

ISF WORLD SCHOOL HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

HANDBOOK

20 – 29 APRIL | SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA



MANAGEMENT

ISF X LOC



International School Sport Federation (ISF)

Office - admin@isfsports.org

Sport department - sport@isfsports.org

Event department - registration@isfsports.org

Communication department - communication@isfsports.org

Finance department - finance@isfsports.org



Local Organising Committee

Organisation - Macedonian School Sport Federation

Office - contact@fusmak.org.mk



Safeguarding officer

Safeguarding officer: Biljana Kuzmanovska

Email: safeguarding@isfsports.org

OVERVIEW

FACTS & FIGURES



Delegation	Boys Teams	Girls Teams
Belgium DG	1	1
Brazil	1	1
Bulgaria	1	1
P.R. China	1	0
Croatia	1	1
Cyprus	1	1
Georgia	2	1
Germany	1	1
Greece	1	1
Israel	1	1
Kosovo	1	1
Luxembourg	1	0
North Macedonia	1	1
Republic of Srpska	1	0
Romania	1	1
Saudi Arabia	1	0
Serbia	1	1
Slovakia	1	1
Sweden	1	1
Turkiye	1	1
TOTAL	21	16

Note: Numbers of teams and participants are subject to change.

OVERVIEW

FACTS & FIGURES



Delegation	Add Adult	Athlet	Coach	Media	FOPO	HoD	Authority	OTO	SGO	Total
Belgium DG		28	2			1		2		33
Brazil	4	28	2	2	2	1		2		41
Bulgaria	2	24	3		2	1		1		33
P.R. China		13	2			1		3		19
Croatia	7	25	2	1		1		2		38
Cyprus		27	2			1		2		32
Georgia	2	36	4			1		5		48
Germany		28	3	1	2	1		4		39
Greece	1	25	2		2	1		5		36
Israel	5	27	2			1		4	5	44
Kosovo		24	4			1	1	5		35
Luxembourg		11	2		2	1		1		17
North Macedonia		28	2			1		7		38
Republic of Srpska		12	1			1				14
Romania		28	3		2	1		2		36
Saudi Arabia	1	14	2			1		2		20
Serbia		21	2		2	1		1		27
Slovakia		24	4		2	1				31
Sweden		28	4		2	1		1		36
Türkiye	5	28	4		2	1	1	2		43
Total	27	479	52	4	20	20	2	51	5	660

Note: Numbers of teams and participants are subject to change.



OVERVIEW

DAILY PROGRAM



April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24
<p>Arrival (Optional)</p> <p>Accreditation</p>	<p>Arrival (Mandatory)</p> <p>Accreditation</p> <p>Official Draw 18:00</p>	<p>Meetings 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Trainings 08:00 - 15:00</p> <p>Opening Ceremony 19:30 - 21:00</p>	<p>Competition 08:30 - 16:30</p> <p>ISF Academy 17:00-19:00</p>	<p>Competition 08:30 - 16:30</p> <p>ISF Academy 17:00-19:00</p> <p>Gala Dinner 19:00-22:00</p>	<p>Competition 08:30 - 16:30</p> <p>ISF Academy 17:00-19:00</p>
April 25	April 26	April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30
<p>Cultural Day 09:00-13:00</p> <p>Nations Activity 19:00-21:00</p>	<p>Competition 08:30 - 16:30</p> <p>ISF Academy 17:00-19:00</p>	<p>Competition 08:30 - 16:30</p> <p>ISF Academy 17:00-19:00</p>	<p>Final ranking matches 08:30 - 14:30</p> <p>Finals (G) 15:00 (B) 18:00</p> <p>Awarding Ceremony 20:00</p>	<p>Departure (Optional)</p>	<p>Departure (Mandatory)</p>

PARTICIPATION

INFORMATION



- All participants must be present for the entire duration of the event, from arrival to departure as stated in the official programme.
- Participation in all non-sport activities is mandatory.
- Each team must compete against all other teams.
- Each participant must compete against all other participants.
- Any absence from the sports programme, ceremonies (opening, prize-giving, closing), or socio-cultural activities may lead to the team's disqualification.
- Delegations must stay in official event accommodation provided by the LOC to participate in the event.
- As part of the event guidelines aimed at promoting unity and neutrality, the use or display of flags is not allowed throughout the event.

TRANSPORTATION

DETAILS

There will be schedule bus service according to the sport program and other non sport activities. A designated board will be placed at the hotel where all information will be published daily.

This bus services will be used for various purposes, including transportation to training and competition venues, arrivals and departures, as well as for attending the opening and closing ceremonies.

Additionally, it will be available for cultural and educational activities.



ARRIVAL

INFORMATION



Dear Participants of the ISF WSC Handball - Skopje, North Macedonia 2026,

To all our distinguished delegates who have journeyed from around the world to gather in Skopje for this year's event, it is our privilege to extend a most heartfelt welcome. To ensure your visit begins with ease, please adhere to the following arrival procedure.

Arrival at Skopje International Airport (SKP)

- Upon your delegation's arrival, volunteers and reception team will be stationed outside the arrivals door.
- The volunteers will be there to guide you to the shuttle bus, which will be ready to transport your delegation to the official hotel.

Arrival at Skopje by bus

- For all delegations arriving by bus please contact LOC so they can guide you where you should make your final stop.

Transfer to the Official Hotel

- The bus will provide a comfortable 20-minute journey to the designated official hotel, where all delegations will be staying throughout the event.
- Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed by our accreditation and reception teams for a streamlined two-step process. The accreditation team will handle the official accreditation process, while the reception team will see to it that your delegation settles in smoothly.

Accreditation Process for Delegations

- Accreditation procedures will be conducted on **April 19th** and **April 20th** in the Accreditation Centre.
- We kindly ask you to bring all passports of your delegation and other relevant documents that are needed for the accreditation.

ACCOMMODATION

INFORMATION



Delegations will be accommodated in 4 official hotels with the 4* category:

- [Hotel Continental](#)
- [Hotel Turist](#)
- [Hotel Karpos](#)
- [Hotel Bellevue](#)



Please check the link to see which hotel your delegation has been accommodated in



- Please note that delegations are liable for any damages to hotel rooms or facilities caused by their members.
- Laundry services are available at the rates specified in the hotel's official tariff.

DINNING

INFORMATION



Three hot meals (Buffet) will be served at Official Hotel's Restaurant.

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
06:30-9:30	11:30-13:30	18:00-20:30

DUE TO THE CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES:

21.04. - DINNER TIME 17:00-18:30

25.04. - DINNER TIME 17:00-18:30

28.04. - DINNER TIME 20:00-22:00

MEETINGS

INFORMATION

21.04.2026. Hotel Holiday Inn

- **Meeting Room:**
 - 10:00 - HOD Meeting
 - 10:45 - Coaches Meeting
 - 11:30 - Referee Meeting

OPENING CEREMONY

INFORMATION



The Opening Ceremony will take place on **21st** of April in the city center at **19:30**. Attendance is **mandatory for every delegation member**, as this event marks the official start of the competition and provides a unique opportunity to celebrate together.

The transportation details for the opening ceremony will be announced on the designated information board in the hotel and will be shared in the HOD WhatsApp group

Delegation March Pass

- Participant Requirement: All delegation member will do the march pass
- Flags: The placards with flags for all participating countries and regions will be provided by the LOC.
- Dress Code:
 - Delegation's official uniform.
 - Closed-toe shoes are required.
 - No accessories (e.g., hat, sunglasses, backpack).

AWARDING CEREMONY

INFORMATION

The Awarding Ceremony will be held right after the Finals on April **28th** at the Rasadnik Hall.



SPORT

DRAW



OFFICIAL DRAW WILL BE CONDUCTED ON 20.04.2026 AT 6:00PM LOCAL TIME

Draw will be live broadcasted on [ISF TV](#) and will be available for playback afterward. The Draw will be conducted based on ISF criteria and the ranking system of previous ISF results. Highest ranked teams will be granted the number one seed in the group. Other teams will be seeded in groups in performance rows. Teams from the same country will be placed in the same bracket. No teams from the same country can play in the Final.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The competitive structure of the first phase is determined through a draw held beforehand, defining both the number of teams per group and the countries that will be allocated to each group.

BOY'S COMPETITION

21 teams divided into **4 groups**

Groups A - C → 5 teams

Groups D → 6 teams

1st phase: group stages, all vs all

2nd phase: Elimination rounds in quarterfinals.

Day 6 finals: Men's Final at 18:00

GIRL'S COMPETITION

16 teams divided into **4 groups**

Groups A - D → 4 teams

1st phase: group stages, all vs all

2nd phase: Elimination rounds. Ranking system.

Day 6 finals: Women's Final at 15:00

SPORT

DRAW



COMPETITION SYSTEM

Duration of the match

2 x 25 minutes with a half-time interval of 10 minutes. except for final Matches

Points shall be awarded as follows (qualification games in groups):

Win = **2 points**

Draw = **1 point**

Match lost = **0 points**

RANKING SYSTEM AFTER GROUP PHASE

Teams are ranked by adding the points gained.

- Points after all matches of group phase;
- Result of game between the two equal teams;

If, after the group matches, two or more teams have gained the same number of points, the following ranking system is used:

- points in matches between the teams concerned;
- goal difference in matches between the teams concerned;
- number of plus goals in matches between the teams concerned;

If the result is still a tie, the following system is used to decide between the teams concerned, unless the undecided ranking is as last in the group:

- goal difference is subtracted in all matches;
- number of plus goals in all matches;

If the result is still a tie, a draw must decide the ranking. The ISF will make the draw, if possible, in the presence of the persons in charge of the teams concerned.

SPORT

DRAW



COMPETITION SYSTEM

If 7-metre throwing is used as a tie-breaker, players who are not suspended or disqualified at the end of the playing time are entitled to participate. Each team nominates 5 players. These players make one throw each, alternating with the players of the other team. The teams are not required to predetermine the sequence of their throwers. Goalkeepers may be freely chosen and substituted among the players eligible to participate. Players may participate in the 7-metre throwing as both throwers and goalkeepers.

The referees decide which goal is used. The referees make a coin toss, and the winning team chooses whether they wish to throw first or last. The opposite sequence is used for all subsequent throws, if the throwing has to continue because the score is still tied after the first five throws each.

For such a continuation, each team shall again nominate five players. All or some of them may be the same as in the first round. This method of nominating five players at a time continues as long as it is necessary. However, the winner is now decided as soon as there is a goal difference after both teams have had the same number of throws.

Players may be disqualified from further participation in the 7-metre throwing in cases of significant or repeated unsportsmanlike conduct. If this concerns a player who has just been nominated in a group of five throwers, the team must nominate another thrower.

OTHER RULES

- All teams must show up at the competition venue not later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled beginning of the match.
- In case a team shows up later than 5 minutes after the scheduled beginning of the match, it will automatically lose the match by 0-6. The team concerned will be classified last in the group.
- In case a team fails to show up, it will automatically lose the match by 0-6. The team concerned will be classified last in the group.
- 10 minutes before the beginning of the match, referees shall check players of both teams according to the specified lists.
- A red card with report will cause at least 1 match suspension in the following matches of the team. Red card without report and following 3 x 2 minutes will not cause any match suspension.
- If a team uses a suspended player, the match will be lost 0 - 6. (team responsibility)
- Shirt numbers from 1 to 99 shall be used.
- All players shall wear the same shirt number throughout the whole tournament.
- Shirt number must be visible on the back of each player.
- The organizer is responsible for providing official balls for each match according to IHF standards: Girls 54-56 cm. (IHF Size 2) and boys 58-60 cm. (IHF Size 3).
- Teams will have their own training and warming up balls for the athletes.
- Important: Glue must be accepted by the organizer.

SPORT

TECHNICAL RULES



The competition will be run according to current ISF and IHF rules.
The detailed rules and regulations for the competition:

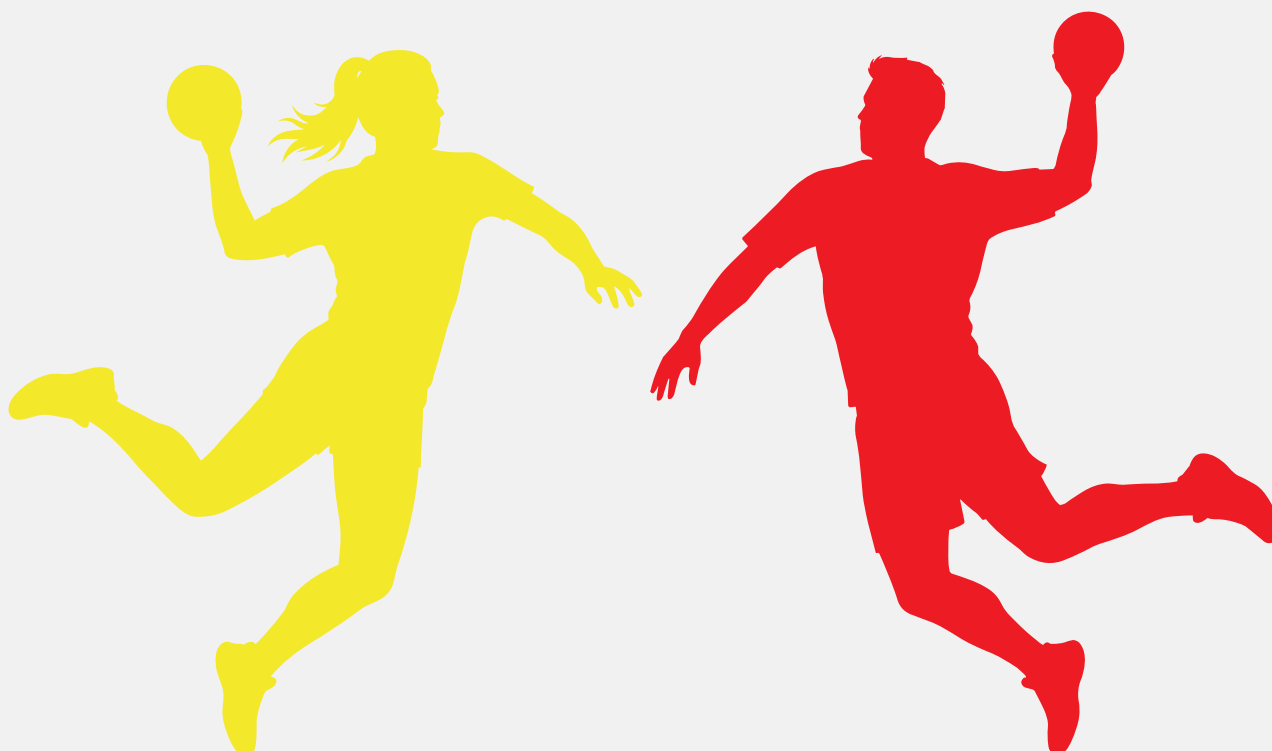
<https://www.isfsports.org/sports/handball>

For any related sport technical questions please contact ISF TC President Mr. Assem Elsaadany - elsaadany@ihf-online.info

SPORT

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE



SPORT

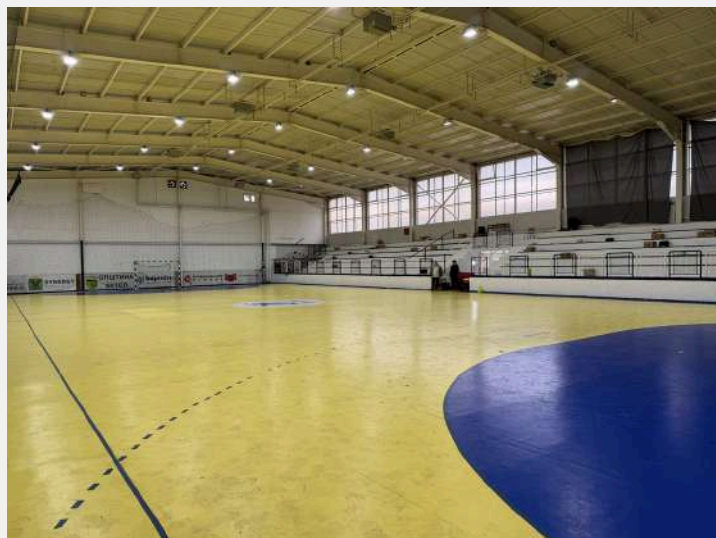
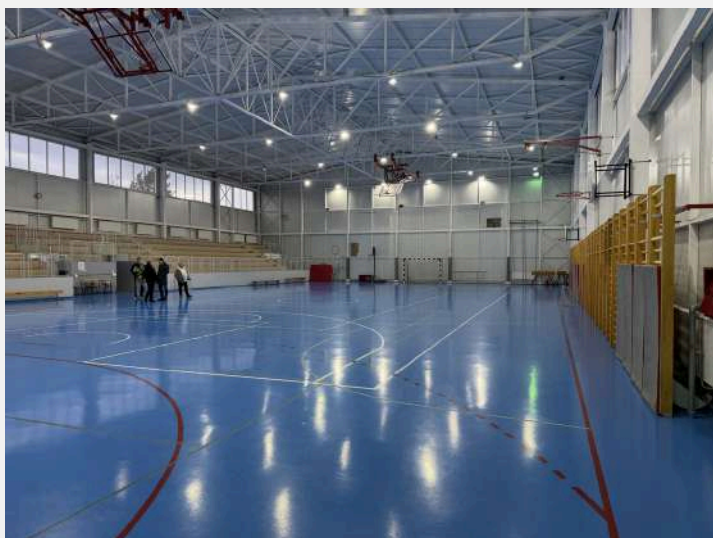
VENUES & TRAINING



TRAINING VENUES

On **20-21st April**, all venues will be available for training. A detailed schedule for training will be provided by the LOC and shared with all HODs. It will be also available at the provided link:

TRAINING SCHEDULE



COMPETITION VENUES

From **22nd to 28th April**, the competitions will take place in 6 venues:

1. Makedonsko Sunce
2. Kisela Voda - Rasadnik
3. Arhiepiskop
4. Anton Dimitrov (R.K. Butel)
5. Krste Misirkov
6. Koco Racin

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES


CULTURAL DAY



Cultural Day is set up for **25th of April** and it is envisioned as a guided walk through the city center.



A detailed schedule will be provided by the LOC and shared with all HODs.
Additionally schedule will be available at the provided link:

CULTURAL DAY 

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

NATION'S NIGHT



The Nations Activity promotes cultural exchanges among the participating countries and regions by offering each delegation the opportunity to have a stand where they can present itself in a spirit of fairness.

- **Participation in this event is mandatory for all delegations.**
- Students are encouraged to wear traditional costumes or team uniforms.
- Delegations are free to prepare promotional items or souvenirs to showcase their art and culture at their booth.
- The Nations Activity will be held from **19:00 to 21:00 on December 9th**, at the Hotel Holiday Inn.
- Delegations will have the option to perform on the stage with dances or songs typical of their countries and regions with maximum 3 minutes.
- Please email the music/video file in MP3 or MP4 format to the LOC at contact@fusmak.org.mk by **23rd April**. Please ensure the file is named using the format: "nameofcountry.MP3/MP4".
- All student performances must remain neutral and respectful. War or military songs are strictly forbidden, as well as any political or religious content, explicit language, themes of violence or discrimination, commercial promotion, or the use of unsafe props. Performances should reflect the inclusive and positive spirit of the event



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

GALA DINNER



19:00-22:00 APRIL 23RD

The Gala dinner will be held in traditional restaurant “Makedonska Kuka”. We sincerely invite all Heads of delegations and other adults delegation members to attend this event. With the price of **50€** per person you are helping ISF School Sport Foundation to grow.

Participation in the Gala Dinner must be declared both in the payment overview and during accreditation. Please note that once accreditation is completed, it will not be possible to add additional participants.

Transportation details will be provided in the HOD group.

Dress Code: Smart Formal



SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION



Safe Sport

The International School Sport Federation (ISF) reaffirms its commitment to the protection, well-being, and positive development of young athletes and all participants involved in this event. Ensuring a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment is a fundamental priority, guaranteeing that every athlete has the right to practice sport with dignity, support, and protection. This commitment reflects our shared responsibility to uphold safety as a core value in school sport.

This event has implemented a **Safe Sport Program** that includes formal protection policies, prevention and response procedures, educational activities, and awareness campaigns. In addition, **Safeguarding Officer** have been appointed and trained to support participants, receive and manage concerns, and respond to any reports with seriousness and confidentiality.

These Officer will be available throughout the event to assist athletes, coaches, team officials, and delegation members. Any concern or report regarding inappropriate conduct will be handled respectfully, responsibly, and in accordance with international and local safeguarding standards.

Throughout the competition, educational workshops will be delivered to athletes, reinforcing essential values such as respect, empathy, care, and safe conduct in sport. We invite all delegations to participate and contribute to a positive and welcoming event environment.

For guidance or to report a concern, the official channels are available:

(Event Safeguarding Officer)

Name: Biljana Kuzmanovska

Email: [:safeguarding@isfsports.org](mailto:safeguarding@isfsports.org)

Tel: +389 78 289 040

In-person: directly with the event
Safeguarding Officer

Protecting children and young people in sport is a collective commitment. We count on each of you to help ensure a safe and inspiring experience for all participants.

Safeguarding in sport is everyone's responsibility.

ISF ACADEMY

ACTIVITIES



The ISF Academy is the educational center of the International School Sport Federation delivering online and onsite capacity-building activities for teachers, school sports representatives, coaches, officials, and students around the world. It aims to recognize and or to upgrade the knowledge and skills of any of these stakeholders involved or planning to be involved in national, continental, or international sports, educational networks, institutions, events, or organisation.

The mission of this body is to design and deliver short-, mid-, and long-term quality education and capacity-building activities for students, physical education teachers, national school sport representatives, coaches and officials around the world. These educational programmes will be held online on the ISF Academy platform prior to the events and particularly during the organisation of ISF events on-site, after the competition hours.

Therefore, before and during this international ISF event, heads of delegation, coaches, referees, international school athletes, and local school students will have the opportunity to take part in various interactive educational activities on different topics.



ISF ACADEMY

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



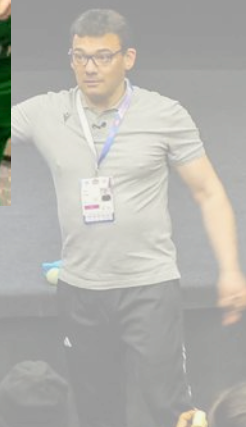
You will find below a list of themes that will be proposed to young athletes during this event:

- Safeguarding Children in Sport
- Anti-Doping prevention in Sport

Please note that these **activities are compulsory to attend** during event particularly for the school athletes. The educational activities will take place on the 22 -27th of April(Except 25th).

INJURY PREVENTION

Musculo-skeletal fitness



ISF ACADEMY

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT: OUR RESPONSIBILITY, WHAT'S MY ROLE?

We believe that children have the inner resources if educated, to fully understand, identify and react in front of negative behavior such as racism, gender inequity or violence and abuse. The challenge for ISF is to find the right way to express difficult ideas and present complicated topics to young people in order for them, not only to understand but also to appropriately apprehend this issue and be able to react if facing it.

Creating awareness and giving the opportunity for the participants to be able to transfer their knowledge when getting back home to their peers is also key to ISF.

The Safeguarding Workshop is designed with young athletes at its core, recognising their central role in the school sport ecosystem. ISF is dedicated to ensuring that all children experience sport participation free from any negative behaviours that could impact their well-being. This session of 30 minutes employs interactive and pedagogical methods to provide participants with a clear understanding of safeguarding issues in sport. It aims to teach youth athletes how to recognise interpersonal violence and react appropriately if it occurs to themselves or their peers. This workshop emphasizes creating a culture of respect and integrity for everyone involved in sport as a shared responsibility we all carry so that sport can be a positive experience for all.



MS. BILJANA KUZMANOVSKA NIKOLOVSKA
ISF EVENT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

ISF ACADEMY

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION

Anti-doping education is of the utmost importance for young people due to several compelling reasons and we believe that young people have the inner resources to fully understand, identify and react in front of negative behaviour such as doping.

The challenge for ISF is to find the **right way to express difficult ideas and present complicated topics to young people** in order for them, **not only to understand but also to appropriately apprehend this issue and be able to react if facing it**. Creating awareness and giving the opportunity for the participants to be able to transfer their knowledge when getting back home to their peers is also key to ISF.

Anti-doping education goes beyond the realm of sports. It serves as a platform to impart valuable life lessons and cultivate ethical values in young individuals. By emphasizing the importance of honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility, anti-doping education contributes to the moral development of young athletes. It encourages them to make informed choices, stand up against cheating, and develop a strong sense of integrity that extends beyond the realm of sports and into other aspects of their lives. anti-doping education plays a crucial role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of young people involved in sports. Educating them about the risks, consequences, and ethical implications of doping, promotes health, fair play, and integrity while providing them with the necessary tools to make informed decisions that align with their long-term well-being and athletic aspirations.

The law and the rules are important, but it is not just rules that safeguard our sport for clean athletes, but also the measures and processes that help put those rules into action. We must all play our part in promoting fair play and that means gaining an appreciation of what leads to certain decisions being made.



MPHARM GORICA MILOVANOVIC
ANTIDOPING AGENCY OF SERBIA (ADAS)
EDUCATION MANAGER,
ITA CERTIFIED CLEAN SPORT EDUCATOR

ISF ACADEMY

SCHEDULE



Place		Lecture Halls	Delegation
Date	Time	Class	
22 th April	5:00 PM – 5:40 PM	Safeguarding in sport	<p>Please refer to the link below for the detailed Academy schedule by delegation.</p> <p><u>ISF ACADEMY SCHEDULE .XLSX</u></p>
	5:50 PM – 6:30 PM	Anti-Doping prevention in Sport	
23 th April	5:00 PM – 5:40 PM	Safeguarding in sport	
	5:50 PM – 6:30 PM	Anti-Doping prevention in Sport	
24 th April	5:00 PM – 5:40 PM	Safeguarding in sport	
	5:50 PM – 6:30 PM	Anti-Doping prevention in Sport	
25 th April	Cultural Day & Nations Night		
26 th April	5:00 PM – 5:40 PM	Safeguarding in sport	
	5:50 PM – 6:30 PM	Anti-Doping prevention in Sport	
27 th April	5:00 PM – 5:40 PM	Safeguarding in sport	
	5:50 PM – 6:30 PM	Anti-Doping prevention in Sport	

NOTE


- This is a **mandatory educational program**.
- **Classes will be arranged based on the hotels where participants are staying**
- The above schedule will **be updated via the schedule link** once the competition schedule / hotel rooming list is finalized.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



WEATHER

The weather in Skopje, North Macedonia in April is generally mild and pleasant. Average daytime temperatures range between 15°C and 22°C, while evenings can be cooler, dropping to around 7°C to 10°C. April brings a mix of sunny days and occasional rain showers, making the landscape green and vibrant. It is advisable to bring light layers and a jacket, as temperatures can vary throughout the day.

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
22° 8°	21° 9°	20° 7°	20° 8°	19° 8°	21° 7°	23° 9°
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
						
24° 10°	20° 7°	20° 6°	22° 9°	22° 10°	23° 10°	23° 10°

DEPARTURES

INFORMATION

- The teams will depart to the airport or the departure borders by shuttle bus according to the flight/train time.
- Delegations are requested to confirm their departure information by 10 December to the LOC.

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION



EVENT WEBSITE

events.isfsports.org/wsc-handball-2026/

ISF Social Media



[@ISFsports](https://www.facebook.com/ISFsports)



[@ISFsports](https://www.instagram.com/ISFsports)



[@ISFsports](https://twitter.com/ISFsports)



[@isfsports](https://www.youtube.com/isfsports)



[/isfsports](https://www.linkedin.com/company/isfsports)

ISF Website: isfsports.org

LOC Social Media

Macedonian School Sport Federation (FUSMAK)



[@fusmak](https://www.facebook.com/fusmak)



[@moja_federacija](https://www.instagram.com/moja_federacija)

FUSMAK Website: fusmak.org.mk

Don't forget to tag and follow ISF & FUSMAK on social media and use the hashtags of the event:

#Skopje2026 #ISFsports #ISFwsc #Handball

Additional content created by your Federation or your school athletes and students can be sent to communication@isfsports.org

LIVE STREAMING

INFORMATION



DATE	LOCAL TIME (CET)	EVENTS	PLATFORM
Apr. 20	18:00	Team Draw	 tv.isfsports.org
Apr. 21	19:30	Opening Ceremony	
Apr. 22 - 24	8:30 - 16:00 *	Competitions	
Apr. 26 - 27			
Apr. 28	15:00	Girls' Final	 OLYMPIC CHANNEL olympics.com/en/live/
	18:00	Boys' Final	

* This schedule is subject to change based on draw results and competition arrangements.

ISF PARTNERS



QIAODAN

LOC PARTNERS



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ISF WORLD SCHOOL HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

20 – 29 April 2026 Skopje, NORTH MACEDONIA

ENJOY YOUR
ONCE IN A LIFETIME
EXPERIENCE!

