



2026 HEYBALL WORLD CUP ATHLETE GUIDE

ABOUT

This guide provides essential information for athletes participating in the **2026 Heyball World Cup**, a premier global event sanctioned by the World Pool Association (WPA) and presented by JOY Billiards.

HEYBALL WORLD CUP OVERVIEW

The Heyball World Cup is the flagship event of international Heyball, planned to be staged every four years as the highest expression of the sport. With a total prize fund of USD 865,200—more than double that of the World Championship—the World Cup will showcase national pride, teamwork, and the very best athletes in both the men’s and women’s team competitions.

Originally scheduled to debut in 2027, the inaugural edition has been advanced as part of Heyball’s Olympic campaign. By presenting the World Cup in Australia, this landmark event strengthens the sport’s positioning for inclusion in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.

Participation in the World Cup represents more than competing at the elite level. Each team plays a vital role in Heyball’s journey toward global recognition and its Olympic future.

Competition Details

- Events: Men’s Team Championship & Women’s Team Championship
- Team Quotas: 32 Men’s Teams and 32 Women’s Teams
- Team Composition: 3 athletes, one of which is the nominated captain
- Prize Fund: USD 865,200 (USD 432,600 per category)

Team Representation

- Each team represents its nation, with a maximum of one entry per country in each category. Teams are composed of three athletes: one one of which is the nominated captain.
- Athletes will be nominated by their National Federation, in accordance with the federation’s own selection criteria.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT EQUIPMENT

- Table – JOY Billiards Q9
- Rack – Joy Aluminium Triangle
- Cloth – LiberWin 8848
- Balls – WPA Unity Set
-

BROADCAST INFORMATION

This event will be broadcast live on <https://wpalive.tv/wpalive-tv>



KEY INFORMATION

Arrival Day:	January 15, 2026
Athletes' Meeting:	16:30 – January 15, 2026 (Mandatory)
Opening Ceremony:	19:00 – January 15, 2026 (Mandatory)
Tournament Start:	January 16, 2026
Medal Ceremony:	Between 19:00 and 20:00 – January 19, 2026
Departure Day:	January 20, 2026
Hotel:	Athletes to book their own
Venue:	Centre of Excellence – Marsden State High School
Nearest Airport:	Brisbane Airport (BNE) – approx. 30 minutes to venue by car.
Discipline:	Heyball
Entry:	WPA Member nominations
WPA Member Nomination Deadline:	October 25, 2025
Athlete Online Registration Deadline:	October 31, 2025
Entry Fee:	No entry fee
Draw Format:	Stage 1: 32 Teams Round Robin (Men and Women) Stage 2: 8 Teams Single Elimination (Men and Women)
Race Length:	Stage 1: 4 Sets Race to 3 (Men and Women) Stage 2: 4 Sets, Race to 3 (Men's and Women's) with Golden Rack Tiebreaker
Rules:	WPA Rules and Regulations WPA Heyball Rules of Play
Brackets & Live Scoring:	www.digitalpool.com



TEAM ALLOCATIONS & RECOMMENDED COUNTRIES:

Each team represents its nation, with a maximum of one entry per country in each category.

Teams are composed of three athletes: one of which is the nominated captain. Athletes will be nominated by their National Federation, in accordance with the federation's own selection criteria.

The World Cup was originally planned for 2027 with WPA Members to select participating nations. However, as the tournament has been brought forward to align with the Olympic campaign, JOY and the WPA request that selections be made first from the countries listed below. These nations have demonstrated the broadest participation across both Men's and Women's categories in WPA Heyball events and align with JOY's current sales footprint and active market support.

Once the listed countries have been approached, and if the quota is not filled, WPA Members may extend invitations to other nations. Any returned allocations will be reallocated on a first-request basis. Should allocations remain unfilled after the deadline and no further requests are received, JOY will assign the remaining allocations.

Please note: Men's and Women's teams may represent the same nation, but this is not required. Members may choose to nominate both a Men's and a Women's team from the same country, or select teams from different countries, at their discretion and in accordance with their selection criteria.

Member Allocations (Per Category – Men's / Women's)

- AAPA – 6 Men's Teams and 6 Women's Teams
- ACBS – 9 Men's Teams and 9 Women's Teams
- BCA – 2 Men's Teams and 2 Women's Teams
- CPB – 3 Men's Teams and 3 Women's Teams
- OPBA – 2 Men's Teams and 2 Women's Teams
- EPBF – 10 Men's Teams and 10 Women's Teams

Total: 32 Men's Teams and 32 Women's Teams Countries:

Africa:

First Choice - South Africa, Morocco, Mauritius, Uganda, Kenya, Namibia

Second Choice - Zambia, Zimbabwe, Egypt.

Asia:

First Choice - Mongolia, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Japan, Indonesia, India

Second Choice - South Korea, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Jordan, China, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Qatar

North America: USA, Canada

South America:

First Choice - Mexico, Brazil, Chile

Second Choice - Argentina

Oceania: Australia, New Zealand

Europe:

First Choice - Great Britain, Poland, Germany, Slovenia, Sweden, Belgium, Portugal, France, Norway, Lithuania

Second Choice - Serbia, Austria, Netherlands, Ukraine, Estonia, Finland.

The deadline for WPA Members to submit their athlete nominations via email to event@wpapool.com is **October 25, 2025**. After this date, a registration link will be sent to the nominated athletes for individual registration, which must be completed by **October 31, 2025**, via the WPA website.

WPA ATHLETE LICENSE REGISTRATION

All athletes participating in the World Championship will need to have a valid WPA Athlete's License. Athletes without a valid WPA Athlete's License will have their payouts withheld until their WPA Athlete's license is activated. For more information or assistance please visit <https://wpapool.com/license/> or email events@wpapool.com

ENTRY FEE:

There is no entry fee.

PRIZE MONEY:

This breakdown is per category, with the same payout structure for both Men's and Women's competitions.

Stage	Position	Teams	Per Team	Total
Knockout Stage	Winner	1	USD 75 000	USD 75 000
	Runner-Up	1	USD 36 000	USD 36 000
	Semifinal	2	USD 24 000	USD 48 000
	Quarterfinal	4	USD 15 000	USD 60 000
	Last 16	8	USD 12 000	USD 96 000
Group Stage	3rd Place	8	USD 8 100	USD 64 800
	4th Place	8	USD 6 600	USD 52 800
Total	USD 432 600			

The prize money will be disbursed by WPA through electronic transfer within 30 days following the event. Payments will be made to the bank accounts provided by athletes during the online registration process.

ATHLETE'S MEETING

There will be a mandatory athletes' meeting on 16:30 – January 15, 2026, at the Centre of Excellence – Marsden State High School. This meeting, conducted by the Event Management and the Tournament Director, must be attended by all participants. Athletes who are not present may be replaced by athletes on the waiting list.

TRAVEL DETAILS – FLIGHTS AND ACCOMMODATION

All participating athletes are fully responsible for their own expenses and travel arrangements. This includes booking and paying for flights, accommodation, meals, and any other personal costs. The closest airport is Brisbane Airport (BNE), approximately 30 minutes by car from the the Centre of Excellence – Marsden State High School. Uber is widely available in Brisbane and offers a convenient option for airport transfers.

VISA – LETTER OF INVITATION:

For Australian visa information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas>

WPA Members may request "Letter of Invitation" from events@wpapool.com on behalf of their athletes to present to the Australian Embassy in their respective country. When submitting your request, please include your full name, a copy of your passport, and the city and country where you will apply for the visa.

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL CAREFULLY:

We encourage you to allow ample time for travel both before and after the event. Please be aware that the organisation and event director are not responsible for airline delays, lost luggage, traffic jams, or any other travel-related issues that could result in missing the athletes' meeting or forfeiting your spot. Matches will not be delayed or rescheduled to accommodate individual travel challenges. For this reason, you are advised to arrive no later than the day before the event starts and to plan your departure for no sooner than the day after the event concludes.

FORMAT

Group Stage

- 32 teams are divided by random draw into 8 groups of 4, playing a single round-robin format. Each match will consist of 4 sets:
- Set 1: Singles (Team A Player 1 vs Team B Player 1)
- Set 2: Singles (Team A Player 2 vs Team B Player 2)
- Set 3: Scotch Doubles (alternate shot, one turn per athlete)
- Set 4: Captain's choice (Singles)
- Each set will be played as a race to 3.
- All matches will be played on one table with a dedicated referee operating a 45-second shot clock. Players are allowed one 30-second extension per frame. In Doubles, when the incoming team takes control of the table, they will have 60 seconds to play their first shot. Thereafter, the standard 45second shot clock will apply for all subsequent shots.
- Before the start of the match, each captain must submit their team's order of play, identifying which athletes will represent Player 1, Player 2, and the Doubles pair for Set 3. Orders are kept confidential until both teams have finalized their selections, after which they are revealed simultaneously.
- For Set 4, is a Captains Choice Singles Match – these names can be submitted after Set 3.
- In the event of a tie in the group stage, standings will be determined by match wins, head-to-head result, rack differential, total racks won, performance rate and if necessary, a play-off.
- The top two teams from each group will qualify for the knockout stage.

Knockout Stage

- The winner of Group A will play the runner up of Group B and the runner up of Group A will play the Winner of Group B and so forth.
- Each match will follow the same format as the Group Stage, with the following addition:
- If the score is tied 2–2 after the first 4 sets, a **Golden Rack** (Doubles) will be played as a deciding frame.
- The pair chosen for the Golden Rack may not be the same pair that played in Set 3.

Doubles Play:

The following special rules apply to doubles play:

- After the lag has determined which team will break first, that team will decide which player takes the opening break. Thereafter, the break will alternate between the two players on that team. The same procedure applies to the opposing team.
- The non-breaking team will follow the sequence of alternating play from the previous rack when taking their first shot.
- The alternate shot format means partners must take turns at the table, alternating after every legal shot.

Coaching / communication

- The two active athletes are allowed to confer before each shot
- Once the player addresses the cue ball and is down on the shot, no further communication is allowed until after that shot is completed.
- Any discussion has to be within the time limit (plus extension if available).

Schedule

- The athlete must be present in the venue 30 minutes before their match is scheduled.

RULES



BREAKING

- Alternate breaks. Lag for the opening break of the first set.
- Referee racks on all tables – athletes may not approach or inspect the rack.

SCHEDULE

If an athlete is not present at the posted match time:

- The Referee will penalise the athlete one frame and place the athlete “on the clock.”
- The Referee will subsequently penalise the athlete one game for every 5 minutes, until he or she is present.
- If the athlete is not present after 15 minutes of being placed “on the clock,” it is a forfeit.

PRACTICE

- No open practice is allowed at all on the feature table. The two athletes scheduled on the feature table may shoot one rack each prior to the match.
- Between matches, practice will be allowed at the 4 practice tables.
- If a table does not become available until match time, athletes may shoot one rack each prior to beginning the match.

DRESS CODE

Each team will be required to dress in the **same team outfit**.

APPROVED CLOTHING

This tournament will enforce the dress code described in the WPA Rule Regulations: [Click Here](#). This is the minimum required dress code, and athletes may choose to wear a waistcoat under the same conditions.

Athletes need to be dressed professionally during the entire event, not just during their match. This includes practice, meetings, and the public areas of the venue.



PROHIBITED CLOTHING

Under no circumstances will the organization accept any of these clothing:

- Athletic wear of any kind, including but not limited to sneakers, sweats, swimwear, jogging suits, uniforms, jerseys, or any type of pants with contrasting stripes not associated with formal wear.
- Shorts of any kind, regardless of apparent length. Pants must be normal in respect to the appropriate rise in relation to the length of garment and may not be excessively baggy or loose fitting.
- Overalls, coveralls, jeans, hats, headphones, or earpieces (unless medical need, proof required)

LOGOS & PATCHES

Athletes may wear a maximum of four (4) of their own logos on playing apparel (“Athlete’s logos”). All logos, including apparel brand logos and federation logos, are included in this maximum of four (4) restriction. Athletes may display a fifth logo if this logo is an official partner of the event. These logos should be placed in positions 2- 6 on the diagram. Text on jerseys will be treated as a sponsor logo, unless it is the athlete’s name, nickname, or country they represent.

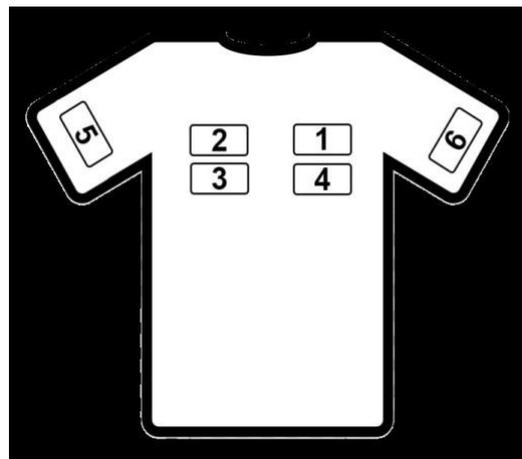
In addition, the organizers may provide athletes with one additional patch for the event. This should be displayed as shown in position (1) on the below image.

Logos may not exceed sixty-five (65) square centimeters. The athlete must submit to the organization), before his or her first match, samples of all sponsor logos for approval. Logos should only be worn in the positions shown in the image to the right.

The organization reserves the authority to disallow any sponsor logos for any reason, including but not limited to not submitting logo for approval or conflicting with any other event or broadcast sponsor.

NATIONAL EMBLEM

For World Championships, Continental Championships, and other events where athletes represent their nations, the nation that the athlete is representing must be indicated on their playing shirt. Acceptable indications are as follows: country flag, three-letter IOC country code, full name of country in English, or full name of country in the official language of the Country in Latin script. The indication of the nation must be displayed horizontally, in the top half of the shirt, and be prominent enough to be easily identifiable. The recommendation is to use letters or flag images that are at least 5 centimeters (2 inches) high, with the ratio of width to height of letters between 15% and 40%.



ATHLETE AGREEMENT

By registering, athletes agree to follow all terms and conditions set by the event organizers and partners. Participants under 18 must have guardian consent. Athletes must review and comply with the latest Athlete Guide and Tournament Regulations and accept that these may be updated before the event.

Organizers reserve the right to determine eligibility, deny entry, adjust formats or payouts, and make changes due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather, emergencies).

Participation is voluntary and at the athlete's own risk. Organizers are not liable for injury, illness (including COVID-19), or other losses. COVID-related safety protocols—such as masks or distancing—must be followed.

Disqualification may result in forfeiture of prize money and suspension from future events.

By registering, athletes grant the right to use their image, name, and likeness for event promotion and media without compensation. Email addresses and contact numbers may be added to the event mailing list to receive updates and important information.

FINAL REMARKS

The Heyball World Cup is more than just a championship; it is the beginning of a new chapter in the global journey of our sport. By bringing together the very best athletes from every corner of the world, we celebrate not only competition but also unity, national pride, and the shared dream of seeing Heyball included in the Olympic Games. We thank all athletes, officials, and federations for their dedication and commitment to making this event a success. May this inaugural edition set the standard for excellence and inspire future generations of players to take Heyball to even greater heights.

For any questions or further clarification, please contact events@wpapool.com