



Development Programme
2026 World Rowing Under 19 Championships
6 – 9 August 2026
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Development Bulletin No. 1



Main Points of Contact

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- World Rowing Development Manager:
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Introduction

The top event of the year for the Under 19 rowers in the 'Classic Discipline' is the World Rowing Under 19 Championships (WRU19CH), taking place from **6-9 August in Plovdiv, Bulgaria**.

As part of its goals, World Rowing provides development opportunities on a regular basis for targeted Member Federations (MFs), who are identified as needing support for their crews, with the aim of supporting and enabling such MFs to participate in World Rowing key events and championships.

As part of the World Rowing Development Programme, and with the generous support of the 2026 WRU19CH Organising Committee (OC), we have the pleasure to send targeted MFs the development programme bulletin.

Please read this bulletin carefully and apply for support **no later than 17 April 2026** using the following [Application Form](#).

World Rowing will respond to MF applications **no later than end of 24 April 2026**.

Development Programme – WRU19CH Plovdiv 2026 – Eligibility, Key Dates & Support

ELIGIBILITY: Targeted MFs and their Teams will be eligible based on the following requirements: regular training and compliance with the WR Test Performance programme; commitment to a training programme and evidence of athletes and coaches participating in regular training; having a national selection policy; having own budgets for travel (*including international flight tickets and VISAs, equipment, medical and accident insurance, clothing kit, general extra costs...etc.*), and no outstanding Membership or other debts to World Rowing.

As part of the WRU19CH Plovdiv 2026 development programme, there is support available for a maximum of 50 rowers and/or coaches. Each team can apply for development support **for a maximum of two female + two male athletes and one coach (female or male)**. An additional place for a female coach may be considered when justified at the discretion of World Rowing Development, and subject to availability.

Supported MFs/participants will receive support for:

- **Local transport:** Official airport pickup/drop off during the WRU19CHs official period.
- **Local accommodation¹:** Accommodation in shared rooms of the same gender (**maximum 7 nights per person**) Extra days due to earlier arrivals/later departures need to be supported by each Member Federation.
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- **Coaching support**
- **Equipment support:** At the discretion of World Rowing Development subject to availability and MFs expression of equipment support needed.

¹ Please note that, subject to rooms types and availability, athletes and coaches can be housed with other athletes and coaches of the same gender from double, to quadruple occupancy rooms and shared toilets/bathrooms).



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Member Federations are welcome to send more athletes and coaches at their own cost to take part in the WRU19CH Plovdiv 2026. The application should mention the whole delegation and the costs for extra nights and extra persons should be paid directly to the OC.

Please note that there will be a special accommodation booking arrangements for the World Rowing Development Programme independent of the accommodation booking system established by the OC for the other Teams. As such, and to avoid duplication of booking, MFs applying for the WR Development Programme should mention the whole size of its delegation so proper accommodation could be arranged for the entire MF's team (including the team members at own cost).

WR Development Pre-Event Training Camp

A pre WRU19CH Plovdiv 2026 World Rowing Development training camp will be organised by World Rowing for a limited number of teams, especially teams most in need and with a time zone gap to help with acclimatisation and travel recovery.

At the discretion of World Rowing Development, MFs will be proactively approached to join the training camp.

Accommodation

The WR Development Programme participants will be housed at
Hotel A&M * www.am-hotel.bg, 46 Hristo Botev Blvd, 4008 Plovdiv**

Beyond the nights and team members supported through the World Rowing Development Programme, the price per person/per night for additional participants/nights is
160 EUR per person/per night in single occupancy room
120 EUR per person/per night in twin occupancy rooms
115 EUR per person/per night in triple occupancy rooms
Including breakfast, lunch and dinner

Booking

Member federations should book their team's accommodation not later than **Friday, 8th May 2026**, accordingly following the Development Programme confirmation **expected for 24 April** each MF is kindly requested to send a FINAL confirmation email with the size of the delegation as well as arrival and departure details.

Check-in from 15:00 hrs. The rooms are to be vacated by 11:00 hrs in the morning on the day of departure. (Upon request the hotels will provide storage rooms for an additional fee, that should be paid directly to the hotel).

Extra costs

WR and the OC do not take responsibility for any extra services of the Hotel, such as minibar, telephone, parking, etc. These costs are to be paid directly to the hotel

Payment Details:

Bank transfer in EURO only (preferred method)

SDRUJENIE "ORGANISAZIONEN KOMITET GREBANE"

IBAN: BG44DEMI92401400065077

SWIFT CODE: DEMIBGSF



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Bank: D COMMERCE BANK AD, PLOVDIV BRANCH /154, 6th SEPTEMBER BLVD. 4000 PLOVDIV, BULGARIA
The currency of the account is in EURO, so please make sure that your payment is in EURO. Please do not forget about the transaction fees. It is your responsibility to pay these extras when transferring money to our bank account.

Payment at the OC office in the permanent building at the Venue (additional accommodation changes only):
Payment due to additional accommodation changes is possible also upon Member Federation's arrival either in cash – EURO or by credit card (VISA, VISA ELECTRON, MASTERCARD, MAESTRO).

Test Performance Programme

Teams wishing to be considered for development support are required to provide testing results as per the test performance protocol. Please submit your test performance results here: [Login | RowersDataBase \(rowingtest.com\)](https://www.rowingtest.com)
The test performance tutorial can be found here: [Rowing Test Tutorial - Tutorial](#)
For test performance programme related questions please contact World Rowing Head of Coaching, Giovanni Postiglione at postiglione1gianni@gmail.com

Events Offered

The following events are offered at the 2026 World Rowing Under 19 Championships:
Under 19 Men (JM): 1x, 2x, 2-, 4-, 4x, 8+
Under 19 Women (JW): 1x, 2x, 2-, 4-, 4x, 8+
Under 19 Mixed (JMIX): 2x, 8+
WRU19CHs programme: [2026-WRU19CH-Plovdiv-Programme-D5.pdf](#)

Eligibility (for participation in the Event)

World Rowing U19 Championships are open to all Member Federations. A rower may compete in an Under 19 rowing event until 31 December of the year in which they reach the age of 18. Subject to the provision of Rule 12 Eligibility and Nationality to represent a country in a World Rowing Championship regatta, rowers shall be nationals of that country. They must be able to prove this by showing an official document which is recognized as confirming identity (passport or identity card).

Rowers may only compete at World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for the Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games if they have submitted a signed World Rowing Commitment Form, according to Art. 53 of the Statutes. Each team official must have submitted a signed World Rowing Commitment Form to World Rowing before accreditation may be issued.

Entries and Accreditation

The entry deadline for the 2026 World Rowing Under 19 Championships is:

Monday, 20 July 23:59 CEST

Entries and accreditation must be made online through: <https://www.worldrowing.swisstiming.com/>

For any questions regarding the entry and accreditation process please contact registration@worldrowing.com.

Boats and Equipment

Participating teams are encouraged to bring their own boats and sculls or contact boat builders to request a rental offer.

In exceptional circumstances where Member Federations may not have sufficient budget for boats/oars **please complete the equipment request as part of the Development Programme application process** no later than **17 April 2026** to request support for a maximum of two boats and respective sculls per nation. This support is not guaranteed,



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and a final response will be provided by WR to each MF up to end of April 2026, following consultation with equipment manufacturers.

Bike rental: 15,00 euros per day; For more information, please contact info@plovdivrowing.com

Information on Visa Requirements

If you are planning to attend the 2026 World Rowing Under 19 Championships in Bulgaria, please ensure you are informed about the applicable visa requirements.

As of 31 March 2024, Bulgaria is part of the Schengen Area for air and sea travel. This means that border checks at airports and ports between Bulgaria and other Schengen countries have been removed. **Participants arriving by land from Romania should note that border checks will remain in place until 1 January 2025.**

Short Stays (Up to 90 Days)

Teams attending the 2026 World Rowing Under 19 Championships and staying in Bulgaria fall under the short-stay visa category. If you are a citizen of a visa-exempt country, you do not need a visa to enter Bulgaria for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. If you are a citizen of a country that requires a visa, you must apply for a Schengen short-stay visa (Type C). This visa allows travel within the entire Schengen Area, including Bulgaria. A full list of countries whose citizens, holders of ordinary passports, require/do not require visas to enter Bulgaria can be found here: <https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria> You can check whether you need a visa here: <https://www.mfa.bg/en>

Important: If you require a visa, please apply at least one month in advance.

To request official visa support documents, please email info@plovdivrowing.com, with copy to accommodation@plovdivrowing.com daniela.gomes@worldrowing.com

and include the following details (**visa application form is attached**)

- **Full name**
- **Date of birth**
- **Passport number and expiry date**
- **Gender**
- **Role within the team (e.g., athlete, coach, official)**
- **Arrival/departure dates**

General Programme & Official Arrival & Training Dates

WR Development Training Camp (Tentative Dates)	31 July – 2 August 2026
WR Development Programme Official Arrival	2/3 August – 9/10 August 2026 (max 7 nights)
Opening Ceremony	5 August 2026 @ 18:00
Preliminary Team Manager Meeting	4 August 2026 @ 15:00
Team Manager Meeting & Draw	5 August 2026 @ 15:00
Racing starts	6 August 2026
Closing Ceremony	6 August 2026
Please check details here	Provisional Programme as of 6 February 2025 D.5

Airport Transport

Teams and officials on the development programme will be offered **transportation between Sofia International Airport / Plovdiv International Airport and Plovdiv free of charge.**



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To secure a pickup from the airport - teams must confirm their arrival and departure times to:

transport@plovdivrowing.com no later than 5th July, 2026

Please copy

accommodation@plovdivrowing.com

daniela.gomes@worldrowing.com

Shuttle Bus Service

The Plovdiv Organising Committee will provide regular shuttle service connecting the official hotels and the regatta venue during training and competition days. For teams and officials accommodated via the OC, this service is free of charge during the official training and racing period. Please note: A fee will apply for shuttle service before the official opening of the venue

Rules of racing

Racing will be run in accordance with the [World Rowing Rulebook](#)

Safety and Health of the Rowers

It is a priority for World Rowing to preserve the health and safety of the athletes and coaches. Please read the World Rowing Statutes, Rules of Racing and kindly acknowledge Appendix S10, Bye-law to article 57 of the rules (**World Rowing Commitment Form**) [World Rowing Rulebook](#)

Rowers may only compete at the World Rowing Championships if they have submitted a signed commitment form. Each Team official must have submitted a commitment form before accreditation is issued.

Swimming ability

The ability to swim and stay afloat is essential for participants in water sports, such as rowing. The risk of tipping over or falling into the water in a rowboat can be dangerous if athletes are unable to stay afloat, and coaches need to be prepared.

Each rower taking part in the development programme shall ensure that they have a state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with a world level event; and they have a basic swimming ability, including being able to swim 50m and keep their head above water unassisted for three minutes.

Accordingly, prior to attending the Event, all national rowing federation officials need to verify athlete compliance with the safety and health of the rowers. Likewise, all rowers, unless they are athletes who are known to have already performed the capsize drill, must have completed the capsize drill with safe recovery.

Swim tests and capsize drills must be held in pools with at least two lifeguards present. World Rowing recommends that you contact your national swimming federation and ask for guidance, if necessary. Swim tests should never be conducted in open water. Each national federation is required to certify the swimming ability for each rower submitted to participate in a World Rowing development activity.

It is recommended that members of the federation carefully read the guidelines of the British federation on swimming competitions found in section 3.6 of RowSafe, available at the link below: [2026-RowSafe.pdf](#)

Please note that all rowers must have completed a pre-competition health screening as per the World Rowing rule book, by laws to rule 14 – safety and health of rowers.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

World Rowing believes that it is a fundamental right of all individuals involved with World Rowing to be able to participate in a non-violent, safe, and respectful environment.

World Rowing acknowledges its duty of care in this regard and is committed to creating and supporting an environment and a culture free from harassment and abuse. The welfare of all individuals involved with World Rowing is paramount.



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All forms of harassment and abuse constitute a violation of the World Rowing Code of Ethics, World Rowing Safeguarding Policy, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Code of Ethics. Thus, all behaviours and actions that constitute harassment and abuse will not be tolerated.

All MFs participating at the WRU19CH Plovdiv 2026 must ensure that their delegations (including officials, coaches, and athletes) respect and follow the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy. They should refrain from any behaviour that constitutes any form of discrimination, abuse or harassment to others. They have a duty to report any concerns about or allegations of discrimination, abuse or poor practice via proper reporting channels.

Violation of the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy and Code of Ethics can result in formal disciplinary sanctions.

You can learn more information about the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy and Procedures from the following link: [Safeguarding - World Rowing](#)

Insurance & Liability

The participants are responsible for insurance costs of equipment and persons. The Organising Committee declines all liabilities for all kinds of damage in the area of the regatta. Participants are solely responsible for themselves, and the material used. The OC is not responsible for damages that may occur in Poland.

Each Member Federation shall ensure that it has adequate and appropriate insurance cover in place for each of its rowers and accompanying team officials (including delegates) for at least the duration of the event and the period of travel to and from. We refer to Rule 16 – insurance on the WR rule book for “adequate and appropriate insurance cover”.

It is mandatory that all participants have medical and incident insurance abroad.

Event Documents

[2026 WRU19CH Bulletin v4](#)

[2026-WRU19CH-Plovdiv-Programme-D5.pdf](#)

For further information please visit the following links:

[2026 World Rowing Under 19 Championships - World Rowing](#)

[Plovdiv rowing organizing committee](#)

METEOROLOGY

Find weather updates [here](#).

Find general information on meteorological conditions on the [2026 WRU19CH Bulletin v4](#) (page 11).

World Rowing Development Team