



CANOE SPORTS

TECHNICAL HANDBOOK

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS



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INTERNATIONAL
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. HISTORY	2
2. STATISTICS	2
3. GENERAL SCHEDULE	3
4. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES	3
4.1. General Entry (Deadline: -6 months to the event)	3
4.2. Quantitative Entry (Deadline: -3 months to the event)	3
4.3. Individual Entry (Deadline: -1 month to the event)	3
5. SPORT REGULATIONS	4
5.1. Competition Events	4
5.2. Classification System	5
5.3. Team Classification	5
5.4. Delegations Composition	6
6. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	6
6.1. International Technical Officials	6
6.2. National Technical Officials	7
7. SPORT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	8
7.1. Competition Venues	8
7.2. Training Venues	8
7.3. Facilities	9
7.4. Equipment	9
8. TRAININGS	9
9. MEDICAL SERVICES	10
10. DOPING CONTROL	10
11. PROTOCOL, SPORT PRESENTATION & AWARDING	11
11.1. Medals Table	11
11.2. Sport Presentation	12
11.3. Canoe Sports Pre-Competition Protocol	13
12. SERVICES	13
12.1. Boat Rental & Repairs	13
12.2. Ice	14
12.3. Laundry	14
12.4. Wi-Fi	14
13. GENERAL TIMELINE	15

1. HISTORY

Canoe Sports made its debut in the FISU sports programme at the World University Games Summer (previously known as Summer Universiade) in Zagreb in 1987, initially as an optional sport. The events were held in Jarun, located along a tributary of the Sava River, which had long been used by early inhabitants for kayaking. Competitors faced dreadful weather conditions during the Championship, with Soviet and Romanian athletes dominating the competitions. Among them, the remarkable champion Aurel Macarescu distinguished himself by winning both the 500m and 1.000m events in the singles C1 category.

In 1998, top university specialists in this discipline convened for the inaugural World University Championship, once again in Zagreb, Croatia. The Hungarian team excelled, securing six medals—five silver and one bronze—with remarkable ease, thus finishing first in the medal tally ahead of competitors from Poland and Romania. The second edition of the World University Championship took place in Bari, Italy, a modern industrial city situated on the Adriatic coast, with participation from sixteen countries, comprising 125 male and 35 female athletes.

The record for the number of participating countries and athletes was subsequently surpassed in 2008 in Belgrade, Serbia, again in 2010 in Poznań, Poland, and in 2014 in Minsk, Belarus, with a total of 206 participants from 22 countries. A new record was set in 2018 with 246 competitors (159 men and 87 women) taking part. The 2020 WUC Canoe Sports was scheduled to be held in Minsk, Belarus, but was unfortunately cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2022 edition was successfully held in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

In 2024, the event returned to Portuguese soil, taking place at the splendid venue in Montemor-o-Velho. The record for the number of participating countries was once again surpassed, reaching a total of 24. A remarkable 206 athletes took part in this significant event.

2. STATISTICS

EDITION	YEAR	COUNTRY	CITY	COUNTRIES	ATHLETES			OFFs	TOTAL
					M	W	TOT		
1	1998	CRO	Zagreb	18	98	29	127	36	163
2	2002	ITA	Bari	16	125	35	160	39	199
3	2008	SRB	Belgrade	23	138	51	189	57	246
4	2010	POL	Poznań	23	149	41	190	54	244
5	2012	RUS	Kazan	18	135	28	163	45	208
6	2014	BLR	Minsk	22	154	52	206	53	259
7	2016	POR	Montemor-o-Velho	18	112	43	155	42	197
8	2018	HUN	Szolnok	21	159	87	246	44	290
9	2022	POL	Bydgoszcz	17	95	51	146	42	188
10	2024	POR	Montemor-o-Velho	24	129	77	206	48	254



3. GENERAL SCHEDULE

DAY -3	DAY -2	DAY -1	DAY 1-3	DAY 4	DAY 5
A	A	GTM / OC	C	C / CC	D

Legend: A – Arrivals / CC – Closing Ceremony / C – Competition / D – Departures / GTM – General Technical Meeting / OC – Opening Ceremony

For Canoe Sports, the competitions shall last 4 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

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

During the Quantitative Entry the NUSF delegation commits to participate and 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.

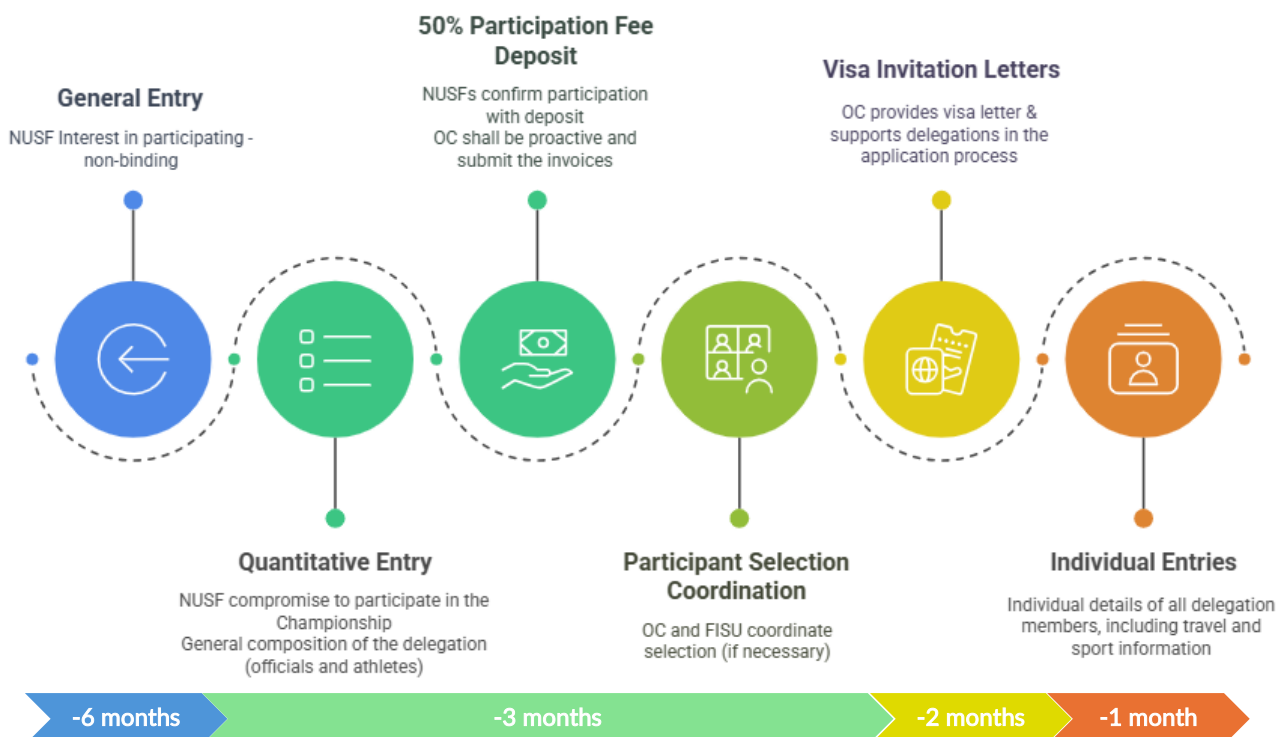
At this stage, a 50% payment of the participation fees is due and must be settled by the Quantitative Entry deadline. By proceeding with the payment, the delegation confirms its participation in the Championship.

This deposit serves as a participation guarantee, and is non-refundable in case of withdrawal, with refunds subject to FISU General Regulations and any OC-specific cancellation policies

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 50% 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 Canoe Sports events shall be organised in accordance with the most recent technical regulations of the International Canoe Federation (ICF). In case of dispute in the interpretation of the rules, the English text shall be regarded as authoritative.

The competitions shall last 4 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. COMPETITION EVENTS

EVENTS	MEN's				WOMEN's				MIXED
C1	200m	500m	1km	5km	200m	500m	1km	5km	
C2		500m	1km		200m	500m			500m
C4		500m				500m			
K1	200m	500m	1km	5km	200m	500m	1km	5km	
K2		500m	1km		200m	500m			500m
K4		500m				500m			
SUP	200m			Technical	200m			Technical	
Technical Race – maximum distance of 3km, with at least two right turns and two left turns									

The 5km can be contested in a relay format and with portages

The use of stickers with athletes' or crew names on the boats is optional, while country codes are mandatory



For SUP, both hard boards and inflatable boards will be permitted

5.1.1. DRAW

The draw for the heats shall follow the ICF procedure and will be conducted by the local Canoe Federation.

When planning the daily programme, including the starting times and breaks for the various races, it is important to consider a distribution that allows for sufficient time to conduct the medal ceremonies following the completion of a maximum of 3-4 finals. This approach helps to avoid having all the award ceremonies take place at the end of each competition day

5.2. CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

- The boat is considered to have finished the race when its bow crosses the finish line with all crew members on board.
- The Finish Line Judges will determine the race results based on the order in which the boats arrive.
- In the event that two or more boats cross the finish line simultaneously, they will be assigned the same position in the final classification. Should there be a dead heat for any position that determines qualification for the next phase of the competition, the following rules will apply:
 - If sufficient lanes are available in the next phase, a drawing of lots will decide which race these boats will advance to. It is also possible to use lane number zero or ten.
 - If there are not enough lanes available, a re-race will be organised between the involved boats as soon as possible, but no earlier than 60 minutes after the initial race. If, due to exceptional circumstances, a re-race cannot be held, the outcome will be decided by drawing lots, subject to the decision of the Chief Official.
 - In the event of a dead heat in a re-race, the outcome will be determined by a drawing of lots.

5.3. TEAM CLASSIFICATION

- There will be one final Team Classification considering the results of all races in both genders together.
- The teams' ranking is obtained according to the following procedure:
 - Each athlete gets the points corresponding to their final position in the race, as displayed in the table below
 - Only delegations competing in a minimum of 5 races per gender will be considered for the Team Classification
 - The Team Classification will be obtained from summing the scores of all races from both genders
 - The team with the highest number of points will be declared the winner
 - In the event of a tie in points, it shall be resolved as follows:
 - The highest number of 1st place finishes
 - The highest number of 2nd place finishes
 - The highest number of 3rd place finishes

FINAL RACE RANKING	POINTS
1 st	10
2 nd	9
3 rd	8
...	...
9 th	2
10 th onwards	1

5.4. DELEGATIONS COMPOSITION

A. Athletes

EVENTS	MEN's	WOMEN's
Sprint	Max. 1 boat per delegation	Max. 1 boat per delegation
SUP	Max. 1 boat per delegation	Max. 1 boat per delegation
Max. 56 athletes (28 men & 28 women) per delegation		

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

B. Officials

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATHLETES	TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICIALS
1 to 9 athletes	Max. 2 officials
10 to 20 athletes	Max. 4 officials
Over 20 athletes	Max. 5 officials

6. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

6.1. INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

For the FISU Championship, the ITOs are appointed by ICF, with the endorsement of FISU. This appointment process considers several critical factors, including the number of participants, the level and availability of NTOs, and the goal to minimise expenses when possible. To achieve cost-efficiency, ICF 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	Chief Official
1	Chief Judge
1	Deputy Chief Judge
1	Competition Manager
1	Chief Finish Line Judge
1	Starter
1	Course Umpire
1	Aligner
1	Post Race Boat Control
1	ID Boat Control
A total of 10 ITOs are required	

B. ITOs Costs

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

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

All ITOs costs should be shared among the participants. 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 delegations (according to the number of athletes registered) and provide them with the invoices for payment

6.2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Concerning the NTOs, these individuals are appointed by the Canoe 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	Finish Line Judge
2	Starter
4	Course Umpire
6	ID Boat Control
A total of 14 NTOs are required	

B. Agreement with the NF

Concerning the NTOs participation, it falls outside the scope of FISU or ICF. 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 official's 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 – 1
- Type of venues – Outdoor
 - Visible from shore
 - Exclusive use
 - Close water area

7.2. TRAINING VENUES

- Number of training venues – 1
- Type of venue – Outdoor
 - Same venue as the competition



7.3. FACILITIES

- Athlete's lounge – 1
 - Resting area
 - Covered – with chairs and tables
 - Water, snacks and fruits
- Boat storage spaces/boat racks – enough for all participants
- Parking space for the delegation trailers
- Boat repair should be available for the entire event
 - Liaison with a boat rental company to provide boat repair services

7.4. EQUIPMENT

A. Venue Equipment

- Official regatta time display (numerous digital clocks displaying the official race time, including start lines)
- Scoreboard and/or big screens
- Big screen (displaying live stream, TV feed with live results)

B. Uniforms & Sport Equipment

- Boat stickers (Only the NOC name with the event logo, athletes' names are not mandatory)
- Boat numbers

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

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
- On-water rescue boats operated throughout the entire training programme
- Provide the daily opening and closing times of the venue for security purposes

Prior to the commencement of the competition, the entire track should be accessible for use. However, during the competition, the training area will be restricted based on the race distance

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



11. PROTOCOL, SPORT PRESENTATION & AWARDING

11.1. MEDALS TABLE

CANOE SPORTS												
EVENTS	MEN			WOMEN			MIXED					
RACES	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B			
C1 – 200m	1	1	1	1	1	1						
C1 – 500m	1	1	1	1	1	1						
C1 – 1Km	1	1	1	1	1	1						
C1 – 5Km	1	1	1	1	1	1						
C2 – 200m				2	2	2						
C2 – 500m	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
C2 – 1Km	2	2	2									
C4 – 500m	4	4	4	4	4	4						
K1 – 200m	1	1	1	1	1	1						
K1 – 500m	1	1	1	1	1	1						
K1 – 1Km	1	1	1	1	1	1						
K1 – 5Km	1	1	1	1	1	1						
K2 – 200m				2	2	2						
K2 – 500m	2	2	2	2	2	2				2	2	2
K2 – 1Km	2	2	2									
K4 – 500m	4	4	4	4	4	4						
SUP – 200m	1	1	1	1	1	1						
SUP – Technical	1	1	1	1	1	1						
TOTAL	26	26	26	26	26	26				4	4	4

A. FISU Requirements

The Organising Committee is responsible for providing the medals as shown in the table above. Medals must be awarded for all categories. The top 3 athletes in each category are eligible for medals.

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

CANOE SPORTS MEDALS	
Gold	56
Silver	56
Bronze	56

The Organising Committee must provide FISU with 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.

A trophy should be awarded for the top ranked team in Team Classification

Medals are not mandatory for Officials in Canoe Sports

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 FIP) regarding the rules of the sport can be displayed at the beginning of the competition day. Flash interviews, messages from key figures in the sport, and highlights from the previous day are strongly recommended

A. FISU Requirements

- **Audio Elements**
 - Sound System: A high-quality sound system is essential for announcements, music, and commentary, ensuring clear communication and an engaging atmosphere.
 - Microphone: Essential for general announcements such as schedule, results, athletes' introduction, general information, and others.
 - Thematic Music: Curate an energetic playlist to be played during introductions, warm-ups, and medal ceremonies to elevate the excitement.
- **Commentary and Announcing**
 - Live Announcements: Make timely announcements regarding event schedules, race results, and athlete backgrounds to keep the audience informed and engaged.
- **Athletes Introduction**
 - Ceremonial Introductions: Develop exciting and personalised introductions for the athletes, showcasing their achievements and backgrounds.

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.
- **Commentary and Announcing**
 - Engaging Commentary: Hire knowledgeable commentators who can provide insights about the athletes, techniques, and race strategies. This adds depth to the viewing experience.
- **Event Mascot**
 - The event mascot is always a crowd favourite, energising spectators and delighting athletes who enjoy taking photos with it.
- **National Olympians**
 - Invite Guest Olympians to inspire the next generation, in addition to enabling photo and signature moments.
- **Life-size Cutouts**
 - Prepare some life-size cutouts of Olympians for photos, with the proper permission.



- **Finals Celebration**

- Celebration pontoon or the mixed zone positioned in front of the grandstand. Following each A-final, the top 3 athletes will be called to the pontoon; meanwhile, ITOs will weigh their boats, and athletes are free to celebrate with friends, family, and coaches. If space allows, a celebration pontoon may be set up; otherwise, the mixed zone can be used, especially at venues where space is limited or finals are tightly scheduled
- The mixed zone offers the media a dedicated space to talk to the athletes immediately following their race. This zone should be near the post boat control for easy access whilst boats are being controlled.
- The celebrations can be filmed by TV for broadcasting and/or social media, with the winner being asked a question by the media or by colleagues.

11.3. CANOE SPORTS PRE-COMPETITION PROTOCOL

A. Athletes Introduction

Event Host:

"Now, let's introduce our contenders for the [men's/women's/teams] Championship! Please join me in welcoming our athletes with enthusiasm!"

- Country Flag Display (if any big screen available)
 - "Representing [Country], we have [Athlete's Name]!"
 - "[He/She] recently finished [insert notable performance], and holds a personal best of [insert time, if available]."
 - "Notably, [he/she] has also won [mention any major titles or accolades, such as national championships]."

12. SERVICES

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

- Boat Rental & Repairs
- Ice
- Laundry
- Wi-Fi

12.1. BOAT RENTAL & REPAIRS

The Organising Committee is responsible for coordinating boat rental services for any teams that are unable to bring their own vessels, ensuring that all participating teams have access to the necessary equipment. Additionally, arrangements for repair services must be considered.

- The Organising Committee should liaise with reputable local boat rental companies to secure a range of options.
- The Organising Committee should take into consideration the specific requirements of each team.

It would be beneficial to provide teams with information regarding rental availability, pricing, and any necessary arrangements well in advance of the event to facilitate a smooth and efficient experience



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 should 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 the 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 Section 3.11 of the General Handbook for more detailed information on all services



13. GENERAL TIMELINE

TIMELINE	ACTIONS
Event -12 months	• Coordination Visit ◦ Venues visit and Equipment approval (FISU TCC) • Competition programme approval (FISU TCC) • Venue medical plan approval (FISU TCC)
Event -6 months	• General Entries (NUSFs)
Event -3 months	• Quantitative Entries (NUSFs) • 50% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • ITOs & NTOs list (FISU / ICF)
Event -1 months	• Individual Entries (NUSFs) • 100% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • Final Bulletin (OC / FISU / FISU TCC)
Event -1 day	• Accreditation and participants list confirmation (NUSFs) • Technical Officials Meeting (ITOs / NTOs / TCC / OC) • General Technical Meeting (NUSFs / OC / FISU)
EVENT	
Event +1 week	• Send all documents and media to FISU (OC)
Event +1 month	• Final Report to FISU (OC)

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