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WP: ROTTERDAM WILL DETERMINE THE LAST THREE TEAMS FOR TOKYO 2020



The city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands and the Royal Dutch Swimming Federation will host the FINA Men's Water Polo Olympic Games Qualification Tournament from February 14-21, 2021, at the Zwemcentrum Rotterdam.

Twelve squads representing Brazil, Canada, Croatia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia and Turkey will compete next week, all hoping to secure one of the three remaining spots for the Men's Olympic Games Water Polo Tournament in Tokyo this summer.

As per the women's Tournament, the participating teams were selected through Continental Qualification Tournaments or Continental Championships.

The groups' composition for Rotterdam splits as follows:

GROUP A: Georgia, Turkey, Canada, Brazil, Montenegro, Greece

GROUP B: Croatia, Netherlands, France, Russia, Germany, Romania

The competition's schedule can be found [here](#).

The three best teams (gold, silver, bronze medallists) will secure a berth for the Olympic Games and join the already qualified nine teams, namely: Serbia (FINA Water Polo World League 2019 winner), Italy and Spain (18th FINA World Championships winner and runner-up), USA (Pan American Games 2019), Australia (Oceania), Hungary (European Championships 2020), South Africa (Africa), Kazakhstan (Asia), Japan (host).

A total of 12 men teams will be competing in Tokyo.

Historically, the Balkan teams are known to be the powerhouses in the discipline. Serbia (already qualified) is the current Olympic title holder after winning the Rio 2016 tournament, while Croatia (playing in Rotterdam) won the crown in London 2012, and was the World champion in 2017 in Budapest. Before that, Hungary claimed three consecutive Olympic gold in Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008.

Spain and Greece are other strong contenders for the Olympic honours to watch for in Rotterdam.

The Draw for the Men and Women's Olympics groups will be held immediately after the conclusion of the tournament on February 21, which will be held under strict sanitary measures, implemented and monitored by FINA, so that the health and safety of all participants is assured.

All matches will be broadcast live on FINAtv and will also be available on replay, while the live scores will be displayed [here](#). Daily news reports will be published on FINA website and photos / videos can be found on FINA social media channels.

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FINA TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE TO REACH MORE AQUATIC FANS WORLDWIDE



The FINA digital team has been working relentlessly to develop a brand new website for our International Federation which will be launched in a couple of weeks for the public.

As the team is finetuning the latest phase of the development, the clear objectives of this new platform are to become the first global digital access point for aquatic sport fans and increase the visibility and relevance of the FINA events throughout a busy yearly calendar.

This first major digital reform will enable FINA to engage further with the ever-growing Aquatics fan community around the globe in a

more efficient manner and it has the ambition to create new sponsorship and commercial opportunities.

The navigation as well as the design are highly improved and an emphasis was put on the personal user experience so that accessibility to basic content such as results, scores and ranking, is facilitated. A strong focus on data, athletes and results was given when planning.

In addition, the following innovations will be available:

- Full revised interface usability compatible with any device and screen
- Result and athlete sections completely revamped with more data and information available (i.e. comprehensive athlete biographies)
- Enhanced user experience thanks to the catchy design and room for videos and photos fully integrated in the platform

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MARATHON OLYMPIC QUALIFIER CONFIRMED IN FUKUOKA

The city of Fukuoka, Japan, has confirmed together with the Tokyo 2020 organisers

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



and FINA that the Olympic Marathon Swim Qualifier 2021 will be held from May 29-30 at the Seaside Momochi Beach Park.

The two races (men and women) will be staged in a defined COVID-safe bubble respecting a strict protocol that will ensure the safety of the athletes but also of all the people involved in the organisation.

The National Federations are allowed to register a maximum of two athletes per event, as long as they haven't previously secured a spot through the FINA World Championships 2019 in Gwangju, Korea.

Air temperature around this time of year average between 17°C and 29°C, while the water temperature is between 19.9°C - 21.7°C which represents a unique opportunity for the long distance swimmers to compete in ideal conditions.

Following the qualifier in Fukuoka, the Tokyo 2020 Marathon Swimming line-up will be completed, with 25 men and 25 women taking part in the Olympic race. While the 2019 FINA World Championships in Gwangju (KOR) already qualified 10 athletes in both genders, the Fukuoka rendezvous will determine the remaining 15 swimmers in the men's and women's event.

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The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide.

Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Artistic Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA



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organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in 25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 209 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

