



## Water Polo Events (2)

Men's

Women's

## How Olympic Water Polo Works

Water polo is a competition between two teams of seven players. The objective of the game is to score points by throwing the ball into the opposing team's goal over the course of a four eight-minute quarter game.

The pool is three meters deep, so the players are either swimming or treading water during the entire game. Players may only hold the ball with one hand with the exception of the goalkeeper.

The goalkeeper is allowed to block a shot attempt and can even punch the ball out of the air. However, a goalkeeper cannot push the ball underwater and they are only given the ability to touch the ball with two hands in the five-meter area in front of their goal (not unlike the box in soccer).

Once a team gains possession of the ball, a 30-second shot clock starts counting down and is reset when a shot is attempted or when the other team gains possession of the ball. The team with the ball can pass the ball or swim forward with the ball in an effort to get as close to the goal as possible for the most ideal shot attempt. The game itself is very physical and players often make contact with one another. However, there are several rules in place and a violation of those rules results in a penalty.

Penalties include "holding" or "sinking" a player on the offensive team who doesn't have possession of the ball. Splashing water into the face of an opponent also results in a penalty. There are three levels of violations. A *minor foul* results in a brief stoppage of play to allow the offended team to restart their possession. A player who commits a *major foul* is "kicked out" for 20 seconds and swims to the equivalent of the penalty box. The fouled team has the "man up" advantage for 20 seconds or until they score or lose possession of the ball. A player fouls out if they receive three major fouls in the same game. The fouled player may receive a *penalty shot* if the foul occurred during a potential scoring chance. This penalty shot is awarded at the five-meter line and only the goalkeeper is allowed to defend the shot attempt.

## Tournament Format

Both the men's and women's events begin with **group play**. The teams are separated into two groups. Each team will face each of the opposing teams in their respective groups and the top four teams will advance to the **knockout stage** of the tournament. In the quarterfinal round, the losing teams are out of medal contention but will still have the opportunity to compete in "placement matches" to determine the 5th-8th places.

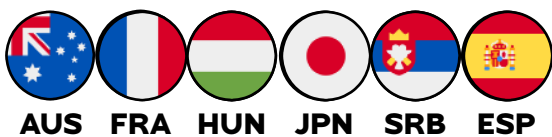
### Why the funny hats?

They might look a bit funny, but there's a few specific reasons why water polo players wear "caps". For one, the caps are both colored and numbered so that a team and a player can be identified. The padding also prevents possible head injuries from the water polo ball or from overly aggressive defenders.

### Men's Group A



### Men's Group B



### Women's Group A



### Women's Group B



Photo via Paris 2024

## Men's Water Polo Schedule

Events in ET, medal events in **bold**, **Team USA in blue**

Date	Time	Group	Event
Sun, July 28	4:30 AM	B	Australia vs. Spain
Sun, July 28	6:05 AM	B	Serbia vs. Japan
Sun, July 28	9:00 AM	A	Italy vs. United States
Sun, July 28	10:35 AM	A	Croatia vs. Montenegro
Sun, July 28	1:30 PM	B	France vs. Hungary
Sun, July 28	3:05 PM	A	Romania vs. Greece
Tue, July 30	4:30 AM	B	Australia vs. Serbia
Tue, July 30	6:05 AM	A	Croatia vs. Italy
Tue, July 30	9:00 AM	B	Japan vs. France
Tue, July 30	10:35 AM	A	United States vs. Romania
Tue, July 30	1:30 PM	A	Montenegro vs. Greece
Tue, July 30	3:05 PM	B	Spain vs. Hungary
Thu, Aug 1	4:30 AM	A	Greece vs. United States
Thu, Aug 1	6:05 AM	B	Serbia vs. Spain
Thu, Aug 1	9:00 AM	B	France vs. Australia
Thu, Aug 1	10:35 AM	A	Italy vs. Montenegro
Thu, Aug 1	1:30 PM	A	Romania vs. Croatia
Thu, Aug 1	3:05 PM	B	Hungary vs. Japan
Sat, Aug 3	4:30 AM	B	Spain vs. Japan
Sat, Aug 3	6:05 AM	A	Croatia vs. Greece
Sat, Aug 3	9:00 AM	B	Australia vs. Hungary
Sat, Aug 3	10:35 AM	A	Montenegro vs. United States
Sat, Aug 3	1:30 PM	B	Serbia vs. France
Sat, Aug 3	3:05 PM	A	Italy vs. Romania
Mon, Aug 5	6:00 AM	B	Hungary vs. Serbia
Mon, Aug 5	7:35 AM	B	Australia vs. Japan
Mon, Aug 5	9:10 AM	A	Greece vs. Italy
Mon, Aug 5	12:30 PM	A	Croatia vs. United States
Mon, Aug 5	2:05 PM	B	France vs. Spain
Mon, Aug 5	3:40 PM	A	Romania vs. Montenegro
Wed, Aug 7	8:00 AM		Quarterfinal #1
Wed, Aug 7	9:35 AM		Quarterfinal #2
Wed, Aug 7	1:00 PM		Quarterfinal #3
Wed, Aug 7	2:35 PM		Quarterfinal #4
Fri, Aug 9	7:00 AM		Classification Match
Fri, Aug 9	8:35 AM		Semifinal #1
Fri, Aug 9	12:00 PM		Classification Match
Fri, Aug 9	1:35 PM		Semifinal #2
Sat, Aug 10	1:35 PM		7th Place Match
Sun, Aug 11	3:00 AM		5th Place Match
Sun, Aug 11	4:35 AM		<b>Bronze Medal Match</b>
Sun, Aug 11	8:00 AM		<b>Gold Medal Match</b>

## Women's Water Polo Schedule

Events in ET, medal events in **bold**, **Team USA in blue**

Date	Time	Group	Event
Sat, July 27	8:00 AM	A	Netherlands vs. Hungary
Sat, July 27	9:35 AM	B	Greece vs. United States
Sat, July 27	12:30 PM	B	Spain vs. France
Sat, July 27	2:05 PM	A	Australia vs. China
Mon, July 29	8:00 AM	B	France vs. Italy
Mon, July 29	9:35 AM	B	United States vs. Spain
Mon, July 29	12:30 PM	A	China vs. Netherlands
Mon, July 29	2:05 PM	A	Hungary vs. Canada
Wed, July 31	8:00 AM	A	Netherlands vs. Australia
Wed, July 31	9:35 AM	A	Canada vs. China
Wed, July 31	12:30 PM	B	Italy vs. United States
Wed, July 31	2:05 PM	B	Spain vs. Greece
Fri, Aug 2	8:00 AM	A	Australia vs. Canada
Fri, Aug 2	9:35 AM	B	Greece vs. Italy
Fri, Aug 2	12:30 PM	B	United States vs. France
Fri, Aug 2	2:05 PM	A	China vs. Hungary
Sun, Aug 4	8:00 AM	B	Hungary vs. Australia
Sun, Aug 4	9:35 AM	A	Italy vs. Spain
Sun, Aug 4	12:30 PM	A	Canada vs. Netherlands
Sun, Aug 4	2:05 PM	B	France vs. Greece
Tue, Aug 6	8:00 AM		Quarterfinal #1
Tue, Aug 6	9:35 AM		Quarterfinal #2
Tue, Aug 6	12:30 PM		Quarterfinal #3
Tue, Aug 6	2:05 PM		Quarterfinal #4
Thu, Aug 8	7:00 AM		Classification Match
Thu, Aug 8	8:35 AM		Semifinal #1
Thu, Aug 8	12:00 PM		Classification Match
Thu, Aug 8	1:35 PM		Semifinal #2
Sat, Aug 10	3:00 AM		7th Place Match
Sat, Aug 10	4:35 AM		<b>Bronze Medal Match</b>
Sat, Aug 10	8:00 AM		5th Place Match
Sat, Aug 10	9:35 AM		<b>Gold Medal Match</b>

Photo via Sports Illustrated

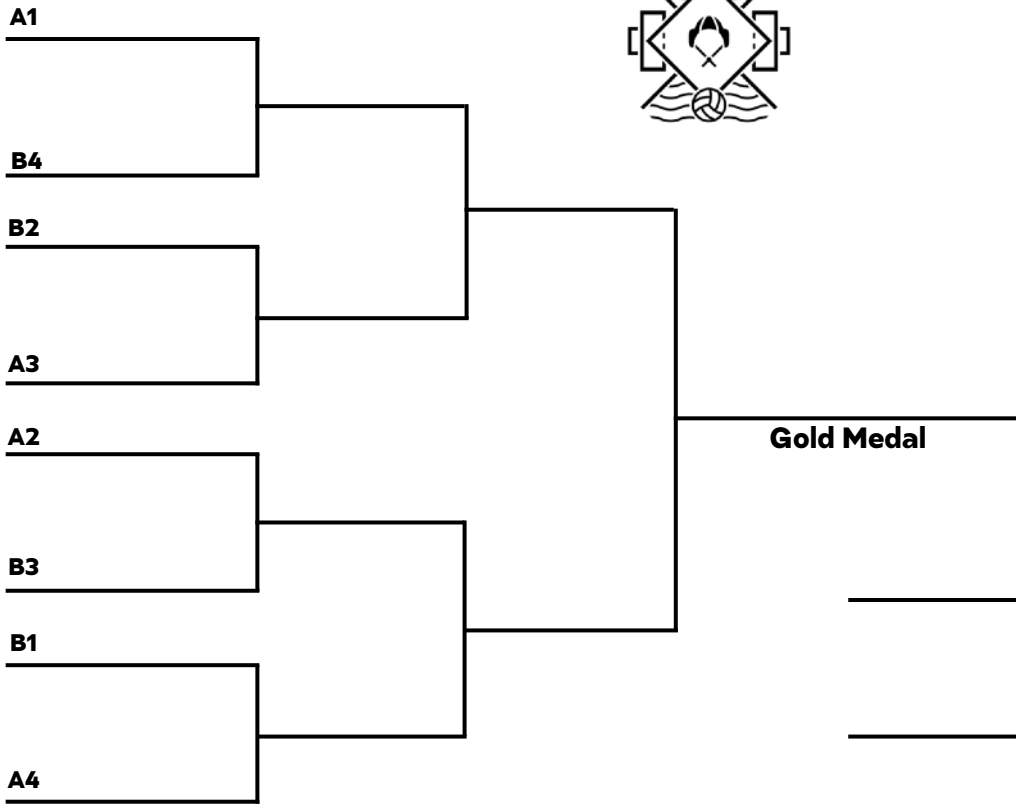


### Team USA Dominance

The women's water polo team is searching for their fourth-straight gold medal in Tokyo. Captain Maggie Steffens was on the team for each of the past three victories and would be the first olympic water polo player to win four gold medals.



### Men's Bracket



### Brackets

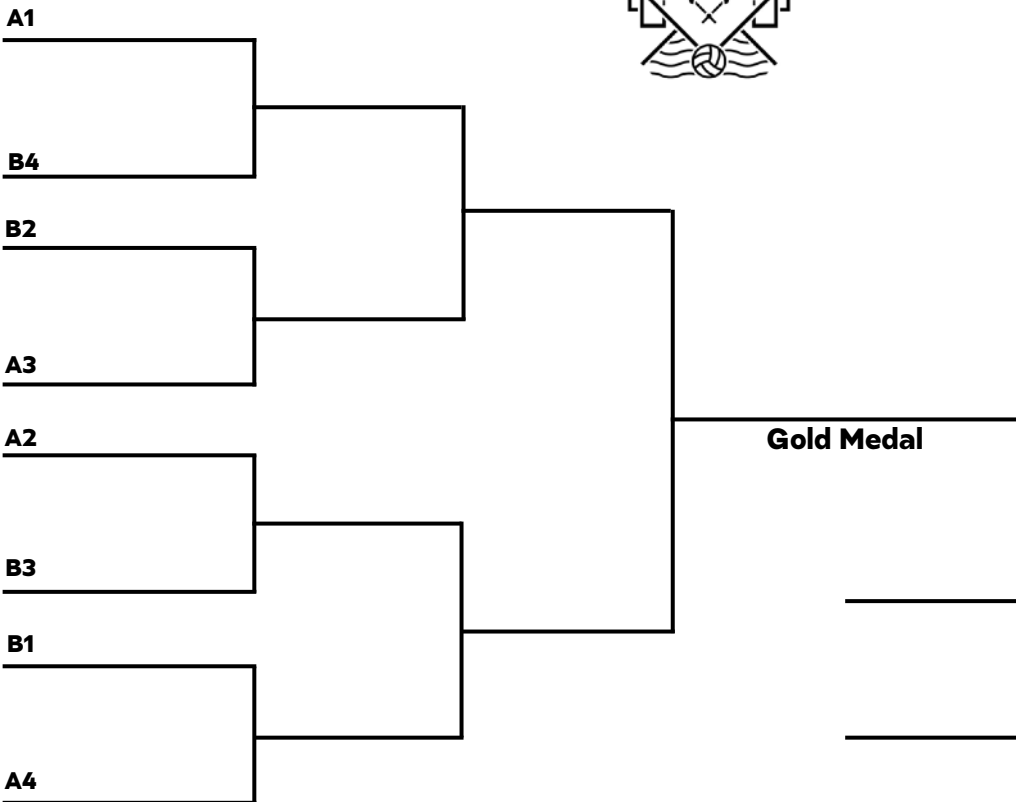
**2020 Results**

**SERBIA**

**GREECE**

**HUNGARY**

### Women's Bracket



**2020 Results**

**UNITED STATES**

**SPAIN**

**HUNGARY**