

2026 CMAS World Championship Underwater Hockey Age Group

KOCAELI / GEBZE

16th / 26th July 2026





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2. Introduction

Dear Underwater Hockey Community,

We are excited to announce and cordially invite you to participate in the 2026 CMAS Underwater Hockey World Championships Age Group Divisions. This prestigious event brings together the world's best young athletes for 10 days of fierce competition, camaraderie, and sporting excellence.

The CMAS Underwater Hockey World Championships are the pinnacle of international competition for our sport. The age group categories provide a unique opportunity for talented young players to showcase their skills on the global stage, foster international friendships, and experience the thrill of representing their country.

We look forward to welcoming you and your teams for an unforgettable experience in Türkiye at the 2026 CMAS Underwater Hockey World Championship Age Group.

Warm regards,

Graham Henderson,
CMAS UWH Commission Director

Invitation from the President (TSSF)

To the Esteemed Attention of the Federations,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincerest greetings on behalf of the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation.

As you are aware, the CMAS 2021 World Championship Underwater Hockey Age Groups was previously awarded to our country. However, due to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating earthquake that struck our nation at that time, we were unfortunately unable to carry out this important event despite our strong intentions and preparations.

Following the national federation elections held in 2025, there has been a change in the administration of the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation. With our new management, I, Kadir Sağlam, as the President of the Federation, would like to express our sincere desire and great pleasure in hosting the 2026 CMAS World Championship Underwater Hockey Age Groups.

We have the necessary infrastructure, an experienced organizing team, and strong support from local authorities. We are fully confident in our ability to organize this prestigious championship at the highest level and in alignment with the values of CMAS.

It will be a great honour and pleasure for us to host the international underwater hockey community in our country in 2026.

Sincerely,

Kadir Sağlam President
Turkish Underwater Sports Federations (TSSF)

3. LOC Organisers

LOC PRESIDENT :

Kadir Sağlam was born in Trabzon in 1981 and graduated from Karadeniz Technical University, Department of Physical Education Teaching in 2004. He is a 2-star diving instructor and a lifeguard instructor. He speaks fluent Russian and English. He is married with 2 children.

Administration- Media, Website and Marketing :

Emrah Akpınar, was born in Ankara and graduated from computer hardware and programming. He worked as an IT Specialist in the Ministry of Sports for 12 years. He currently works as an IT Specialist in the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation. will organize the website

Funding/ Financial :

Gökhan Şahin , Gazi University Accounting graduate, worked in the accounting departments of federations for many years. Will be responsible for invoicing in the competition

Ceremonies/ Party :

İrfan Kara, The General Coordinator at the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation will serve as the on-site coordinator to ensure the smooth operation of the organization.

Melike Selin Keleş , I worked in the organization department of the Federations' Turkish, European and World Champions for many years. I am a graduate of Çankaya University, Political Science and International Relations, I will be the coordinator of the personnel in accommodation, transfer and ceremonies.

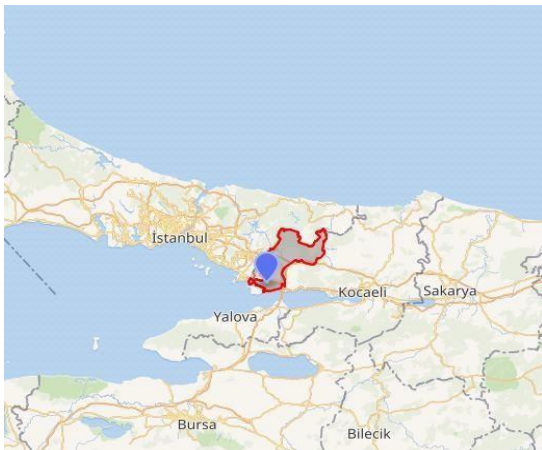
Cihan Özdemir, a highly experienced referee in the technical field, will work with us to ensure the smooth execution of operations within the competition area. Cihan Özdemir, a highly experienced referee in the technical field, will work with us to ensure the smooth execution of operations within the competition area.

4. About Gebze

Gebze is a rapidly growing district of Türkiye with a rich historical past, a registered area of the Gulf of İzmit in the Marmara Region and connected to the Kocaeli line, and its economy is largely based on industry.

Mediterranean and Black Sea climates and the climate reflect the characteristics of the Continental Climate. Summers in the district are hot and rainy, winters are rainy and warm accordingly.

The economic tourism points of the district are Çoban Mustafa Pasha Complex, Hannibal Tomb, Ballıkayalar Nature Park, Osman Hamdi Bey House and Museum. The only museum in the district is the Osman Hamdi Bey House and Museum in Eskişehir. There are two nature parks within the district borders, Ballıkayalar and Gazilerdağı.





5. Contact Information

The following table shows the contact information for the bid team.

Table 1: Contact information.

Role	Name	Contact Email
Venue, city and government relations:	Melike Selin Keleş	uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr
Accommodations :	Melike Selin Keleş	uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr
Transport :	Melike Selin Keleş	uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr
Communication :	Melike Selin Keleş	uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr

Tournament official e-mail address: uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr

Official tournament web site: <https://uwhgebze2026.com/>

Instagram:

Turkish Underwater Sports Federation:

Melike Selin Keleş	+905309931996	info@tssf.gov.tr
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Kadir Sağlam – President of the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation

As the President of the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation, Kadir Sağlam plays a pivotal role in the development of the federation both nationally and internationally, thanks to his leadership, vision, and dedication to the sport. His innovative approach and supportive management style have been instrumental in promoting underwater sports to wider audiences across the country.

İrfan Kara – General Coordinator

As the General Coordinator, İrfan Kara will be responsible for planning all processes of the organization and ensuring their smooth execution on-site. Representing the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation, he will oversee coordination efforts and establish effective communication among relevant units, contributing to the successful delivery of the championship.

Emrah Akpınar – Information Technology Specialist

After serving for many years at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Emrah Akpınar has joined our federation, bringing valuable expertise in IT infrastructure and social media management. With his technical proficiency and public sector experience, he will play a key role in managing the organization's digital operations and communication channels effectively.



6. Tournament Divisions

Each national federation can participate with One team per division
The divisions are as follows:

Men	Women	Age
U24	U24	The age category is 19-23 inclusive. (2003-2007 born)
U19	U19	The age category is 15-18 inclusive. (2008-2011 born)*

- A player whose age places them in the Under-19 division may compete in the Under-24 grade only if they are 18 years of age or older (adult) before the date of the first day of competition (ie before 18th July 2026)
- All participating athletes must purchase a CMAS Sport Licence and be registered on the CMAS Portal through their federation. All coaches, Managers and Support Staff must also be registered on the CMAS Portal but do not require a sport licence

7. Visa Requirements

If you require a visa please contact Turkish Embassy or consulate in your country of residence.
To facilitate the visa process, please send a list of participants' names, dates of birth and passport numbers to the tournament e-mail address (uw2026@tssf.gov.tr) and we can provide you with the required invitation letter.

8. Venue

GEBZE OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

There are 3 pools in the same area:

- 12 meters long, 4 meters wide pool
- Semi-Olympic swimming pool: 12.5 meters wide, 25 meters long (suitable for warm-up)
- Full Olympic swimming pool: 50x25 meters, Olympic depth 2 meters

Changing Rooms: 4 male (80 people), 4 female (80 people) / Total capacity 120 people, extra 30 can be added = Total 150 people

Toilets and Showers: 4 WC / 2 shower areas

Tribunes: Capacity 750 people

40-person protocol tribune

1 media tribune

Other Facilities:

- 1 Sound control room
- 1 Spider cam
- 1 Referee room
- 1 Doping room
- 1 Press room
- Health room
- Referee meeting room / 50-person capacity
- Meeting room / 50-person capacity
- Fitness Centre
- Sauna
- Open parking lot for 500 vehicles
- 24/7 Security

GEBZE OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL



AGE GROUP INFORMATION PACK

The Gebze Olympic Swimming Pool is not only a venue for the competitions but also provides a comfortable, safe, and versatile living space for athletes, coaches, referees, and guests. The additional facilities available at the venue are as follows:

Dedicated Catering Area for VIP Guests: Special refreshment and relaxation areas will be provided throughout the tournament for official representatives, guests, and sponsors.

Cafeteria and Restaurant Areas: Hygienic food and beverage areas offering a variety of menus for athletes, teams, and spectators are available.

Health and First Aid Rooms: Fully equipped health rooms, infirmaries, and isolation areas will serve for emergency interventions related to athlete health.

Spacious Shower and Changing Rooms: Modern and high-capacity shower and changing facilities are available separately for male and female athletes.

Warm-up Rooms and Training Areas: Appropriate physical spaces are allocated for pre- competition warm-ups and team preparations.

Meeting and Briefing Rooms: Equipped rooms for technical meetings with team captains, coaches, and referees are provided.

Press and Media Areas: Special stands, press rooms, and workspaces are allocated for local and international media representatives.

High-Speed Internet Infrastructure: Continuous and high-bandwidth internet access will be available throughout the facility.

Disabled Access: All areas are designed with accessibility infrastructure suitable for disabled athletes and spectators.

Equipment Storage and Security Safes: Secure storage areas are provided for teams to safely keep their personal and technical equipment.

Volunteer Working Areas: Guidance, rest, and support areas are planned for volunteers involved in the organization team.

Live Broadcast and Technological Infrastructure: A comprehensive broadcast infrastructure with multi-camera systems, sound control rooms, and commentator areas has been established for live streaming of the competitions.



9. Ceremonies and social events

Opening Ceremony: Will be held at a seaside venue with festive marching bands performing.

Tournament Party: Will be held in the ballroom of the main hotel, Crowne Plaza Istanbul Asia by IHG, offering participants a social gathering opportunity.

Closing Ceremony: Will take place at the competition pool, where matches are held, concluding the tournament in a grand yet friendly atmosphere.

Cultural Events: Turkish nights will be organized at the hotels, featuring music, dance performances, traditional cuisine, and cultural shows. Special Tour: One day during the tournament, a special Bosphorus boat tour with dinner will be arranged exclusively for CMAS guests.



10. Tournament Schedule and Rules

The tournament will be held from 16th /26th July to 2026.

The proposed schedule is shown below.

Tournament Days										
-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16 th July	17 th July	18 th July	19 th July	20 th July	21 st July	22 nd July	23 rd July	24 th July	25 th July	26 th July
Paid Training Day	Paid Training Day	Registration	Round Robin	Round Robin	Round Robin	Round Robin	Round Robin, Robin, ½ Finals &	Semifinals & Playoff	Finals & Playoffs Closing	Departure
		Referee Orientation								
		Coaches Briefing								
		Referee Fitness Test								
		Registration and Gear Check								
		Team Practice (No Referees)								
		Team Practice (No Referees)								
		Team Practice (Referees Available)								
		Break								
		Opening Ceremony								

Rules

The event will be organised under the following rules and guidelines:

- CMAS Tournament Regulations for Underwater Hockey Competitions (Previously 'Procedures & Obligations) – Version 1, February 2025
- International Rules for Underwater Hockey Rules of Play Version 13.0
- UWH Concussion Policy
- Rules Determination Delay of Game (The Corner Rule)
- CMAS UWH Equipment Guide
- Player Eligibility
- All official documents are available on the CMAS website in the Underwater Hockey regulations subpage at <https://www.cmas.org/hockey/how-to-regulations.html>

11. Eligibility

National Federation teams are invited to participate in this World Championship event, provided they are affiliated with CMAS and meet the player eligibility rules.

Each national team must comply with CMAS event rules, the safety requirements set by the organizers, and all other CMAS rules and regulations, including the registration on the CMAS Portal



12. Player Selection and Team Replacement

Teams must be selected before the submission of the team list and player profiles on 1st May 2026. Players may be replaced between 1st May and tournament registration only with the UWH Commission's written consent.

13. Training

All teams will get allocated training time for all sessions. Paid training will come on a 1st in 1st served basis

Organised Training Time

Teams wishing to arrive earlier than the scheduled orientation and training days are welcome to train on 16th and 17th July 2026.

Training fees must be paid by the teams and are **75 Euros per 45-minute slot**.

Bookings can be made online via the tournament website, and teams are also requested to send their training requests directly to the organiser at: uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr

14. Team Registration Form

The preliminary declaration of participating teams and their estimated numbers to be submitted online via website and please also email signed copy to the organiser. (uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr)

15. Team Entry Fees and Form

Team Entry Fees layout is as follows.

Team Entry Fees	
1st Team	3500 Euro
2nd Team	3500 Euro
3rd Team	3250 Euro
4th Team	3000 Euro

It should be submitted online via the website and please also email a signed copy to the organiser. (uwh2026@tssf.gov.tr)

- All fees are to be paid in Euro and not include transaction cost.



16. Referees

The referees for the tournament will be nominated by the CMAS UWH Referee Working Group. An interest survey will be sent to all L3's (inactive or active) and Level 3 candidates. All referees interested in officiating at this tournament will also be asked to provide an indication of expected flight costs so that the LOC in conjunction with Head of Events can determine a unilateral referee fee per team.

Selection Criteria

- Referees must be Active Level 3 referees by February 28th, 2026 to be considered for this tournament.
- At least one referee from each country which sends at least one team the tournament.
- A maximum of 5 referees from the same country.
- At least 30% of referees must be female and least 30% male.
- At least 30% of referees should be first-timers.

Additional Terms

- Federations will receive validation requests for referees. Any referee who has not paid their Federation dues or has disciplinary action against them will be removed from the selection pool.
- Any Federation with 5 or more referees on the selection list will be consulted for a preferred selection order.
- The LOC and the Events Committee will determine the referee fee per team by reviewing the budgeted costs from the survey and distribute it equally among the teams.
- All referees will be accommodated in a different hotel than the ones specified in the info pack, determined by the Organizing Committee.
- Referees are not permitted to stay with their team.

Timeline of Events for Referee Selection

- Referee Interest Survey closes – Feb 28
- Last date for Active Referee certification (for consideration of this tournament) – Feb 28
- Referee verification with Federations – March 1 to March 15
- Referee Management Team Selected – March 15 - 31
- LOC Reviews Selection – April 1 to April 15
- Referee fee per team determined – April 15
- Referee fee collected – April 15 – April 30
- Referees make travel arrangements – April 15 to May 1
- Referees meet CMAS requirements (ITO training, Sport/ITO License, ADEL certificates, etc) – through June.
- Referee Management Team arrives – July 16
- Referees Arrive – July 17

Please be advised that the above dates will be strictly adhered to, Late nomination may not be accepted



17. Team List and Player Profiles

Listing of Players, Player photos and profiles, referees, coaches, managers must be submitted online no later than **01 May 2026**. All Players, team officials and referees must be registered on the CMAS Portal Athletes must have a current sports licence.

18. Country Flags & National Anthem

Each country is required to bring 2 flags, they should conform to a 2 to 1 Ratio. With a length and width of 1800 x 900 maximum, and a minimum of 1400 X 700, and a digital copy of their national anthem, music only no lyrics for use in ceremonies and awards, anthem should be emailed to the local organizing committee by email.

19. Cap and Swimsuits Approval

Requests for approval of swimsuits and caps must be submitted to the CMAS UWH Events Directors by email before 30th April 2026 via uwah-approvals@sport.cmas.org and Patrick.kraak@sports.cmas.org. Please use Cap and Swimsuit Approval Request in your email request subject line.

As per Rule 3.2.1:

- All players of a team must wear identical bathing attire (cap, suit and/or rash vest and/or shirt), which may have an imprint of their flag or country.
- Each team must have two sets of identical bathing attire, one light in colour (when the team is using white sticks) and one dark in colour (when the team is using black sticks), and
- Both sets need approval by the Tournament Director prior to arrival at the competition.
- Light Colours: White, Yellow, Light Blue, Light Grey, Orange.
- Dark Colours: Black, Blue, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, Grey, Brown, Green, Red

Numbers: To assist referees, cap numbers are limited to numbers between 1 and 15. Ear protection pieces on the caps must be white (when light colour) or Black / Navy (when dark colour).

20. Accommodation

For security reasons, all teams are required to stay at the Tournament Hotels. With the move to the Underwater Hockey venue, the organizing committee will negotiate much better accommodation packages.

Accommodation options are listed below and include:

Single, double, or triple rooms in 4- and 5-star hotels.

Full-board accommodation; breakfast, lunch, and dinner included. Meals will start on July 16th and



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end with breakfast on July 26th.

Extra days will be subject to additional charges.

Main Hotel: Crowne Plaza Istanbul Asia by IHG, serving as the main accommodation for athletes, and the organizing team.

Location: The hotel is only 22 km from Gebze Olympic Sports Hall.

Hotel Features: Offers special menus for the tournament and buffet service. There are 3 hospitals within a 5 km radius of the hotel.

VIP Accommodation: HYATT Hotel Gebze will host VIP guests, including CMAS officials and our Federation President, offering 5-star comfort and premium service quality.

Additional Hotel: Depending on the number of participants, an additional 4- or 5-star hotel near the pool will be contracted.

CMAS VIP Hotels:

Address: Tatlıkuyu Mahallesi, 1319/2. Sokak No: 26/A, Gebze, Kocaeli, 41400, Turkey

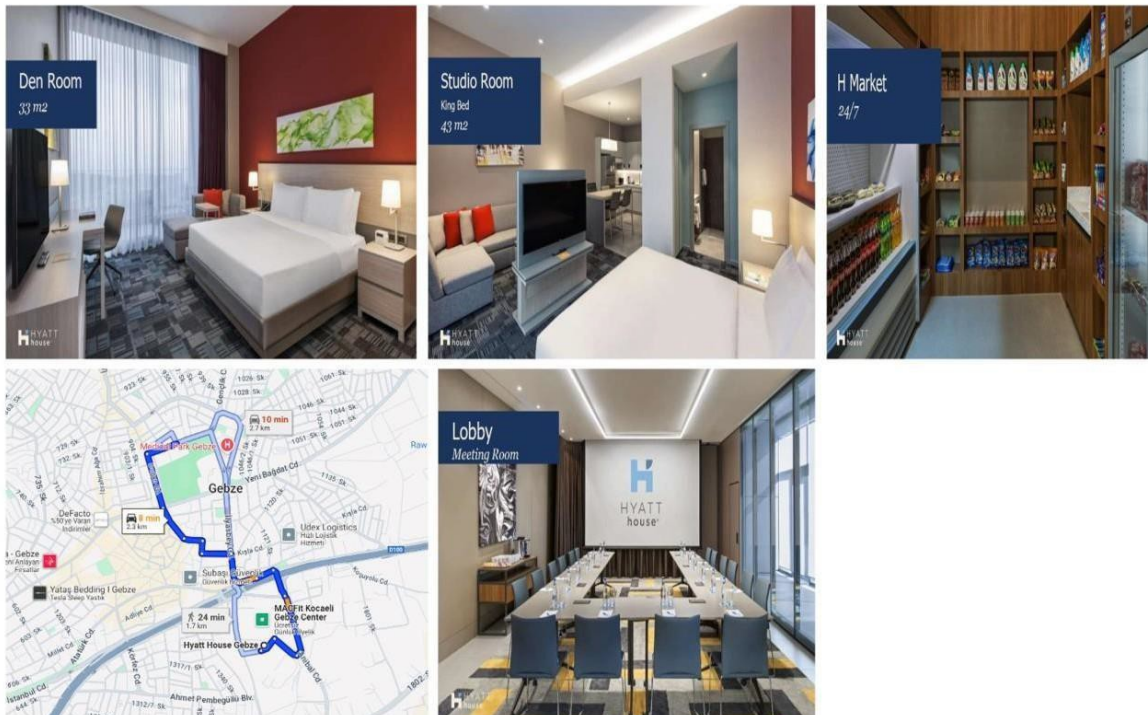
Distance: Approximately 2 km from Gebze Olympic Swimming Pool (5 minutes by car).

Comfort: Hyatt House is a modern residence-style hotel offering spacious and bright rooms. Each room is equipped with a fully furnished kitchen, high-standard housekeeping, fitness center, and in-house dining facilities.

Service: Full board service (including breakfast, lunch, and dinner) will be provided for the organization.

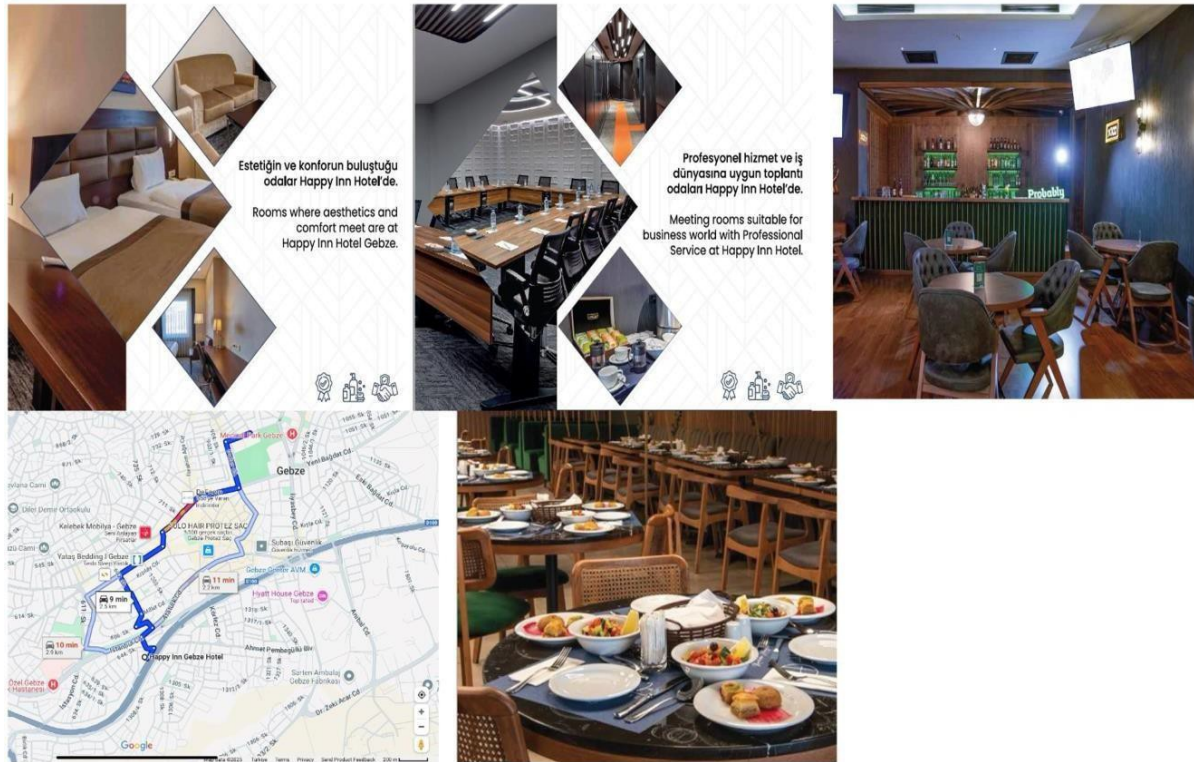
CMAS VIP Hotel

HYATT HOUSE GEBZE



REFEREE HOTEL

HAPPY INN GEBZE HOTEL



- **Address:** Osman Yılmaz, 633/2. Sk. No:55, 41400 Gebze/Kocaeli
- **Distance:** Approximately 3 km from Gebze Olympic Swimming Pool (7–8 minutes by car).
- **Comfort:** Ramada Encore offers functional and modern rooms with international standards. It provides buffet breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and 24/7 reception support.
- **Service:** Full board service will be provided for the organization

ATHLETES HOTEL

CROWNE PLAZA ISTANBUL ASIA BY IHG

- **Address:** Dedepasa Caddesi No:15, Yenişehir Mahallesi, Kurtköy-Pendik, İstanbul, 34912, Turkey
- **Distance:** Approximately 22 km from Gebze Olympic Swimming Pool (20–25 minutes by car via TEM highway).
- **Comfort:** Crowne Plaza is an international chain hotel with spacious and luxurious rooms. It offers a spa & wellness centre, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a fully equipped gym, and various dining options for a complete service experience.
- **Service:** Full board service will be provided for athletes and coaches.



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21. Accommodation Payment

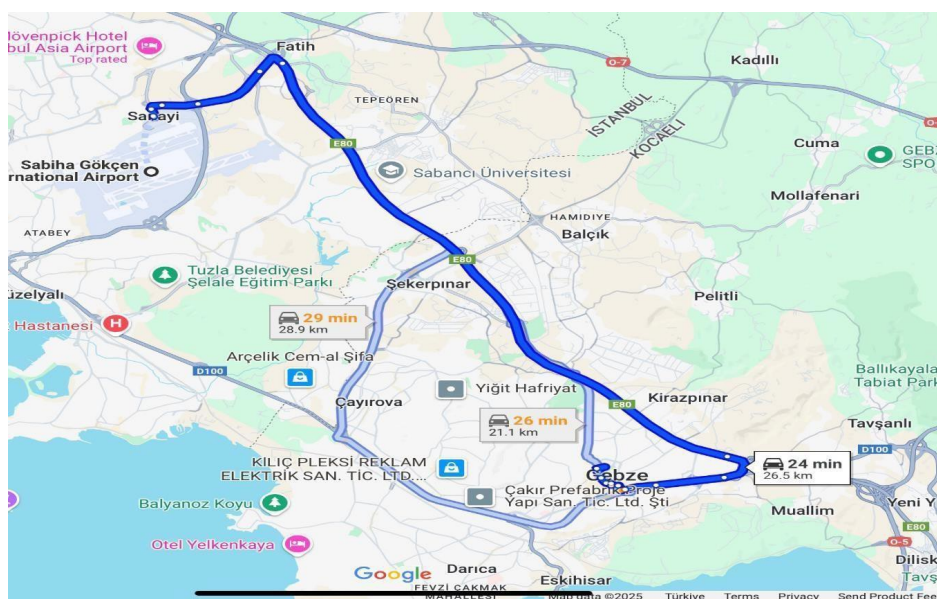
For registered athletes and coaches and support staff, the all-inclusive rate is €125 per person, per night in a double room with full board.

22. Arrival to Host city (GEBZE)

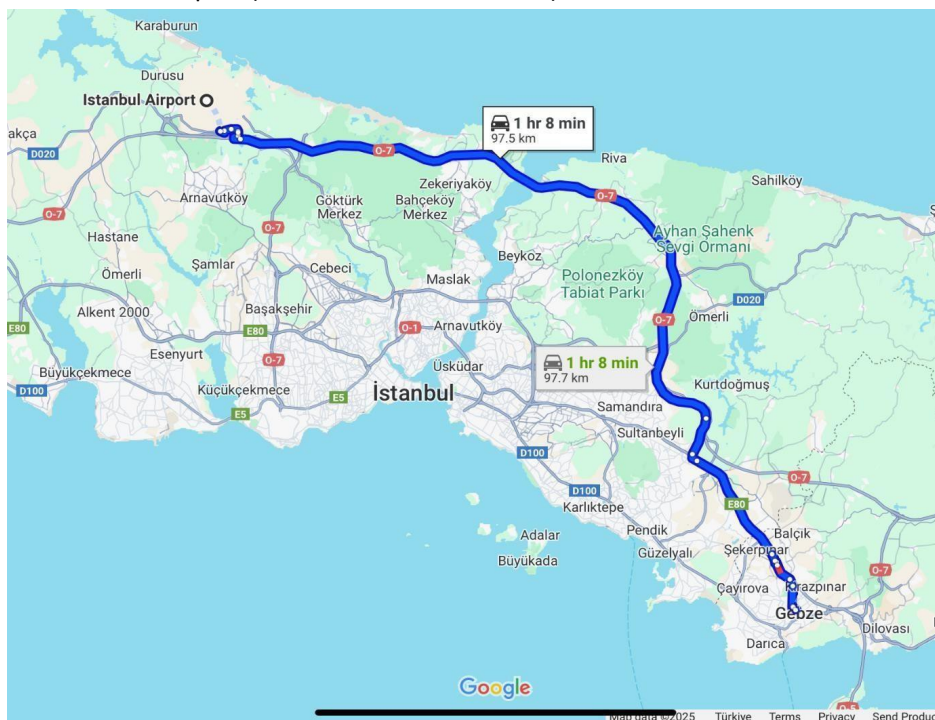
There are direct and connecting flights to Sabiha Gökçen Airport and Istanbul Airport from almost all airports worldwide.

The airports offer lounge areas, cafes, and restaurants for passengers.

In addition, there are VIP service privileges providing 24-hour uninterrupted and special services.



Istanbul Airport (1 hr. 10min & 1 hr. 25min)



23. Transfers to/from Airport

Teams arrivals and departures will be at the teams expense.

If a team wishes to use the shuttle service privately, this will be possible, but the cost will be covered by the team.

Special vehicles will be allocated for CMAS management, and large-capacity vehicles for referees.

Regular daily shuttle services will operate between the hotels and the competition venue.

Hotel–airport transfers (both arrivals and departures) will be arranged by the local organizers, and the costs will be covered by the teams.

Volunteers and local federation officials will provide guidance and support during transfers.

You must send us your flight information no later than 14 days before the competition starts. We can easily arrange your transfer once the payment has been made

24. Deadlines

September 12th 2025	Information Pack sent and Website Open
November 1 st 2025	Declaration of interest from countries
February 1 st 2026	Formal Entry Teams
February 7 th 2026	Entry Fee Deposit (non-refundable) €500



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March 1 st 2026	Swimsuit approvals send to uwv-approvals@sport.cmas.org and Patrick.kraak@sports.cmas.org
April 1 st 2026	Balance of entry fees
April 7 th 2026	Referee fees per team determined
April 15 th 2026	Referee Penalty Fees determined (if applicable)
April 15-30	Non Supply referee fees paid
May 1 st 2026	Team List and Player Profiles submitted
May 1 st 2026	Final Hotel Fees
June 1 st 2026	Sports license through CMAS portal
June 1 st 2026	Booking and paying extra training time
If the above dates are not met, a late payment fee of € 200 will be applied per each late payment	

25. Bank Transfer Information

Bank Name: TURKIYE EKONOMI BANKASI
Account Name: TURKIYE SUALTI SPORLARI FEDERASYONU BASKANLIGI
IBAN: TR29 0003 2000 0000 0095 6454 73
Swift Code: TEBUTRIS311