WORLD PARA SWIMMING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS KOCAELI 2026

Qualification Criteria

April 2026

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1. Introduction

World Para Swimming is pleased to share the qualification criteria and deadlines for the World Para Swimming European Championships Kocaeli 2026 from 7 to 12 September 2026 (the "**Championships**").

These Championships are organised for athletes representing National Paralympic Committees in the Region of Europe as recognised by the IPC.

The information below, provides details related to the list of events, qualification criteria and deadlines for the Championships.

2. Championships Dates

3 September 2026	Team Arrival dates
4- 6 September 2026	Classification and Training dates
7- 12 September 2026	Championships dates
13 September 2026	Team Departure date

3. Athlete Eligibility

As set out in Section 1 above, these Championships are organised for athletes representing National Paralympic Committees in the Region of Europe as recognised by the IPC.

To be eligible to compete in the Championships, all athletes (regardless of the route of qualification) must meet all the eligibility requirements set out in Regulation 4.2 of the World Para Swimming Rules & Regulations.

4. Qualification Requirements

4.1 In accordance with Regulation 4.4 of the World Para Swimming Rules & Regulations, in addition to the eligibility requirements referred to above, to be

eligible for selection by an NPC for the Championships, all athletes must meet the following qualification requirements:

1. hold an active World Para Swimming Athlete License for the 2026 season;

2. be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2027 or later*;

3. have achieved a Minimum Qualification Standard ("MQS") at a 50m World Para Swimming Recognised Competition (as defined in the World Para Swimming Rules & Regulations) for the respective event (including relay events) between 1 January 2025 and 6 July 2026 (inclusive);** and

4. have achieved a MQS in accordance with the World Para Swimming Athlete Registration and Licensing Regulations valid for the 2025 or 2026 seasons.**

*In relation to criterion 2 above, NPCs are permitted to provisionally select athletes with a Sport Class Status of (i) Review; (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2026 or earlier; and (iii) New, subject to such athletes fulfilling the other qualification requirements above and attending an Evaluation Session prior to or during the Championships (including any required in-competition Observation Assessment).

**Exceptions may be granted to criteria 3 and 4 above through the Wild Card entry method (see details in section 7 below) and for Direct Invitations (see section 8 below).

4.2 For MQS details please see the list at the end of this document.

4.2.1 The MQS was set based on the average of 16 -18 placed athletes on the WPS Rankings European ranking list 1 January 2024 - 28 September 2025.

4.2.2 If there were not enough athletes on the rankings to meet the above criteria, the average times of the last two athletes included on the rankings were used as an MQS. The exception to this may be the S1 and S2 MQS standards which are set to increase the number of qualifying athletes for these events.

4.2.3 For relay events there are no MQS times; teams can be entered even without previous achievement (they will be seeded with 'no time'). NPCs that have a time for their relay team from the qualification period can enter this result in the final entries.

5. Qualification and Entry Timeline

1 January 2025	Start of the period for athletes to achieve MQS performances
24 April 2026	Opening of Online Preliminary Entry by Number
15 May 2026	Deadline to submit Preliminary Entry by Number Accurate numbers are appreciated so that Preliminary Event Programme can be published at the earliest opportunity. Please do not include Direct invitation or Wild Card requests in this number.
5 June 2026	Start date to apply for Wild Cards
12 June 2026	Opening of Online Entry System for Entry by Number per Event
22 June 2026	Opening of online NPC delegation Accreditation System
26 June 2026	Deadline for Entry by Number per Event. NPCs will be invoiced based on the number provided in this entry. **No** withdrawal is possible after this entry deadline. The accurate Entry by Number data is very important to allow accurate planning for the Championships services and programme. Therefore, please enter accurate numbers of qualified athletes for both male and female events.
3 July 2026	Opening of Online Entry System for Entry by Name (final entry). Please ensure Relay entries are included. NPCs are permitted a maximum 15% increase in athlete numbers compared to Entry by Number by Event. A second invoice for added NPC team members will be sent to the NPC.
6 July 2026	End of period for athletes to achieve MQS performances.

10 July 2026	Deadline to apply for Wild Cards (including for relay-only athletes).
17 July 2026	Deadline for Online Entry by Name (final entry deadline). No changes in the entries will be accepted after this date.
31 July 2026	Deadline for Competition Fee Payment
7 August 2026	Deadline to accredit NPC delegations via online Accreditation System and to enter arrival and departure information.

6. Entry Forms

NPCs must submit all Online Entry forms through the IPC Online Entry System: https://db.ipc-services.org/sdms/app/login.
Please ensure all entries are reviewed through the entry validation export prior to the Entry by Name deadline. No additional entries will be accepted after the deadline.

7. Wild Card Entry

7.1 NPCs with either no qualified athletes or with only 1 qualified athlete may apply for Wild Card entry slots in accordance with the following terms.

- The Wild Card entry slot is allocated to the individual athlete(s), not to the respective NPC.
- A maximum of one (1) male slot and one (1) female slot may be granted if an NPC has not obtained any qualification slots.
- NPCs that have obtained only one (1) qualification slot may be given one (1) or two (2) extra slots depending on the sport gender category of the qualified athlete, as per the following table:

Qualified Athletes	Possible Wild Card slots
No athletes qualified	1 Female and 1 Male slot

1 Female only	1 Female and/or 1 Male slot
1 Male only	1 or 2 Female slot(s)

Please apply via the online entry system referred to in section 5 above.

7.2 In addition to the above, NPCs may apply for a Wild Card slot for one **relay-specific athlete** to be added to their team for each of the relay events.

7.2.1 This athlete may not participate in any other events beyond the relay events. Such an application may only be made for one athlete per Relay event per NPC. Please specify Relay Only request in the Wild Card Application comments

All Wild Card entry slots are at the sole discretion of World Para Swimming, and World Para Swimming has no obligation to award any Wild Card entry slots, regardless of whether or not NPCs/athletes meet the criteria above.

At its sole discretion, World Para Swimming may waiver qualification criteria 3 and 4 in section 3 above related to MQS times for athletes granted a Wild Card slot.

8. Direct Invitation

8.1 World Para Swimming reserves the right to directly invite a limited number of athletes under the following criteria:

- To enable the greater representation by a nation.
- To enable the greater representation by the host nation.
- To ensure events featured on the programme have sufficient representation for viability.
- To enable greater representation by gender.
- To ensure the further representation of athletes with high support needs.
- To ensure athletes that may have not had the opportunity to formally qualify due to exceptional circumstances can attend.
- To ensure new athletes that may have not had the opportunity to be formally classified due to exceptional circumstances can attend.

8.2 At its sole discretion, World Para Swimming may waive qualification criteria 3 and 4 in section 3 above related to MQS times for athletes granted a Direct Invitation slot.

NPCs may request a Direct Invitation slot directly with WPS by emailing a letter of request to nicole.burns@worldparaswimming.org

All direct invitation slots are at the sole discretion of World Para Swimming, and World Para Swimming has no obligation to award any direct invitation slots, regardless of whether or not NPCs/athletes meet the criteria above.

Direct Invitation slots will not be offered after the final entry list being published at the end of July 2026.

9. Event Viability Criteria

9.1 Individual events will be considered viable if they have a minimum of six (6) eligible athletes from three (3) NPCs entered by the Entry by Name deadline.

9.1.1 With the exception of events for classes S1-2 and S11, which will be deemed viable if five (5) eligible athletes from two (2) NPCs are entered through Entry by Name.

9.2 Relay events will be considered viable if they have a minimum of four (4) NPCs entering a full relay team of eligible athletes for that event by the Entry by Name deadline.

9.3 Where an event is deemed non-viable, the event(s) will be removed from the event programme.

Athletes in a non-viable event will be included in the nearest class event (example – athletes entered into a S1 50m Backstroke event which is deemed not viable will be entered into the S2 50m Backstroke event). Only one set of medals will be award per event.

Athletes in a non-viable event will also have the option to opt out of moving their entry to nearest class event. NPCs must email nicole.burns@worldparaswimming.org within one week following the official notification of non-viable events if the athlete wishes to opt out.

9.4 The final list of viable events will only be confirmed at the time of the entry list is officially published.

10 Competition Format

10.1 The Championships will be conducted in the Single Class competition format.

10.2 All heats will be swum in the morning session and finals in the evening session. Where an event has only one (1) heat of eight (8) athletes or fewer, it will be seeded as a direct final and swum only during the final session as per WPS Rule 10.10.1.2.1.

The final list of direct finals will only be confirmed at Team Leaders meeting. Any withdrawals after the Team Leaders meeting will not impact on the heats and finals schedule.

10.3 Heats will be seeded as referred to in Rule 10.10.1.2 of the World Para Swimming Rules & Regulations.

11 Maximum Entries per NPC

11.1 NPCs may enter a maximum of three (3) eligible athletes per medal event per class.

11.2 If there is more than one eligible class in the single sport class event, a maximum of five (5) swimmers per event can be entered per each NPC. However, only a maximum of three (3) swimmers per each eligible sport class can be entered if all met the MQS.

11.3 A maximum of 3 athletes per NPC may progress to the final.

11.4 NPCs may enter two (2) relay teams per relay event. In case an NPC has more than 1 relay team competing in a relay event, only 1 team can proceed to the finals. The relay team which proceeds to the final is the one with the fastest time. If an NPC wishes to enter more than one relay team for an event, please contact the World Para Swimming office.

11.5 If a relay event is a direct final and an NPC has entered more than one team, only one team will be eligible to compete in the final.

12 Competition Fee

The Competition Fee covers Championships services for 3 – 13 September 2026 (from official arrival to departure date).

The Competition Fee for the Championships is as outlined below

- 500 EUR per Athlete or Team Official
- 350 EUR per Relay only Athlete

For any logistical arrangements outside of the above period, please contact the LOC.

13 Financial Regulations

13.1 Following the deadline of Entry by Number by Event (26 June 2026) there will be no reimbursement for withdrawals of any team members, with the exception of an athlete entered into only non-viable event(s) or due to a medical reason (in this case a WPS official medical withdrawal form are required to be presented).

13.2 The Competition Fee is to be paid to World Para Swimming no later than 31 July 2026 in accordance with the invoice that can be downloaded from the online entry system following the Entry by Number by Event submission.

Payment as soon as possible after submitting the Entry by Number per Event is encouraged.

14 Championships website and other Information

Details of the Championships website will be published shortly.

The Team Leaders guide (version 1) will be available during April 2026, which will provide further information on the Championships.

List of MQS Times for the World Para Swimming European Championships Kocaeli 2026

Qualification Period - 1 January 2025 to 6 July 2026

Events	Class	Men	Women
		MQS	MQS
50m Freestyle	S3	01:08.55	02:11.29
	S4	00:59.72	01:49.34
	S5	00:42.15	00:55.60
	S6	00:35.03	00:44.13
	S7	00:32.56	00:42.20
	S8	00:30.40	00:37.23
	S9	00:26.57	00:31.45
	S10	00:26.63	00:32.24
	S11	00:29.87	00:43.92
	S12	00:26.84	00:39.05
	S13	00:25.85	00:33.14
100m Freestyle	S3	02:31.38	04:22.44
	S4	02:20.36	03:35.05
	S5	01:42.45	01:58.57
	S6	01:16.19	01:37.53
	S7	01:13.19	01:29.10
	S8	01:05.36	01:20.95
	S9	00:58.39	01:07.84
	S10	00:58.53	01:08.01
	S11	01:07.58	01:44.14
	S12	00:58.70	01:44.43
	S13	00:56.62	01:13.30
200m Freestyle	S2	08:13.32	
	S3	05:07.44	
	S4	05:04.29	
	S5	03:15.32	04:20.22
	S14	02:03.89	02:24.43
400m Freestyle	S6	06:32.20	09:01.97
	S7	06:29.70	07:01.56

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	S8	05:19.89	06:07.04
	S9	04:43.30	05:18.46
	S10	04:46.51	05:37.83
	S11	05:41.60	06:53.24
	S13	04:54.71	05:48.99
50m Backstroke	S1	01:45.10	
	S2	01:50.07	02:34.36
	S3	01:16.05	01:59.25
	S4	01:23.13	01:16.59
	S5	01:03.28	01:01.85
100m Backstroke	S1	03:48.36	
	S2	03:55.83	04:28.75
	S6	01:35.92	01:55.56
	S7	01:28.09	02:45.13
	S8	01:15.58	01:46.28
	S9	01:09.80	01:21.84
	S10	01:13.74	01:27.55
	S11	01:26.27	01:36.46
	S12	01:30.79	01:48.70
	S13	01:16.29	01:55.68
	S14	01:05.28	01:27.55
50m Breaststroke	SB2	01:39.57	02:42.30
	SB3	01:19.22	01:32.20
100m Breaststroke	SB4	02:57.70	02:53.03
	SB5	01:59.67	02:57.29
	SB6	01:53.14	02:46.14
	SB7	01:58.08	02:05.66
	SB8	01:29.87	01:47.71
	SB9	01:17.40	01:34.13
	SB11	01:39.22	01:50.48
	SB12	01:27.22	02:33.67
	SB13	01:21.88	01:41.50
	SB14	01:13.33	01:32.33

50m Butterfly	S5	00:51.45	01:18.18
	S6	00:44.14	00:58.14
	S7	00:41.38	01:08.25
100m Butterfly	S8	01:17.19	02:04.61
	S9	01:05.90	01:20.86
	S10	01:06.33	01:25.30
	S11	01:27.52	
	S12	01:12.00	
	S13	01:07.03	01:23.64
	S14	01:02.51	01:21.86
150m Individual Medley	SM3	04:41.72	
	SM4	04:15.36	05:36.16
200m Individual Medley	SM5	03:53.07	04:55.03
	SM6	03:32.11	03:51.24
	SM7	03:36.97	03:52.87
	SM8	02:50.71	03:24.98
	SM9	02:32.41	02:55.42
	SM10	02:36.85	03:00.62
	SM11	03:24.57	03:33.87
	SM13	02:35.00	03:15.18
	SM14	02:22.53	02:52.57
Relays*			
Mixed 4x100m Freestyle	34 Points	\	
Mixed 4x100m Medley	34 Points	\	
Mixed 4x100m Freestyle	S14	\	
Mixed 4 x 100m Medley	S14	\	

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Mixed 4 x 100m Freestyle	49 Points	\
Mixed 4x100m Medley	49 points	\
Mixed 4x50m Freestyle	20 points	\
Mixed 4x50m Medley	20 points	\

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