



# U16 REGIONAL CHALLENGE CUP

HANDBALL · SEASON 2026/27

## SEASON CALENDAR

Season 2026/27 · 12 associations · 4 groups of 3 · 4 competition windows · Boys and Girls

|                           |                     |                                    |                               |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>12</b><br>ASSOCIATIONS | <b>4</b><br>WINDOWS | <b>3</b><br>MATCH DAYS /<br>WINDOW | <b>6</b><br>MATCHES /<br>TEAM | <b>1–12</b><br>PLACEMENTS |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|

## SEASON OVERVIEW

Boys and girls compete in separate windows, each group at its own venue hosted by one of its member associations. Preparation and travel run Monday to Thursday; matches are played Friday to Sunday.

| MONTH         | CATEGORY | EVENT              | MATCH DAYS     |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| October 2026  | Girls    | Tournament 1       | 23–25 Oct 2026 |
| November 2026 | Boys     | Tournament 1       | 6–8 Nov 2026   |
| November 2026 | Girls    | Tournament 2       | 27–29 Nov 2026 |
| December 2026 | Girls    | Tournament 3 ★     | 4–6 Dec 2026   |
| January 2027  | Boys     | Tournament 2       | 8–10 Jan 2027  |
| March 2027    | Boys     | Tournament 3       | 12–14 Mar 2027 |
| April 2027    | Girls    | <b>Finals 1–12</b> | 8–10 Apr 2027  |
| May 2027      | Boys     | <b>Finals 1–12</b> | 6–8 May 2027   |

★ Girls Tournament 3 (4–6 Dec 2026) is played inside the EURO 2026 window, hosted by Slovakia, Serbia, Romania, Turkey — providing a promotional platform alongside the senior championship.

## BOYS CALENDAR

| EVENT        | PREP / TRAVEL | MATCH DAYS            | HOSTS BY GROUP                                       |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Tournament 1 | 2–5 Nov 2026  | <b>6–8 Nov 2026</b>   | A Slovenia · B Bosnia & H. · C Montenegro · D Turkey |
| Tournament 2 | 4–7 Jan 2027  | <b>8–10 Jan 2027</b>  | A Croatia · B Serbia · C N. Macedonia · D Bulgaria   |
| Tournament 3 | 8–11 Mar 2027 | <b>12–14 Mar 2027</b> | A Slovakia · B Romania · C Kosovo · D Greece         |
| Finals 1–12  | 3–5 May 2027  | <b>6–8 May 2027</b>   | Single venue — host confirmed after the third window |

## GIRLS CALENDAR

| EVENT        | PREP / TRAVEL       | MATCH DAYS            | HOSTS BY GROUP                                                              |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tournament 1 | 19–22 Oct 2026      | <b>23–25 Oct 2026</b> | A Slovenia · B Croatia · C Kosovo · D Greece                                |
| Tournament 2 | 23–26 Nov 2026      | <b>27–29 Nov 2026</b> | A Bosnia & H. · B Montenegro · C Bulgaria · D N. Macedonia (11–13 Dec 2026) |
| Tournament 3 | 30 Nov – 3 Dec 2026 | <b>4–6 Dec 2026</b>   | A Slovakia · B Serbia · C Romania · D Turkey                                |
| Finals 1–12  | 5–7 Apr 2027        | <b>8–10 Apr 2027</b>  | Single venue — host confirmed after the third window                        |

The girls final window is played approximately one month before the boys final window, keeping the two competitions fully separate.

## MATCH DAYS PER TOURNAMENT

Each group plays a full round robin over three match days. The host association plays on the first and the last day; the two visiting teams meet on the middle day.

| MATCH DAY | FIXTURE               |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Day 1     | Host v Visitor 1      |
| Day 2     | Visitor 1 v Visitor 2 |
| Day 3     | Host v Visitor 2      |

Example — Tournament 1 (6–8 Nov 2026): matches are played on Fri 6 Nov, Sat 7 Nov and Sun 8 Nov.

## CONFIRMED FIXTURES

Throw-off times and venues as confirmed by the host association. Windows not listed here are still to be confirmed.

| WINDOW                     | GROUP | MATCH                     | DATE       | TIME         | VENUE                                                    |
|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Girls ·<br>Tournament<br>1 | B     | Croatia – Montenegro      | Fri 23 Oct | <b>17:00</b> | Josip<br>Samaržija<br>BEPO<br>Sports Hall,<br>Koprivnica |
| Girls ·<br>Tournament<br>1 | B     | Montenegro – Serbia       | Sat 24 Oct | <b>12:00</b> | Josip<br>Samaržija<br>BEPO<br>Sports Hall,<br>Koprivnica |
| Girls ·<br>Tournament<br>1 | B     | Croatia – Serbia          | Sun 25 Oct | <b>12:00</b> | Josip<br>Samaržija<br>BEPO<br>Sports Hall,<br>Koprivnica |
| Boys ·<br>Tournament<br>1  | C     | Montenegro – N. Macedonia | Fri 6 Nov  | <b>18:00</b> | University<br>Sports Hall,<br>Podgorica                  |
| Boys ·<br>Tournament<br>1  | C     | N. Macedonia – Kosovo     | Sat 7 Nov  | <b>13:00</b> | Bemax<br>Arena,<br>Podgorica                             |
| Boys ·<br>Tournament<br>1  | C     | Montenegro – Kosovo       | Sun 8 Nov  | <b>12:00</b> | Bemax<br>Arena,<br>Podgorica                             |
| Boys ·<br>Tournament<br>1  | D     | Turkey – Bulgaria         | Fri 6 Nov  | <b>TBC</b>   | Edirne<br>Sport Hall,<br>Edirne                          |
| Boys ·<br>Tournament<br>1  | D     | Bulgaria – Greece         | Sat 7 Nov  | <b>TBC</b>   | Edirne<br>Sport Hall,<br>Edirne                          |
| Boys ·<br>Tournament<br>1  | D     | Turkey – Greece           | Sun 8 Nov  | <b>TBC</b>   | Edirne<br>Sport Hall,<br>Edirne                          |
| Girls ·<br>Tournament<br>3 | D     | Turkey – Greece           | Fri 4 Dec  | <b>TBC</b>   | Döşemealtı<br>Sport Hall,<br>Antalya                     |

| WINDOW                     | GROUP | MATCH                 | DATE      | TIME       | VENUE                                |
|----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Girls ·<br>Tournament<br>3 | D     | Greece – N. Macedonia | Sat 5 Dec | <b>TBC</b> | Döşemealtı<br>Sport Hall,<br>Antalya |
| Girls ·<br>Tournament<br>3 | D     | Turkey – N. Macedonia | Sun 6 Dec | <b>TBC</b> | Döşemealtı<br>Sport Hall,<br>Antalya |

## FINAL WINDOW STRUCTURE

Each category's final window runs over two days at a single venue, hosting three parallel tournaments determined by group rankings.

| FINAL   | PLACES | DAY 1 – SEMI-FINALS | DAY 2             |
|---------|--------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Final A | 1–4    | A1 v D1 · B1 v C1   | Final + 3rd place |
| Final B | 5–8    | A2 v D2 · B2 v C2   | Final + 3rd place |
| Final C | 9–12   | A3 v D3 · B3 v C3   | Final + 3rd place |

Cross-group seeding (Group A against Group D · Group B against Group C) ensures teams from different groups meet in the finals.

## KEY DATES

| MILESTONE          | DATE                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Girls Tournament 1 | <b>23–25 Oct 2026</b> |
| Boys Tournament 1  | <b>6–8 Nov 2026</b>   |
| Girls Tournament 2 | <b>27–29 Nov 2026</b> |
| Girls Tournament 3 | <b>4–6 Dec 2026</b>   |
| Boys Tournament 2  | <b>8–10 Jan 2027</b>  |
| Boys Tournament 3  | <b>12–14 Mar 2027</b> |
| Girls Finals 1–12  | <b>8–10 Apr 2027</b>  |
| Boys Finals 1–12   | <b>6–8 May 2027</b>   |