

Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

The Beach Handball competition at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games consists of Men's and Women's events. Both events have the same format and rules. In the preliminary round (group matches) there are two groups of four teams. Once the preliminary phase is completed, the eight teams proceed to the quarterfinals. The losers from the quarterfinals play placement matches 5-8, 7-8 and 5-6 based on their bracket positions and won/lost matches after the quarterfinal. The semifinal winners play in the gold medal match, and the semifinal losers play in the bronze medal match.

Differences between the U17 Beach Handball World Championship and the Summer Youth Olympic Games

The U17 Beach Handball World Championship has a different format than the Youth Olympic Games. Both the men's and women's competitions are 16 team competitions (four groups of four teams).

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

The number of teams in each event has been reduced to eight, from twelve teams.

Sport Rules and Procedures

Age categories

Athletes must be at least 15 years old on the first day of competition and not older than 17 years old at the time of the Games, up to and including the Closing Ceremony, in order to compete.

Match Description

- Each team consists of ten players. No more than four players (three court players and one goalkeeper) may be on the court at any time. The remaining players are substitutes.

- Substitutes may repeatedly enter the match at any time without notifying officials, as long as the players they are replacing have already left the court

- The court dimensions must be 27 metres in length by 12 metres in width. The playing surface must be composed of levelled sand.

- The court players must not enter the goal area (6 metres in front of the goal)

- The goalkeeper is entitled to act as a court player

- The playing time is two periods of ten minutes, with a five minute break between periods

- Two referees lead the match

- Teams attempt to gain the highest number of goal points to win the period. If the score is even at the end of a period, the "Golden Goal" method is used, i.e. the winner is the team that scores the first goal.

- Each period is scored separately. The winner of a period is awarded one point. If both periods are won by the same team, this team is the overall winner, with the score 2-0. If each team wins a period, the result is a tie. As there must always be a match winner, a "Shoot-out" is used. Five eligible players take alternating throws with the opposing team. If a goalkeeper is one of the throwers, he counts as a court player when he takes his throw. The winner is the team that has scored more goal points after five throws. If the outcome has not been decided after the first round, the "Shoot-out" is continued, with a change of ends, and the other team throwing first. In this round, and any subsequent round, the match is decided as soon as one team takes the lead after an equal number of attempts by each team. During the preliminary round matches, all the throws of a started "Shoot-out" round must be executed, regardless of the fact that the result of the game may have been already decided.



Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Classification and Tie Break Rules

Preliminary round group ranking:

The preliminary round is played in groups. The matches shall be evaluated as follows:

- Each match won = two classification points
- Each match lost = zero classification points

Teams are ranked according to the total number of classification points gained.

During the preliminary round the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria:

(a) Total number of classification points gained

(b) Period difference in all matches

(c) Greater number of goal points in all matches

If still tied, all tied teams will share the same rank.

If two or more teams are tied on classification points at the end of the preliminary round, ties will be broken as follows:

(a) Results in classification points in the matches between the teams concerned

(b) Period difference in the matches between the teams concerned

(c) Goal point difference in the matches between the teams concerned

(d) Greater number of goal points in the matches between the teams concerned

(e) Greater number of periods in the matches between the teams concerned

If ties remain, they will be broken as follows:

(a) Period difference in all matches

(b) Goal point difference in all matches

(c) Greater number of goal points in all matches

(d) Greater number of periods in all matches

If the teams remain tied, the tie will be broken by a draw. The IHF representative on site will execute the draw, if possible in the presence of the responsible team officials.

Punishments / Disqualification Rules

The players and team officials are punished during a match according to the rules of the game and IHF regulations. A player, a team official or a team may be disqualified from the tournament due to a breach of sport ethics, rules or by violating anti-doping regulations. A direct red card automatically leads to a suspension for at least the next match.

Appeals

The teams can submit appeals on decisions of the disciplinary commission to the jury of appeal.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.ihf.info

OMEGA