

CEV U18 Volleyball European Championship 2026

Released on

Men and Women

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1. Introduction

The European Volleyball Confederation is pleased to open the registration procedure for the the CEV U18 Volleyball European Championship 2026 edition for both genders.

The Final Phase of the stated competitions will be played with 16 teams.

The organisation of the respective Final Phase has been granted as follows:

- Men U18 – in ITALY in the cities of Porto San Giorgio and San Benedetto del Tronto on 07-18/07/2026
- Women U18 – in LATVIA and LITHUANIA, in the cities of Riga (LAT) and Vilnius (LTU) on 01-12/07/2026

This Championship will be managed and processed through the CEV database and therefore we ask all National Federations to apply the necessary accuracy while working with it.

It remains the sole responsibility of the NFs to respect all Communications, CEV Volleyball Competitions Regulations, Guidelines, and institutional decisions to guarantee the delivery of correct, accurate and complete data at any time that these are required.

The regulations in force are the newly updated 'CEV Volleyball Competitions Regulations', these are available as an online PDF document here:

[Volleyball Documents | InsideCEV](#)

Through the same link you can also retrieve any subsequent 'Official Communications' that are available as an online PDF document, as well as the latest version of the 'CEV Organisation Guidelines for National Team Competitions'.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact the CEV Volleyball Department.

For this competition, those working on it during the evenings and at weekends have the support of the 'Competitions Hotline': +352 621 25 34 44

2. Registration procedure and deadline

The registration for this edition will be done through the CEV Database by using the CEV form 01CH (Team Registration).

The registration deadline for closing and sending the above-mentioned form is:

Monday June 30, 2025, at 23:59 CEST
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After closing the form on-line, National Federations must click on 'Print Form' and then sign the paper copy and send it by registered letter to the CEV Office.

This must also be sent with a postmark dated on or before the above-mentioned deadline for the registration to be regarded as valid.

On this form there are tick boxes to inform CEV if the respective National Federation intends to apply to organise one of the 2nd Round qualification tournaments. However, the relevant application forms and required procedure for applying to organise such a tournament will be sent to all NFs after the registrations are confirmed.

For any assistance on filling the registration form, please do not hesitate to contact the CEV Volleyball Department nationalteams@cev.eu.

3. Age limit

According to the Official Regulations, the CEV U18 Volleyball European Championship 2026 edition will only be open to female and male players fulfilling this requirement:

Born on 1 st January 2009 or thereafter
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4. Competition format and dates

The 2026 competition will include a Qualification phase and a Final phase, with the Qualification phase covering the 1st and 2nd Round Qualifiers as follows:

1st Round Qualifiers (Zonal)

The 1st Round Qualifiers will be organised in each of the six CEV Zonal Associations. Following the registration, CEV will inform each zone about the exact number of National Federations from their respective membership that have registered for participation.

Moreover, further to a decision made by the CEV Board of Administration, a minimum of 40% of the respective National Federations have to register for participation in order for the zonal event to count as a 1st Round Qualifier for the European Championship. The host(s) of the Final Phase are not allowed to participate in the qualification process.

If one or more Zonal Associations fail to fulfil this requirement, depending on the total number of teams registered for participation in the championship, their teams might:

- have to join those from another zone to compete in the first stage of the qualification process
- join a qualifying round including teams from different zones put together as per the results of a Drawing of Lots

Each Zonal Association shall organise their qualification stage according to the calendar set by CEV for this round starting at the earliest on 01st September 2025 and ending before 18th January 2026.

In each tournament, the first placed team qualifies directly to the Final Phase from the respective Zone.

2nd Round Qualifiers

The 2nd Round Qualifiers are organised with a maximum of 20 National Federations whose teams competed in but did not qualify from the 1st Round Qualifiers to the Final Phase.

The number of granted vacancies per Zone (quotas) in the 2nd Round Qualifiers depends on the total number of registered teams. The team quota per Zone in the 2nd Round is based on the percentage of overall European Ranking points per Zone calculated based on participating teams. This will be shared in the next Official Communications.

COMPETITION FORMAT:

- The 2nd Round Qualifiers will be played using the single round robin tournament format (i.e. one tournament "one against each other").
- Each 2nd Round Qualifier will be played with a minimum three and a maximum of four teams.
- The teams in each 2nd Round Qualifier will play one tournament over three competition days:
 - Tournament with 3 teams: each team will play on 2 competition days
 - Tournament with 4 teams: each team will play on 3 competition days
- Each of the National Federations involved has the right to apply for the organisation of the tournament.
- Should more than one National Federation apply for the organisation, the organisers will be drawn by the CEV. Should no National Federation apply for the organisation, the organiser will be drawn by the CEV.

- In each pool, the first placed team qualifies to the Final Phase. In case of a vacancy in the Final Phase, the next best placed team(s) across all pools not yet qualified will progress to the Final Phase.

QUALIFICATION DATES

Round	European Championships
1 st Round Qualifiers (organised by Zones)	Between 01 st September 2025 till 18 th January 2026
2 nd Round Qualifiers	26 th – 29 th March 2026

Final Round Format:

The 16 teams contesting the Final Round will be playing seven matches each in the pool stage according to the single round robin format (one against each other).

The first and second-ranked teams from each pool will progress to crossed-semi-finals, with the pool winners playing against the runners-up from the other group. Matches for the gold and bronze medals will follow on the final competition day as per the results of the semi-finals. All teams finishing from third down to eight in the pool phase will be returning home after the end of the group stage without contesting any other classification matches.

5. 1st Round Qualifiers – format and dates

Following receipt of the confirmed list of registered teams, each Zonal Association must confirm to CEV their competition structure and dates by Monday 04th August 2025 regarding their 1st Round Qualifier.

7. 2nd Round Qualifiers

Following completion of the 1st Round Qualifiers, CEV will confirm the teams qualified to the 2nd Round. The composition of the 2nd Round pools will be defined by the Serpentine System, once the 2nd Round organisers are known and seeded as head of those 2nd Round pools.

8. 2nd Round Qualifiers – organiser application

Forms to apply to organise 2nd Round tournaments will be sent to all participating teams in due time before 18th January 2026.

9. FIVB U19 World Championships 2027

The FIVB will inform all NFs accordingly regarding the calendar and Continental quotas for this event (the FIVB U19 WCH 2027 edition is open to players born on 1st January 2009 or thereafter).

9. EYOF 2027

The teams due to contest the 2027 edition of the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) in Lignano Sabbiadoro (Italy) will be defined according to the respective CEV U18 European Ranking (Men/Women), and not as per the CEV U18 Volleyball European Championship 2026 Final Standing. Considering the respective ranking by the end of the national team season 2026 of the relevant category, the participating teams will be defined a year prior to the EYOF.

The EYOF 2027 is open only to players born in 2010 and in 2011.



CEV Publications
© Confédération Européenne de Volleyball
488, route de Longwy, L-1940 Luxembourg
Phone: +352 25 46 461
info@ceveu · ceveu