED 4's DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Following initial development in 2025 at the Oceania and Asian Canoe Polo Championships this category needs more development before consideration as a full category at Continental or World Championships.

The following **are not ICF rules** but are published to try and get consistent cross-continent development.

- Teams – 2 x Men and 2 x Women (with one substitute of each)
- 35 x 23 metre pitch (no change to facilities required)
- Size 4 ball
- 2 x 7 minutes playing time (3-minute half time)
- First half start – Women sprint
- Second half start – Men sprint
- When goals are scored restart is from goal line and not a centre restart

From 2025 experience playing system to be straight knockout rather than any group system.

Future intention is that if successful this category will play for prize money.