



HANDBALL

TECHNICAL HANDBOOK

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS



DEPARTMENT
WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS
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INTERNATIONAL
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1. HISTORY

Handball was the first sport ever organised as a FISU World University Championship in 1963 in Lund, Sweden. Since then, the sport has grown to become a very important sport on the FISU Championships programme. In the inaugural event in 1963, seven countries participated. In 1971, 1973, 1987 and 2008 there were 16 male teams competing. Handball is since 1972 on the programme of the Olympic Games and has always been hugely popular in schools and universities. This is why the technical performance level has been high from the very first edition.

Audiences also tend to be highly engaged at these tournaments. The editions in 1998 in Novi Sad, Serbia, and in 2006 in Gdańsk, Poland, were of a very high standard. In Serbia, the arena was sold out for the final, in which the home team played, drawing 7,000 spectators and broadcast live on television. In Gdańsk, both the men's and women's finals were sold out, with attendances exceeding 3,000 spectators. It was striking to observe how friendly and convivial the atmosphere remained throughout the matches, despite the high level of competition and the presence of many players from their respective national senior teams.

The women's tournament was introduced in 1994, with the first edition being staged in Bratislava, Slovakia, and followed by separate competitions in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002. From 2006, in Gdańsk, Poland, the FISU World University Championship Handball included both men's and women's tournaments. This was much more welcomed by the participating countries and it looks good for the future of the Handball in FISU.

In 2008 in Venice, Italy, the home team participated in addition to traditional teams from Europe, Asia (Korea, Japan and Chinese Taipei), America (Brazil, Mexico) and also Oceania (Australia). The first African team (Egypt) participated in 2014 at the 22nd edition of the Championship, organised in Guimarães, Portugal. Also, the first World University Championship Handball to be organised away from the European continent was in 2012 in Blumenau, Brazil.

The 2018 edition was hosted by the city of Rijeka, Croatia. The 2020 edition was supposed to take place in Łódź, Poland but has unfortunately been cancelled due to the pandemic. The 2022 event was organised under the FISU University World Cup format and took place in Prishtina, Kosovo that saw the home team being crowned in the men's tournament.

In 2024, Handball went back to the Championship format, where athletes represent their countries, and took place in Antequera, Spain. The public saw the home teams secure double gold, by winning both men's and women's tournaments.



2. STATISTICS

EDITION	YEAR	COUNTRY	CITY	COUNTRIES	ATHLETES			OFFs	TOTAL
					M	W	TOT		
1*	1963	SWE	Lund	7	-	0	-	-	-
2*	1965	ESP	Madrid	10	145	0	145	-	145
3	1968	GER	Darmstadt	15	219	0	219	45	264
4	1971	CZE	Prague	16	238	0	238	55	293
5	1973	SWE	Lund	16	228	0	228	55	283
6*	1975	ROU	Bucharest	13	-	0	-	-	-
7	1977	POL	Warsaw	10	150	0	150	16	166
8	1981	FRA	Various	13	189	0	189	44	233
9*	1985	GER	Frankfurt	16	-	0	-	-	-
10	1987	ROU	Bucharest	16	235	0	235	93	328
11	1990	NED	Groningen	13	186	0	186	80	266
12	1992	RUS	Saint Petersburg	7	98	0	98	37	135
13	1994	TUR	Izmir	13	177	0	177	60	237
14	1996	HUN	Nyíregyháza	13	174	0	174	64	238
15	1998	SRB	Novi Sad	9	125	0	125	52	177
16	2000	POR	Covilhã	13	177	0	177	64	241
17	2004	RUS	Chelyabinsk	6	81	0	81	34	115
18	2006	POL	Gdańsk	15	185	96	281	34	315
19	2008	ITA	Venezia	20	225	196	421	146	567
20	2010	HUN	Nyíregyháza	12	137	97	234	69	303
21	2012	BRA	Blumenau	12	134	81	215	66	281
22	2014	POR	Guimarães	14	162	166	328	98	426
23	2016	ESP	Málaga	12	121	115	236	70	306
24	2018	CRO	Rijeka	13	140	126	266	79	345
25**	2022	KOS	Prishtina	9	98	76	174	37	211
26	2024	ESP	Antequera	8	98	95	193	58	251

* Due to a lack of information, the concerned editions have incomplete statistics

** The 2022 edition was organised as a World Cup and gathered university teams rather than countries

A. Women's Tournaments

EDITION	YEAR	COUNTRY	CITY	COUNTRIES	ATHLETES			OFFs	TOTAL
					M	W	TOT		
1*	1994	SVK	Bratislava	-	-	-	-	-	
2*	1996	BUL	Sofia	-	-	-	-	-	
3*	1998	POL	Wroclaw	-	-	-	-	-	
4*	2000	FRA	Besançon	-	-	-	-	-	
5*	2002	ESP	Valencia	-	-	-	-	-	

* Due to a lack of information, the concerned editions have incomplete statistics

From 2006 both men's and women's Championships started to be organised simultaneously in the same place

3. GENERAL SCHEDULE

DAY -3	DAY -2	DAY -1	DAY 1-3	DAY 4	DAY 5-6	DAY 7	DAY 8
A	A	GTM / OC	C	RD	C	C / CC	D

Legend: A - Arrivals / CC - Closing Ceremony / C - Competition / D - Departures / GTM - General Technical Meeting / OC - Opening Ceremony / RD - Rest Day

For Handball, the competitions shall last 7 days

4. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

4.1. GENERAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -6 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

The General Entry is the first stage of the registration process, where delegations are invited to register, through the NUSFs, for the Championship indicating a general interest in participating in the event.

Teams and athletes are not required to submit any documentation or undergo a selection process.

The submission of a General Entry Form is non-binding, indicating only initial interest by the NUSF but not final commitment

A. Team Deposit (Deadline: -5 months to the event)

A deposit of €5.000 must be paid to FISU during the General Entry stage and latest five months prior to the event, which secures a place in the selection process and serves as guarantee to confirm the intention to participate.

If a team is not selected, their deposit will be reimbursed



B. Teams Selection

The teams selection will be handled by the FISU Championship Department five months before the Championship following the below criteria (in no given order):

- Results achieved in the two previous FISU Championships
- IHF ranking
- Continental distribution and representativity

Once the teams selection is finalised, FISU transfers the deposit of the selected teams to the Organising Committee. If a team is not selected, the deposit is returned to the NUSF.

This deposit serves as part of the delegations' Participation Fee final balance, and according to FISU General Regulations, deposits are non-refundable in case of withdrawal

C. Seeding Procedure

The seeding procedure will follow the same principles and criteria of the teams selection (in no given order):

- Results achieved in the two previous FISU Championships
- IHF ranking
- Continental distribution and representativity

D. Draw

- The draw will be carried out at the FISU headquarters by the FISU Championships Department

The draw will take place one month before the Championship and is communicated initially via the FISU social networks and then via the event's social networks

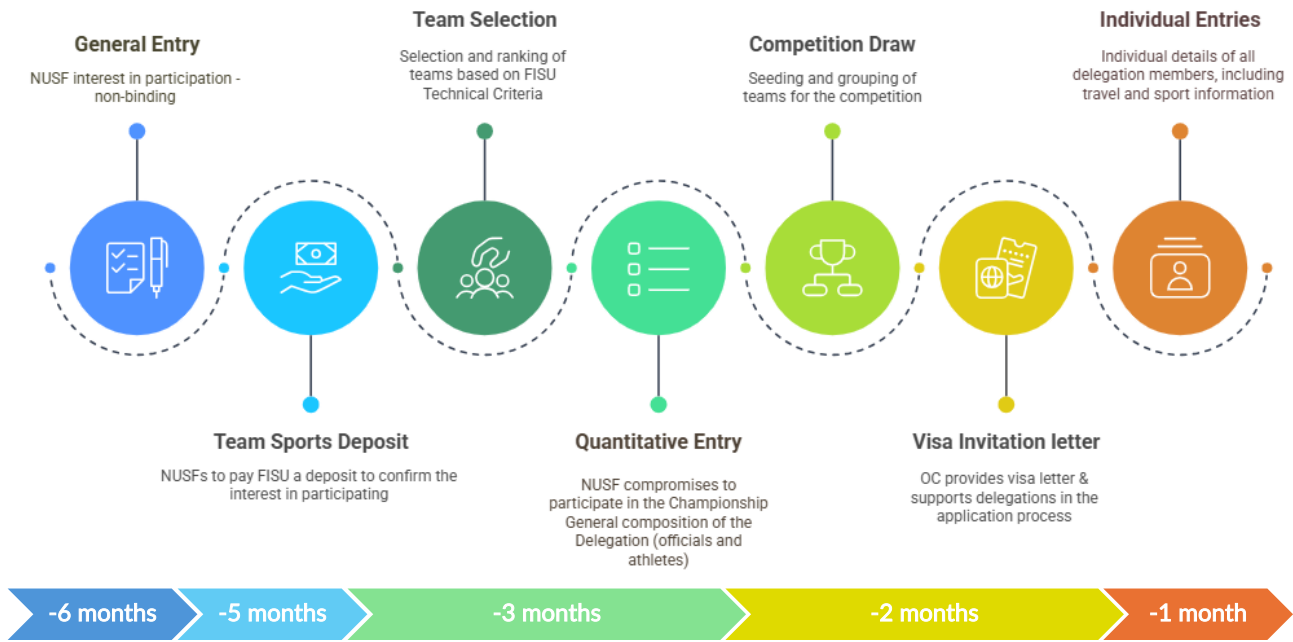
4.2. QUANTITATIVE ENTRY (DEADLINE: -3 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

During the Quantitative Entry the NUSF delegation confirms the delegation composition in terms of numbers and although it does not yet provide individual details, it requires the NUSFs to submit an accurate count of delegation members.

4.3. INDIVIDUAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -1 MONTH TO THE EVENT)

The Individual Entry is the final step in FISU event registration. The NUSF must provide all relevant data and documentation for each delegation member.

The remaining amount of the participation fees is paid in full to the Organising Committee by this deadline. Failure to do so may result in non-participation in the Championship, unless specifically approved by the Organising Committee



5. SPORT REGULATIONS

The Handball tournaments shall be organised following the most recent Technical Regulations of the International Handball Federation (IHF). In case of dispute in the interpretation of the rules, the English text shall be regarded as authoritative.

The competitions shall last 7 days as indicated in the General Schedule (Section 3) and the competition programme shall be proposed by the Organising Committee Competition Manager and confirmed by the FISU TCC, including the following events:

5.1. EVENTS

TOURNAMENTS	
Men	Women

For both men's and women's tournaments, a maximum of 16 teams and a minimum of 6 teams from at least 4 different countries and 2 different continents per tournament are required

If a tournament does not meet the minimum number of teams by the Quantitative Entry deadline (-3 months to the event), the tournament shall be cancelled



A. Match Point System

Teams will compete against one another in each group on a round-robin basis. Match points will be awarded for each group match according to the following criteria:

HANDBALL MATCH POINT SYSTEM	
Win	2 points
Draw	1 point
Loss	0 points

No extra time shall be played during the group phase

B. Classification Criteria

The ranking of each team in each group will be determined as follows:

- Higher number of points obtained in all group matches
- Goal difference across all group matches
- Higher number of goals scored in all group matches
- Goal average – the number of goals scored divided by the number of goals conceded in all group matches

If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above four criteria, their rankings will be determined as follows:

- Higher number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams involved
- Goal difference derived from the group matches contested between the teams involved
- Higher number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams involved
- A draw conducted by the local Organising Committee, in the presence of the team captains

This is a full ranking tournament, meaning that teams will compete for every position in the final standings

5.2. DELEGATIONS COMPOSITION

A. Athletes

EVENTS	MEN's	WOMEN's
Tournaments	Max. 16 athletes	Max.16 athletes
Max. 32 athletes (16 men & 16 women) per delegation		

Each country is allowed to enter a maximum of 21 individuals per tournament: a maximum of 16 and a minimum of 12 players, and up to 5 officials

At the Technical Meeting, the Head of Delegation or his/her representative shall confirm and sign the official list of competitors accredited by the CIC and the playing kits colours

B. Officials

EVENTS	MEN's	WOMEN's
Tournaments	Max. 5 officials	Max. 5 officials
Max. 10 officials (5 for the men's team & 5 for the women's team) per delegation		



6. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

6.1. INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

For the FISU Championship, the ITOs are appointed by IHF, with the endorsement of FISU. This appointment process considers several critical factors, including the number of teams, number of competition venues, the level and availability of NTOs, and the goal to minimise expenses when possible. To achieve cost-efficiency, IHF will aim to nominate ITOs from neighbouring countries whenever feasible. This approach not only fosters regional cooperation but also optimises resources.

A. Number & Roles of ITOs

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	
NUMBER	FUNCTION
1 per team	Referee
The total number of ITOs depends on the number of participating teams	

B. ITOs Costs

According to the Collaboration Convention signed between FISU and IHF, the costs of the ITOs are the following:

- Organising Committee shall manage:
 - Technical Delegate's flights
 - Technical Delegate's accommodation in single room
 - Technical Delegate's meals
 - Technical Delegate's internal transportation
 - ITOs flights
 - ITOs accommodation
 - ITOs meals
 - ITOs per-diems
 - ITOs internal transportation

All ITOs costs should be shared among the participating teams. The Organising Committee will collect all expenses related to the ITOs and submit them to FISU for approval. Once approved, the Organising Committee will communicate the total cost information to the teams and provide them with the invoices for payment

6.2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Concerning the NTOs, these individuals are appointed by the Handball National Federation or the appropriate governing bodies within a country, under the supervision of the Organising Committee.



A. Number & Roles of NTOs

NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	
NUMBER	FUNCTION
2 per venue	Floor Manager
2 per venue	Scorekeeper
2 per venue	Timekeeper
2 per venue	Delegate
2 per venue	Announcer
A total of 10 NTOs are required per competition venue	

B. Agreement with the NF

Concerning the NTOs participation, it falls outside the scope of FISU or IHF. It is therefore advisable for the Organising Committee to reach an agreement directly with the National Federation. This collaboration will help ensure clarity and alignment on the financial aspects associated with it, including the following:

- NTOs Nomination – Ensure all NTOs possess the necessary qualifications to work in an international event
- Management and distribution of the technical officials clothing / uniforms
- Arrangement of suitable accommodation for the required period, if needed

It is strongly recommended to initiate communication with the National Federation promptly regarding the appointment of these officials. This proactive approach will help avert any potential personnel shortages that may arise from conflicting event dates, thereby expanding the available options and ensuring a more successful engagement

7. SPORT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

7.1. COMPETITION VENUES

- Number of competition venues – 2
- Type of venues – Indoor
- Courts:
 - Length – 40m
 - Width – 20m
- Safety zone:
 - Side lines – at least 1m
 - Outer goal lines – at least 2m
- Lighting – Minimum 1.200 lux

All competition courts should be of the same material, with synthetic floor covering with only handball lines, approved by FISU and IHF

It is essential for the Organising Committee to schedule thorough cleaning of the competition venues at the end of each competition day, at the very least, due to the glue used by the players



7.2. TRAINING VENUES

- Number of training venues – 2
- Type of venue – Indoor
- Courts:
 - Length – 40m
 - Width – 20m
- Safety zone:
 - Side lines – at least 1m
 - Outer goal lines – at least 2m

All training venues should follow the same standards as the competition venues

7.3. EQUIPMENT

A. Venue Equipment

- Goals with nets – firmly attached to the floor
- Electronic score and time board at both ends of the hall

Please refer to the [Minimum Requirements document](#) for more detailed information

B. Uniforms & Sport Equipment

- Uniforms must follow IHF rules, and according to the FISU Uniforms Guidelines

8. TRAININGS

The Organising Committee is responsible for coordinating and communicating the training schedule to each delegation, ensuring appropriate access to facilities based on the sport and competition schedule. Some of the factors to be considered are:

- Create a training schedule based on the indications of the FISU TCC
- Consider the usage of the main competition venue, if needed and appropriate
- Provide hydration and basic medical assistance for training sessions
- Share a detailed training plan with each delegation at least 48 hours before their arrival
- Ensure training venue availability throughout the Championship

Please refer to the [Section 5.2.3 of the General Handbook](#) for more detailed information regarding Trainings



9. MEDICAL SERVICES

A. FISU Requirements

- First aid and Emergency Medical care
- Medical transportation
- OC on-call first aid medical services shall be available on a 24-hour basis
- A minimum of two ambulances per venue should be available and on duty from the start of warm-up until at least 45 minutes after the final competition of the day

B. Participants Medical Insurance

All participants must have a valid travel medical insurance, covering:

- 24/7 Emergency Assistance
- Emergency Medical Expenses
- Medical Evacuation/Repatriation
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption
- Accidental Death or Injury

The OC is solely responsible for providing first-aid, emergency medical care, and transportation to the designated hospital. All other medical costs shall be borne by the participant's insurance

Refer to the Section 3.4.1 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Medical Services

10. DOPING CONTROL

A. FISU Requirements

- The requirements regarding the number and type of doping tests, as well as the total number of tests to be conducted, can be found in the *FISU Doping Test Requirements* document. This information is available exclusively to the Organising Committee.
- The OC Doctor or Head of the Medical area shall coordinate the doping testing and contact the FISU CMI to clarify the moment or disciplines in which the tests will be carried out.
- All doping tests costs (including collection, transportation, laboratory analyses) shall be borne by the Organising Committee.

B. Athletes Selection

- Athletes are eligible for testing once accredited until departing from the official event accommodation.

Please refer to the Section 3.4.2 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Doping Control



11. PROTOCOL, SPORT PRESENTATION & AWARDING

11.1. MEDALS TABLE

HANDBALL									
EVENTS	MEN			WOMEN			OFFICIALS		
	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B
Tournaments	16	16	16	16	16	16	10	10	10
TOTAL	16	16	16	16	16	16	10	10	10

A. FISU Requirements

The Organising Committee is responsible for providing the medals as shown in the table above. Medals must be awarded for both tournaments. The top three teams in each tournament, including their officials, are eligible for medals.

The table below provides a comprehensive overview of the total number of medals awarded across all competition tournaments. Please note that extra/reserve medal sets and the FISU set are not included in these figures.

HANDBALL MEDALS	
Gold	42
Silver	42
Bronze	42

The Organising Committee must provide FISU a set of medals of the event

B. Recommendations & Considerations

It is crucial to have additional sets of medals on hand as a contingency. Some medals may be defective and may need to be replaced.

C. Trophies

For the Handball Championship, the Organising Committee will present the winning team with a trophy as a minimum. However, it is recommended that trophies be awarded to all top three teams. The trophies may vary in size and colour based on their finishing positions.

D. Individual Awards

The individual awards ceremonies are most common for team sports events and are not mandatory. As unofficial awards, there is not a specific or rigid protocol, and they can be linked to an OC sponsor, such as:

- Best Player
- Best Goal Scorer
- Best Goalkeeper
- Fair Play – Team Award

Finals' referees' awards should also be considered



11.2. SPORT PRESENTATION

Sports presentation is vital for elevating a Championship from a competition to an unforgettable experience. It encompasses everything from music and lighting to commentary and fan engagement, creating a unique atmosphere that engages the audience.

In case there is a big screen in the venue for the spectators, some educational video (provided by IHF) regarding the rules of the sport can be displayed at the beginning of the competition day

A. FISU Requirements

- **Audio Elements**

- Sound System: A high-quality sound system is essential for announcements, music, and commentary, ensuring clear communication and engaging atmosphere.
- Microphone: Essential for general announcements such as schedule, results, athletes introduction, general information, others.
- Thematic Music: Curate an energetic playlist to be played during introductions, warm-ups, team time-outs, and medal ceremonies to elevate the excitement.

- **Visual Elements**

- Disco lights: The lights have the remarkable ability to transform an ordinary venue into a vibrant spectacle, creating an electrifying atmosphere, and can be used during key moments, such as player introductions. Not to be used during the matches.

- **Commentary and Announcing**

- Live Announcements: Make timely announcements regarding event schedules, results, and teams backgrounds to keep the audience informed and engaged.

- **Athletes Introduction**

- Ceremonial Introductions: Develop exciting and personalized introductions for the athletes, building anticipation before each match.

B. Recommendations & Considerations

- **Audio Elements**

- DJ: Enhances the atmosphere and overall experience of a sports competition, by creating and maintaining energy, motivating the athletes and engaging the crowd during timeouts, before and after the matches, and quickly after a goal is scored.

- **Commentary and Announcing**

- Engaging Commentary: Hire knowledgeable commentators who can provide insights about the athletes, tactics and strategies. This adds depth to the viewing experience.

11.3. HANDBALL PRE-COMPETITION PROTOCOL

ALL MATCHES	
TIME	ACTIVITY
-30'	- Announcement of the teams' players by the Announcer
-20'	- End of warm-up and teams return to the dressing room
-15'	- All flagbearers and flags are ready in the tunnel
-10'	- All players and Match Officials must be in the tunnel
-8'	- Flagbearers enter with the Match Officials and teams
-7'	- Teams enter and line up in front of VIP Tribune
-5'	- FISU anthem (short version) is played
-4'	- Teams' handshake
-3'	- Teams' photo, coin toss and pennants exchange
0'	- Start of the match

A more visual scheme of the protocol steps will be shared at a later stage with the Organising Committee

12. SERVICES

The Organising Committee should provide a variety of services for the event, including:

- Competition Video Recording
- Ice
- Laundry
- Wi-Fi

12.1. COMPETITION VIDEO RECORDING

Recording matches or athlete performances for review, evaluation, and technical analysis is a common need in Handball. The Organising Committee should be prepared to meet the expectations of delegations in this regard.

- Ensure a system is in place allowing delegations to access recordings as soon as possible after the matches or events conclude.
- Provide reserved spaces in each venue with good visibility and access to power outlets, so delegation officials can carry out private recordings effectively if needed.

The OC should provide the recordings through a download option from the official event website, or from an alternative Cloud-based platform (access via link) for easy and quick retrieval



12.2. ICE

The supply of ice is one of the most common requests from participating delegations, particularly for injury treatment and recovery purposes.

- The Organising Committee must supply ice for treating injuries during both practice and competition, as part of the medical coverage for the event. It does not cover large quantities of ice needed for recovery treatments, such as cryotherapy.

The Organising Committee secure a reliable ice provider on standby, anticipating the request from teams and establishing clear procedures for ice procurement, including pricing and how to access this service

12.3. LAUNDRY

Laundry services are essential for many sports, particularly in long-duration competitions and team sports, where athletes may require frequent changes of clothing.

- Laundry services must be provided in all Team Sports Championships and in all sports with more than four competition days.
- Self-Service or Full-Service Laundry can be considered (hotel/accommodation and external services included in the latter)

Self-Service is the preferred option, giving more flexibility and control to the teams. If not, it is important to negotiate reduced pricing and adjust the timing for collection/delivery of uniforms with the provider

12.4. WI-FI

Wi-Fi is an essential service for university students, as it serves as a critical infrastructure that fosters communication and supports their academic responsibilities.

- Participants can easily access real-time information about event schedules, results, and updates. This allows them to plan their day effectively, ensuring they don't miss out on key events and activities.
- Participants can engage with live broadcasts, social media updates, and other digital content related to the event.
- For many students, academic responsibilities continue even during events. Wi-Fi connection ensures they can access study materials and educational resources, maintain communication with professors, and keep up with online courses.

Wi-Fi should be provided free of charge for all participants at the event, both at the accommodation sites and at the competition venues

Please refer to the Section 3.11 of the General Handbook for more detailed information on all services

13. GENERAL TIMELINE

TIMELINE	ACTIONS
Event -12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Venues visit and Equipment approval (FISU TCC) • Competition programme approval (FISU TCC) • Venue medical plan approval (FISU TCC)
Event -6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Entries (NUSFs)
Event -5 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Deposit (NUSF) • Team Selection (FISU)
Event -3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative Entries (NUSFs) • ITOs & NTOs list (FISU / IHF)
Event -1 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Entries (NUSFs) • ITOs Cost (NUSF) • 100% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • Final Bulletin (OC / FISU / FISU TCC)
Event -1 day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation and participants list confirmation (NUSFs) • Technical Officials Meeting (ITOs / NTOs / TCC / OC) • General Technical Meeting (NUSFs / OC / FISU)
EVENT	
Event +1 week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send all documents and media to FISU (OC)
Event +1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report to FISU (OC)

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