



ESSF 2026 EUROPEAN OPEN SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP U18 BASKETBALL 3X3

MEN & WOMEN

BULLETIN 1

13 – 19 JUNE 2026



Belgrade, Serbia





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EVENT GENERAL



➤ INTRODUCTION

The European School Sport Federation (ESSF) continues to grow as a key platform for promoting school sport and education across Europe. With its mission to inspire young athletes and connect schools through sport, ESSF provides opportunities that combine competition, learning, and friendship in an international environment.

The ESSF European Open School Championship – Basketball 3x3 U18, to be held in Belgrade, from 13-19 June 2026, marks another important step in this journey. Bringing together school teams from across Europe, the event will highlight the passion, skill, and teamwork that define the spirit of basket and school sport.

More than a competition, this Championship represents a celebration of youth, diversity, and fair play. It offers young players a chance to test their abilities, share experiences, and build connections that go beyond borders, reflecting the true values of sport and education.

Together, we continue to shape a stronger European school sport community. We look forward to welcoming you to Belgrade in June 2026, for an unforgettable celebration of basket 3x3, unity, and the ESSF spirit.



➤ WELCOME TO SERBIA

Welcome to Serbia – The Heart of the Balkans

Welcome to Serbia, a land where tradition meets modern spirit, and where every traveler feels at home. Located in the heart of the Balkans, Serbia is known for its warm hospitality, rich cultural heritage, and stunning natural beauty, from mountain peaks and rivers to lively cities and peaceful villages. Serbia's charm lies in its contrasts, centuries-old monasteries and fortresses stand alongside vibrant festivals, modern art scenes, and a dynamic nightlife. The country's cuisine, famous for its hearty flavors and authentic hospitality, tells the story of a nation that loves to share and celebrate. Whether you're exploring its historical landmarks, enjoying the rhythm of local music, or meeting its friendly people, Serbia will win you over with its energy, authenticity, and warmth.



➤ DISCOVER BELGRADE

KALEMEGDAN FORTRESS

The historic heart of Belgrade, Kalemegdan stands proudly above the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. Once a powerful military fortification, today it is a peaceful park filled with monuments, art, and breathtaking views. Walking through its gates feels like stepping into the city's living history.

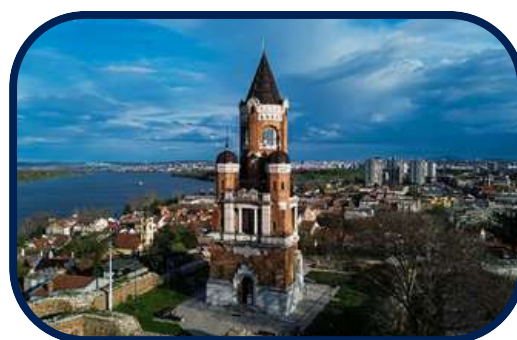


SAINT SAVA TEMPLE

Dominating Belgrade's skyline, the Temple of Saint Sava is one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world. Built in honor of Saint Sava, the founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church, it represents faith, unity, and resilience. Its magnificent domes and marble interiors leave every visitor in awe.

ZEMUN & GARDOŠ TOWER

Across the Danube lies Zemun, a picturesque old town with narrow streets, colorful houses, and riverfront cafés. At its highest point rises Gardoš Tower, offering one of the best panoramic views of Belgrade. It's a perfect blend of history, tranquility, and local charm.



SKADARLIJA

Known as the bohemian quarter of Belgrade, Skadarlija is a charming cobblestone street filled with traditional restaurants, live music, and a timeless spirit. Once home to poets and artists, it remains a place where culture and life intertwine. Visitors come for the food but stay for the atmosphere that feels like old Belgrade.

➤ EVENT MANAGEMENT

The ESSF 2026 European Open School Championship **Basketball 3x3 U18** will be organized through the close cooperation of the European School Sport Federation (ESSF) and the Serbian School Sport Federation, which will serve as the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) in Belgrade.

To ensure a smooth and professional execution of the Championship, a dedicated event management team will be appointed, covering all operational, technical, and logistical aspects of the competition. Their mission will be to provide the highest level of organization and hospitality for all participating delegations.

Below you can find the official contact information of the Local Organizing Committee and the ESSF headquarters. These contacts will be available to support delegations, resolve logistical matters, and provide any additional information throughout the Championship.



European School Sport Federation

Contact: Gorica Bilak-Moconja, ESSF Sports Director

Email: info@europeanschoolsport.com



Local Organising Committee (LOC)

Contact: Serbian School Sport Federation

Office: skolskisport@mos.gov.rs



Operations Coordinator

Contact: Boris Tomić, LOC Secretary General

Phone/WhatsApp: [+381 \(0\)60 700 82 22](tel:+3810607008222)

➤ PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

12 JUNE 2026	ARRIVAL (OPTIONAL) ACCREDITATION
13 JUNE 2026	ARRIVAL (MANDATORY) ACCREDITATION TECHNICAL MEETING
14 JUNE 2026	COMPETITION OPENING CEREMONY
15 JUNE 2026	COMPETITION NON-SPORT ACTIVITIES
16 JUNE 2026	COMPETITION CHARITY GALA DINNER
17 JUNE 2026	COMPETITION NON-SPORT ACTIVITIES
18 JUNE 2026	CULTURAL DAY NATIONS NIGHT AWARD CEREMONY / FAREWELL PARTY
19 JUNE 2026	 DEPARTURE

Please note that the current daily program is provisional and subject to change. The detailed and updated schedule will be provided in Bulletin 2 and in the Official Handbook of Competition.



➤ NON-SPORT ACTIVITIES

OPENING CEREMONY

Information regarding the Opening Ceremony will be provided in **Bulletin 2**.



CULTURAL DAY

Information regarding the Cultural Day will be provided in **Bulletin 2**.



NATION'S NIGHT

Information regarding the Nations Night will be provided in **Bulletin 2**.



GALA DINNER

Information regarding the Gala Dinner will be provided in **Bulletin 2**.



CLOSING CEREMONY

Information regarding the Closing Ceremony will be provided in **Bulletin 2**.

➤ ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation details will be published in **Bulletin 2**, which will include full information about hotels, room types, and prices. The accommodation standard will be in line with ESSF event requirements, ensuring comfort and quality for all participants. A range of hotels with 3, 4, and 5 stars will be available, allowing each delegation to choose the option that best suits their preferences and budget. All selected hotels will provide convenient access to competition venues and other event facilities.



➤ TRAVELLING AND VISA

PORT OF ENTRY

The official port of entry for the European Open School Championship Basketball 3x3 U18 2026 is Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport, the main international gateway of Serbia. Located about 22 kilometers west of the city center, the airport connects Belgrade with major destinations across Europe and beyond. Modern, efficient, and well-organized, it offers a smooth arrival experience for all participants with easy access to the city.



TRAVELING

Travel to the official port of entry is to be arranged and financed individually by each participating delegation. Delegations are expected to arrive on 13 June 2026 and depart on 19 June 2026. Any extended stay, either before or after the official dates of the event, is the sole responsibility of the delegation concerned and will not be covered or arranged by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). To ensure smooth logistics, the LOC will provide organized transportation from the official port of entry to the designated accommodation in Belgrade, as well as return transfers at the end of the event.



VISA

Each participating delegation is required to check whether a visa is needed to enter Serbia. Please contact the related Embassy or Consulate to consult the visa application procedure.

More information you can find following next link:

<https://welcometoserbia.gov.rs/>

For any request for invitation letters or any queries over VISA, please contact: skolskisport@mos.gov.rs



INSURANCE

Each participating delegation is required to provide insurance for each member of its delegation. At a minimum, the insurance is to cover civil liability, material damage and medical costs.



➤ COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

Each delegation shall consists of:

- 1. Head of delegation - mandatory;**
- 2. Student athletes - mandatory;**
- 3. Team official(s)**
 - a. Coaches - mandatory;**
 - b. Other team officials - optional;**
- 4. Additional adults - optional**

NOTE:

Any other persone not specified during registration or exceeding the quotas specified in this document will not be considered part of the official delegation and will not be accredited by the LOC.

HEAD OF DELEGATION

There is a mandatory number of one (1) head of delegation per register delegation.

- The head of delegation shall be the sole intermediary between the delegation and the Local Organising Committee, the ESSF Delegate.
- He/she may not combine the function with any other official role (i.e., coach, referee, etc.).

STUDENT ATHLETES

Each team shall be composed of minimum eight (8) to maximum twelve (12) student athletes.

The following students may take part in the ESSF events as part of the team :

- The students are enrolled as full-time students at a school in the country in which they represent.
- The student-athletes must be attending schools that provide general education and/or vocational education incorporating segments of general education.
- Only the students registered on the team list that was handed in at accreditation are authorized to take part in this competition.

The following are not eligible to participate:

- Attendees of vocational schools only attend school as a complement to their vocational training and are not full-time students with a segment of general education.
- Students enrolled at schools that provide sports training without any general education.

TEAM OFFICIALS (COACHES AND OTHER TEAM OFFICIALS)

COACHES

- Each team, shall be register a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of two (2) coaches.
- The coach trains and guides the team in the competition.

OTHER TEAM OFFICIALS

- Each team can enter (optional) maximum2 other team officials.
- The function of each other team officials must be specified during the registration process(Doctor, Physiotherapist, Trainer, Statistician, Team manager etc.).

➤ COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

FIELD OF PLAY OFFICIALS

- There is a mandatory of 1 referee per team.
- The Field of play officials cannot combine their position with other positions, such as heads of delegation, team officials, or additional adults. Field of play officials (referees) must accept the possibility they might be in the referee or assistant referee position at the event matches.
- Referees are full members of the delegations and are subject to the same conditions with the other delegation members.
- Referees have to be International licensed or be at the highest National level. Delegations must provide certificates for the field of play officials during the registration process.
- Failure to provide the required number of Field of play officials (referees) will lead to a fine of 600 EUR per referee payable to the organizer.

ADDITIONAL ADULTS

- Delegations can register unlimited number of additional adults.
- The function of each additional adult must be specified during the registration process (interpreter, security personnel, ministry representative, media, parents, etc.).

PARTICIPANTS OBLIGATIONS

- Each participant is required to be present throughout the whole duration of the event.
- Each participant is obliged to take part also in all of the non-sport activities.
- Each team undertakes to compete against all other participating teams.
- Each participant undertakes to compete against all other participants.
- The absence of any member of a participating team from any part of the entire sport program, opening, prize-giving and closing ceremonies and sociocultural program may result in the team being excluded from the results.



Participants according to number of registered teams						
EXAMPLE						
Head of Delegation	Student Athletes	Team Officials		Referees	Additional Adults	Total
		Coaches	Other team officials			
(min - max)	(min - max)	(min - max)	(min - max)	(min - max)	(example)	(min - max)
1	10-12	1 - 2	0 - 2	1	0 - 2	13-20
1	20-24	2 - 4	0 - 4	2	0 - 2	25-37
1	30-36	3 - 4	0 - 6	3	0 - 4	37-56
1	40-48	4 - 8	0 - 8	4	0 - 4	49-73



➤ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CURRENCY

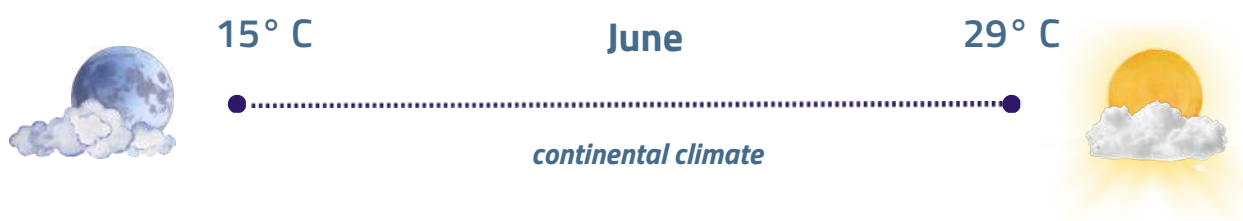
- Serbian Dinar (RSD)

Exchange rate: 1 euro (EUR) ≈ 117 Serbian Dinar (RSD)

TIME ZONE

- Central European Summer Time (CEST), UTC+2

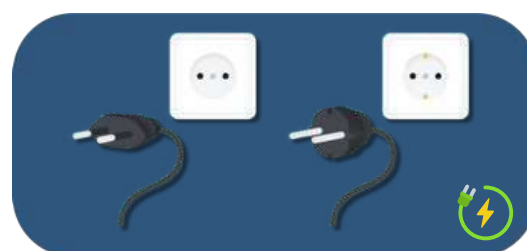
WEATHER IN SERBIA, BELGRADE



POWER PLUG

For Serbia - Belgrade there are two associated plug types, types C and F.

- Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins, and plug type F is the plug which has two round pins with two earth clips on the side.
- Belgrade operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- 📞 General emergency number: 112 (connects to police, ambulance, or fire service – available 24/7)
- 🚑 Ambulance: 194
- 🚔 Police: 192
- 🔥 Fire department: 193
- 😊 Safeguarding & Welfare Officer (LOC): Ivana +381 64 176 66 06 – for any issue involving minors' safety or wellbeing
- ☎️ LOC 24/7 hotline: +391 64 279 32 93 – for urgent event-related issues: transport, accommodation

➤ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CREDIT CARDS

All major credit cards are accepted.

VACCINES

There are no mandatory vaccines specifically required for travel to Serbia, Belgrade.

LOCAL SIM CARDS

Major Mobile Operators in Serbia:

- MTS (Telekom Serbia)
- Yettel Serbia
- A1 Serbia

Price: All operators are in the price range from 5eur to 15eur depending on the plan

Where to Buy: Operator stores, airports, kiosks, supermarkets.

WATER

Tap water is drinkable

EXCHANGE OFFICE

Participants arriving for the competition can exchange foreign currency at several official exchange offices located in the city. We recommend using authorized exchange services to ensure fair rates and avoid potential issues.

Most exchange offices are open from 08:00 to 20:00, including weekends. Some banks also offer currency exchange services during their working hours.

SAFETY

Serbia is generally a safe country for travelers. Violent crime is rare, and tourists can move freely in cities and rural areas. However, as in any destination, it's good to stay cautious and aware of your surroundings.

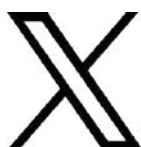
➤ COMMUNICATION

GET IN TOUCH WITH ESSF!

Show us how your country/region and teams are getting ready for the event and send us your teams pictures, preparation, and videos.



@ESSFsports



@ESSFsports



@ESSFsports



@essfsports



/essfsports



@essfsports

Don't forget to tag and follow ESSF social media accounts and use the hashtag of the event:

#essfsports #essfBasket3x3U18 #ESSFBelgrade2026

Other communication channels

ESSF Website: www.europeanschoolsport.com



SPORT



➤ COMPETITION VENUE



The competition will take place at the Partizan Stadium complex and its accompanying facilities. The outdoor 3x3 court has been fully modernized according to FIBA 3x3 standards, providing an ideal setting for high-level competition. In case of unfavorable weather conditions, the competition may be moved indoors to halls adapted for 3x3 play. However, as the event is scheduled during the summer period, the outdoor venue is expected to be used. Below you can find images of the Partizan Stadium complex and the 3x3 court.



More detailed information will be provided in Bulletin 2 and the official Competition Handbook.

➤ SPORT SPECIFICS

EVENT FORMAT

Teams Competition

TEAM FORMAT

School Teams

GENDER CATEGORY

Boys / Girls



AGE CATEGORY

U18: Students aged 16, 17, and 18 on the last day of the competition in 2026 (students born in 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007). Students born in 2007 must be 18 years old on the last day of the competition.

TEAM COMPOSITION

School Team: A team formed by student-athletes enrolled in the same school and representing the same country.

MAXIMUM TEAMS PER DELEGATION

Each delegation may enter more than one team per gender category.

PARTICIPATION

This event is open for participation to:

- **ESSF Members:** School sport entities recognized by the ESSF General Assembly and in compliance with their rights and obligations.
- **Non-ESSF Members:** The highest institution responsible for school sport in countries not yet members of ESSF.
- **Directly Applying Schools (DAS):** Schools recognized by their National School Sport Federation or other legal entities. Directly applying schools can either be: a school affiliated and registered through an ESSF member, or a school affiliated and registered through a non-ESSF member

FAIR PLAY

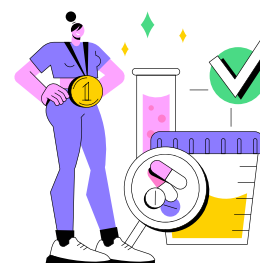
The ESSF promotes fair play as a core value at all its events. Respect for opponents, referees, and the rules of the game is expected from all participants. At the conclusion of the tournament, a Fair Play Trophy will be awarded to the team demonstrating the highest standards of sportsmanship.



ANTI-DOPING

The ESSF strongly promotes clean sport as one of the core values of its events. Doping control may be conducted in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code and the International Standards for Testing and Investigations (ISTI), taking into consideration the age category and the risk assessment of the sport.

The ESSF also supports preventive education initiatives aimed at raising awareness among young athletes about the risks and consequences of doping, emphasizing fair play and integrity as essential principles of sport.



MEDICAL SERVICES

At all ESSF events, medical services will be present in each hall where matches are played. The Local Organizing Committee will provide full support in this regard and, if necessary, will also assist teams in connecting with medical services outside the venues.



➤ TECHNICAL RULES

GAME RULES



All matches are played in accordance with FIBA 3x3 Official Rules of the Game and ESSF regulations.

- Game duration: 10 minutes of actual playing time or until one team scores 21 points.
- Scoring: Baskets made inside the arc count as 1 point; shots made from beyond the arc count as 2 points.
- Team composition: 3 players on the court and 1 substitute (maximum 4 players per team).
- Shot clock: 12 seconds per possession.
- Ball: Official FIBA 3x3 size 6 ball (size 6 weight, size 7 circumference).
- Possession: After each made basket, the opposing team resumes play by dribbling or passing the ball beyond the arc.
- Substitutions: Allowed only during dead-ball situations before a check-ball.
- Fouls: A team is in penalty situation after 6 team fouls. From the 7th team foul, two free throws are awarded; from the 10th foul, two free throws plus ball possession.
- Timeouts: Each team may call one 30-second timeout per game.
- Overtime: If the score is tied at the end of regulation, the first team to score 2 points in overtime wins.
- Possession in overtime: Determined by coin toss.
- Late arrival: Teams arriving more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start automatically lose 0-21.
- Equipment: Players must wear numbered jerseys (1-99)



SPECIAL REGULATIONS

- Uniforms: Each team must wear matching uniforms with clearly visible numbers on both the front and back.
- Bench & Coaching Staff: Each team is allowed up to 4 players, with a maximum of 2 coaching staff members on the bench.
- Protests & Disputes: Any protest must be submitted in writing within 30 minutes after the match to the competition committee.
- Any serious unsportsmanlike behavior (such as offensive language or aggression) results in an immediate ejection and possible suspension from the next match.

➤ DISCIPLINARY MANAGEMENT

EVENT DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION



The ESSF Event Disciplinary Commission shall deal with all incidents and all violations of the ESSF Statutes, Sports Policy, ESSF Handbook, Rules, and any other ESSF document linked to the ESSF events, as well as with misbehavior not directly related to the sports technical regulations during an ESSF event.

The Event Disciplinary Commission is composed of the ESSF Delegate, the National Federation Delegate and the LOC President.

APPEAL JURY



The ESSF Appeal Jury shall deal with all protests of a technical sporting nature during the competition.

The Appeal Jury is composed of the President of the Technical Commission, one representative of the Local Organising Committee, and the Head of the Field of Play Officials.

In each sports hall where matches are played, an official appeal form will be available at the scorer's table. Any team wishing to file a protest concerning refereeing or technical matters must complete the form, which shall be signed either by the coach or the Head of Delegation and submitted to the scorer's table. The protest will then be forwarded to the Appeal Jury for review.

A protest fee of 50 EUR is to be paid to the Local Organising Committee at the moment of submission. In case the protest is accepted, the fee will be refunded.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT



➤ REGISTRATION

HOW TO REGISTER

All members/schools who intend to participate in the event should fill in a registration form, which can be found enclosed to Bulletin 1. All application to be sent to the email: info@europeanschoolsport.com

The registration process is divided into 2 phases:

December 05, 2025 Opening of registration phase 1

March 05, 2026 Closing of sign up Phase 1

March 05, 2026 Payment of deposit deadline

April 05, 2026 Opening of registration phase 2

May 05 2026 Closing of registration Phase 2

June 05, 2026 Payment of final balance deadline

- *It is also possible to make the payment upon arrival, provided that it is agreed in advance and approved by the LOC*

PHASE 1

December 05, 2025 - March 05, 2026

During registration phase 1 registering delegations shall indicate their intention of participating, the number of teams per category that they wish to enter, and an exact number of participants per team. All ESSF members and Non – ESSF members are expected to pay the deposits for their teams or reach an agreement with the ESSF by February 05, 2026.

PHASE 2

April 05, 2026 - May 05, 2026

During registration phase 2, countries are expected to enter the exact detailed information for each participant (name, date of birth, gender, photo, dietary requirements). In addition, submitting the travel plan is required. Registration form 2 will be sent on delegation e-mail.



Registration Deadlines Summary

December 05, 2025	Opening of registration phase 1
March 05, 2026 (23:59 CET) *deposit payment	Closing of registration phase 1
April 05, 2026	Opening of registration phase 2
May 05, 2026 (23:59 CET)	Closing of registration phase 2
June 05, 2026 (23:59 CET)	Payment of final balance deadline

➤ FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

To participate, each Delegation is required to make two (2) payments:

1. Deposit payment
2. Balance fee payment

DEPOSIT PAYMENT

Along with the entry and in order to have access to registration phase 2, participating country will need to pay a deposit of **100€** per participant entered in Phase 1.

Please note that the participation to the event is granted only by the deposit payment.

Deadline of deposit payment: **March 05, 2026 (23:59 CET)**

The sum will be deducted from the total participation cost.

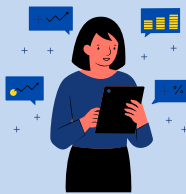
The deposit must be sent as a single payment for the whole delegation by the organisation responsible for school sport (federation, trust, ministry...).

- The deposit is non-refundable in the event of non-participation.
- Waivers to the payment of the deposit, for whatever reasons, are to be discussed with the ESSF office and to be agreed upon before the deposit payment deadlines.

The deposit for the registered teams per category shall be paid by **March 05, 2026 (23:59 CET)**

If the deposit is not paid within the given deadline, the registrations will not be considered valid and the team will be automatically deleted.

Deposit shall be paid by bank transfer to the following account (all bank charges are to be met by the participating country):



Name of the bank: ERSTE BANK A.D.

Address of the bank: Bulevar oslobođenja 5, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

BIC (Swift Code) : GIBARS22

Payee/holder: SAVEZ ZA SKOLSKI SPORT SRBIJE

Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 2, Beograd, Novi Beograd, SRBIJA

IBAN: RS35340000001011968241

Reference: ESSF Basketball 3x3 2026 registration fee + name of participating country-team

BALANCE FEE PAYMENT

The balance fee payment is the participation fee minus the deposit which has already been paid. The balance fee payment is to be paid before **June 05, 2026 (23:59 CET)**, or upon arrival if agreed in advance and approved by the LOC.

PARTICIPATION FEE

The participation fee covers full board accommodation for the duration of the event plus competition, cultural program activities and all local transport from the arrival to the official port of entry to the departure of the team.

The participation fee is composed of:

Accommodation Rates by night:

- 3* hotel - 60€ night/delegation member
- 4* hotel - 80€ night/delegation member
- 5* hotel - 100€ night/delegation member



ESSF levy:

- 40€ per delegation member (ESSF member)
- 100€ per delegation member (non ESSF member)

RATES BY NIGHT

Team member	Occupancy	3* hotel	4* hotel	5* hotel
Head of Delegation	Single occupancy	60€	80€	100€
Coach	Double occupancy	60€	80€	100€
	Single occupancy	120€	160€	200€
Athlete	2-4 bedded rooms	60€	80€	100€
Additional adult	Double occupancy	60€	80€	100€
	Single occupancy	120€	160€	200€
Other Team official	Double occupancy	60€	80€	100€
	Single occupancy	120€	160€	200€
Field of Play official	Double occupancy	60€	80€	100€
	Single occupancy	120€	160€	200€

The table below shows an overview of the minimum participation fee per participant in 3* hotel

No. Nights		Rate by night (min)		ESSF levy	Total (minimum/participant)
6	x	60€	+	40€	400€

The table below shows an overview of the minimum participation fee per participant in 4* hotel

No. Nights		Rate by night (min)		ESSF levy	Total (minimum/participant)
6	x	80€	+	40€	520 €

The table below shows an overview of the minimum participation fee per participant in 5* hotel

No. Nights		Rate by night (min)		ESSF levy	Total (minimum/participant)
5	x	100€	+	40€	640 €

CHARITY GALA DINNER

More information on the Gala dinner will be given in Bulletin 2. The participation to the gala dinner will be declared over the registration process Phase 2. The balance fee payment is to be paid before the start of the event to the following LOC account (all bank charges are to be met by the participating country).



SEE YOU IN BELGRADE

FOR A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!



13-19 JUNE 2026