EUROPEAN AQUATICS®

WATER POLO TECHNICAL OFFICIALS INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATION COURSE FOR REFEREES AND DELEGATES 2026/2027

11TH - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026
TBLISSI (GEO)

INFORMATION BULLETIN

MESSAGE FROM ANTONIO SILVA, EUROPEAN AQUATICS' PRESIDENT

As President of European Aquatics, I'd like to welcome you all to the Water Polo Technical Officials Intermediate Certification Course for Referees and Delegates 2026/2027.

Education is at the heart of everything we do, and it plays a huge role in the European Aquatics Strategic Plan 2024-2030. Whether you're an athlete, coach, official, or referee, continuous learning helps us all improve, stay sharp, and keep our sport moving forward.

These courses and clinics are more than just training sessions—they're opportunities to grow, connect with experts, and be part of a community dedicated to excellence. By investing in education, we ensure that our sport remains fair, innovative, and always evolving. So, dive in, learn as much as you can, and let's build the future of European Aquatics together!

ANTONIO SILVA

European Aquatics President

COVER LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

We are glad to invite you to the European Aquatics Water Polo Technical Officials Intermediate certification course 2026/2027 for Water Polo Delegates and Referees which will be held in Tblissi (GEO) on period 11th – 13th September 2026.

At the Intermediate certification course, as a part of European Aquatics education and certification program, will be present the latest instructions and applications of the Water Polo Rules which will be applied during the competition season 2026/2027.

From the EA TWPC, EA DRC and EA WP Department we strongly believe that it is essential to address these queries in a clear and precise way and share the conclusions to the Referees and Delegates which will officiate at the games on upcoming competition season.

For this reason, European Aquatics Intermediate certification course for Delegates and Referees is organized to discuss and clarify all new situations and guarantee a start of the competition season 2026/2027 with the most uniform application of the rules.

All the Delegates (EA DRC members and Pool of WP Delegates 2026/2027 registered candidates) as well as the Referees are invited.

For those who will not be able to attend the Intermediate certification course in person, an online transmission is provided through the link:

https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/courses/water-polo-technical-officials-intermediate-certification-course-2026-2027

The Clinic will be concluded with online WP Rules test for all participants (in presence and online).

The WP Rules test is prepared in collaboration with WWR and link to access the WP Rules test (with username and password) will be sent to all Referees (which will be present at the EA WP Referees list 2026/2027) and Delegates (EA DRC and "Pool of WP Delegates" members) who will officiate in the competition season 2026/2027. Successful pass of WP Rules
Test is an obligation to be appointed at the games.

The platform for WP Rules test will be open on period 14th – 17th September 2026 and each Referee/Delegate may repeat the test in, case of fail, maximum three (3) times.

The link to access platform for online WP Rules Test will be shared with you later from WWR.

Herewith, you will find all necessary information as well as the registration process and deadlines for different operations.

We hope that this Clinic will be useful for all the participants and stay at your disposal for any possible questions.

Kind regards,
European Aquatics

VENUE OF THE CLINIC

TBILISI

Georgia has become an incredibly popular gateway to the Caucasus region, driven in great part by the growing buzz surrounding its energetic capital city, Tbilisi. With its dramatic valley setting, picturesque Old Town, eclectic architecture, and superb eating and drinking opportunities, Tbilisi is the vibrant, beating heart of Georgia and home to more than one in three of its citizens. Add to that the pull of the city's culture and nightlife, and Tbilisi is confidently sealing its reputation as the South Caucasus' most exciting city.

PROGRAM OF THE EDUCATIONAL CLINIC

Note: Starting time of lectures is local time in Tbilisi (GEO), + 2 hours comparing with CET

Day 1, Friday, 11th September 2026

Topics only for Delegates

17.00 Opening and welcome on behalf of EA
Mr. Antonio Silva, EA President

17.10 Welcome on behalf of EA DRC
Mr. Andy IM Hoepelman

17.15 Review of the Technical Delegates work and evaluations comparing our practices and experiences
Mr. Andy IM Hoepelman, EA DRC Chairman

17.30 Manual for Delegates - The duties and role of the Delegate
Mr. Dejan Perisic, EA Manager for Technical Officials Water Polo

18.15 Coffee Break

18.30 Collaboration between Referees and Delegates before, during and after the game
Mr. Tamas Molnar, EA TWPC Vice-Chairman, WA TWPC Chairman

19.15 Providing effective feedback to the Referees
Mr. Andy IM Hoepelman, EA DRC Chairman

19.45 Coffee break

20.00 Referees evaluation, usage of the evaluations Manual and excel file
Mr. Angel Moliner, EA DRC Member

21.00 Dinner

Note: Starting time of lectures is local time in Tbilisi (GEO), + 2 hours comparing with CET

Day 2, Saturday, 12th September 2026

Topics for Delegates and Referees

10.30 Welcome on behalf of EA
Mr. Antonio Silva, EA President

10.40 Welcome on behalf of EA DRC
Mr. Andy IM Hoepelman, EA DRC Chairman

10.45 Summary of the competition season 2025/2026
Mr. Dejan Perisic, EA Manager for Technical Officials Water Polo

11.00 Application of Water Polo Rules, control of the game and exclusions situations
Mr. Tamas Molnar, EA TWPC Vice-Chairman, WA TWPC Chairman

12.15 Coffee break

12.30 Impeding situations in Water Polo
Mr. Andy IM Hoepelman, EA DRC Chairman

13.30 Coffee break

13.45 Aggressive and violent play in Water polo
Mr. Dejan Perisic, EA Manager for Technical Officials Water Polo

15.00 Lunch

17.00 Centre Forward – Centre Defender play, current interpretation and future direction
Mr. Tamas Molnar, EA TWPC Vice-Chairman, WA TWPC Chairman

18.15 Coffee break

18.30 Penalty situations and application of the delayed penalty in Water Polo
Mr. Angel Moliner, EA DRC Member

19.30 Coffee break

19.45 Simulation and misconduct in Water Polo
Mr. Dejan Perisic, EA Manager for Technical Officials Water Polo

21.00 Dinner

Note: Starting time of lectures is local time in Tbilisi (GEO), + 2 hours comparing with CET

Day 3, Sunday, 13th September 2026

Topics for Delegates and Referees

10.30 Specific situations in Women Water Polo
Ms. Stavroula Kozompoli, EA DRC Member, WA TWPC Secretary

11.45 Coffee break

12.00 Coaches behaviour, what is acceptable/unacceptable and how to manage it
Mr. Andy IM Hoepelman, EA DRC Chairman

12.30 VAR livestream Protocol at the EA WP games
Mr. Tamas Molnar, EA TWPC Vice-Chairman, WA TWPC Chairman
Ms. Stavroula Kozompoli, EA DRC Member, WA TWPC Secretary

13.30 Coffee break

13.45 Refbook app as a tool for delegates and referees
Mr. Andy IM Hoepelman, EA DRC Chairman and Jon Chapman, Refbook (online)

14.15 Closure remarks and Clinic conclusion

14.45 Lunch and departures

Note: Starting time of lectures is local time in Tbilisi (GEO), + 2 hours comparing with CET

NOTES:

The program of the course may be changed accordingly.

REGISTRATION FOR THE INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATION COURSE

Each participant has to register for attendance and to pay the Registration fee (to attend online or in presence) and to pay Accommodation expenses to European Aquatics as follows:

- To attend the Clinic in presence with accommodation in Official Hotel:
  65 Euro

- To attend the Clinic Online or in presence without accommodation in the Official Hotel:
  145 Euro

(Please note that the in-presence option without accommodation in the Official Hotel allows the participants to attend only the Clinic sessions and the coffee breaks).

Registration process for online or onsite attendance will be open on the 1st of August 2026 until the 5th of September 2026 through the EA Academy educational platform:
https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/courses/water-polo-technical-officials-intermediate-certification-course-2026-2027

ACCOMMODATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Full package for Intermediate certification course

per person, per night, full board included (Accommodation; Breakfast; Lunch at the hotel; Coffee breaks; Dinner at the hotel/official dinner; Airport transfers - arrival and departure):

Single room	200 euros
Double room*	125 euros

** it is mandatory to include the name of the person who will share the room with.*

Check-in / check-out conditions:

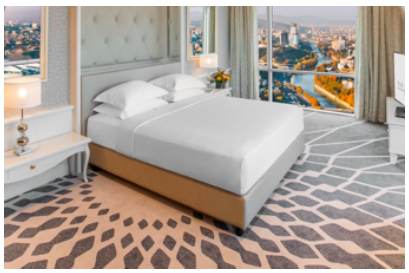
Check-in: 15:00
Early arrival after 08:00 till 15:00: plus 50% fee of the room rate
Early arrival before 08:00: plus 100% fee of the room rate

Check-out: 12:00
Late Check-Out till 15:00: Subject to availability (Complimentary, though not guaranteed at this stage)
Late Check-Out till 18:00: plus 50% fee of the room rate
Late Check-Out from 18:00: plus 100% fee of the room rate

For early check-in or late check-out, please contact the LOC to organize directly with them your specific needs, including the payment procedures for this extra:

LOC Contact Person:
Salome Meskhishvili
Email : salomemeskhishvili@yahoo.com
Mobile: +995 577 21 20 08

The Biltmore Tbilisi Hotel
29 Rustaveli Ave, 0108, Tbilisi, Georgia
https://www.thebiltmorehotels.com/biltmore-tbilisi/?cid=gplaces-the-biltmore-hotel-tbilisi



Payment of accommodation and registration fee must be done through the EA Education Platform during the Registration process.

Please include check-in and check-out dates during the registration process.

OFFICIAL AIRPORT AND TRANSPORTATION

The Official airport is Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport (TBS).
Transportation from and to Official Airport is provided by the organizer and included in the price.
Transportation will be organized only for attendants which will be accommodated in the Official Hotel.

During the registration process, please add the information related to your flights, complete Travel form and send it to following addresses:
salomemeskhishvili@yahoo.com
waterpolo@europeanaquatics.org
anakorolija@europeanaquatics.org

FLIGHT DETAILS			
Arrival at Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport (TBS)			
Arrival date		From	
Flight Nr		Arrival time	
Departure from Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport (TBS)			
Arrival date		To	
Flight Nr		Departure Time	

If during the registration process, you may have any question related to accommodation, please directly contact the LOC:

LOC Contact Person:
Salome Meskhishvili
Email : salomemeskhishvili@yahoo.com
Mobile: +995 577 21 20 08

TRAVEL FORM

DELEGATE: _____ **REFEREE: _____**
(mark with X)

Personal details:

Family Name:	First Name:
Email:	Mobile:

FLIGHT DETAILS:	
Arrival at Tbilisi Airport	
Arrival Date:	From:
Flight N°:	Arrival time:
Departure from Tbilisi Airport	
Departure Date:	To:
Flight N°:	Departure Time:

Please complete the details above per each Delegate or Referee from your country which will come to the Intermediate certification course and send it to:

salomemeskhishvili@yahoo.com
waterpolo@europeanaquatics.org
anakorolija@europeanaquatics.org

latest on 5th September 2026.

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Date