

VOTING GUIDE

This is a guide with all you need to know before voting. If something is missing or you have any doubt, reach out to your club or country representative or join the online discussion [at Poloverse](#) and on other channels.

1. WHAT ARE WE VOTING ON?

SHOULD THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS BE MANDATORY MIXED-GENDER?

2. HOW DOES IT WORK?



1. Players reach their votes to their country representative. Get in touch with your country representatives and ask for instructions on how to vote in your region. Clubs can also organize their own club representatives to collect votes locally and pass them on to the country reps.

2. Country representatives input the local data into EHBA's voting system. This is a system of spreadsheets that collect and validates each region's votes. These spreadsheets automatically generate the result of the vote..

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES*:

France: *Tristan*
Germany: *Levin*
United Kingdom: *Greg, Kat*
Italy: *Pyetro, Marika*
Spain: *Victor, Leila*
Switzerland: *Stella, Quentin*
Poland: *Allison, Pajac*
Ireland: *Kropa*
Finland: *Leevi*
Latvia: *Kristaps*

Austria: *Ana*
Belgium: *Baptiste*
Lithuania: *Laura*
Netherlands: *Aislan*
Sweden: *Axel*
Czech Republic: *Eliska*
Portugal: *Mass*
Denmark: *Botond*
Ukraine: *Liz*

**If your country is not in the list above, please reach out to Levin or someone else at the EHBA.*

3. HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Years of discussions

Forums / tournaments / community meetings.

↓

2024

Community poll + Euros discussions

↓

2026

*Berlin proposes hosting 2027 with mandatory mixed-gender teams.
Montpellier proposes to host 2027, in a community-chosen format.
Both cities, the EHBA and a group of volunteers met over the year to design a collective decision process for this question.*

↓

NOW

The community needs to decide on the format of the next Euros.

↓

Next

Decide the host city of the Euros 2027

4. WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS? *(you can choose only one)*

Option A - Yes, ASAP.

The Euros should be mandatory mixed-gender as soon as possible, the EHBC 2027 already. Alternatively, the next edition after that should then be mixed-gender mandatory.

*If this gets the **most votes among the “yes” options**, the EHBC 2027 will be mixed gender mandatory and another vote will happen to decide between Berlin and Montpellier as hosts of the 2027 Euros.*

***Note:** if this option wins, it is only binding for ONE season.*

Option B - Yes, but only after this season.

The 2027 Euros stay open, but the Euros in the following season become mandatory mixed-gender.

*If this option gets the **most votes among the “yes” options**, the EHBC 2027 will be open and hosted in Montpellier.*

Option C - No.

The EHBC should not be mixed-gender mandatory within the next two editions.

*If this option gets **more votes than both “yes” options together**, the EHBC 2027 will be open and hosted in Montpellier.*

Option D - Other. (Free-text answer)

D does not count as a vote, it is a space to share your opinion privately with the EHBA without participating in the decision process in the form presented here.

*Votes in this option **do not influence** where the EHBC 2027 will happen.*

5. HOW IS THE RESULT DECIDED:

Only votes for **A, B or C** decide the result. **D** is not counted as a vote, therefore, it has no effect on the result. We would like to have at least 300 votes to legitimize this decision.

The votes for **A + B** are added together. If they get **more than 50% of all valid votes**, this means that a majority supports mandatory mixed-gender Euros.

- If **A gets more votes than B**, 2027 Euros are mandatory mixed-gender
- If **B gets more votes than A**, the **2027 Euros stay open** and the next Euros edition will be mandatory mixed-gender. Montpellier will host the 2027 Euros.
- If **C gets more than 50% of all votes**, there will be **no mandatory mixed-gender Euros in the next two editions**.
- Option **D** votes are not counted for the final decision.

6. WHO CAN VOTE, AND HOW?

Players who have played for at least a year and played a tournament in the last **12 months**. If necessary, country and club representatives can take local context into account to validate edge cases to the definition above – i.e. a player recovering from injury, a very engaged rookie, etc.

Each person gets 1 vote.

Double votes and choosing more than one option are not allowed.

Voters will receive from their **country representatives** the information on how to vote. Voters have to provide their **name and city** to vote, allowing the country and club representative to validate their eligibility. Names will not be publicly published. Votes can be validated by the people taking the role of **country and club representatives**.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

- If you choose option **D**, your participation will not count towards the result (see above „5. HOW IS THE RESULT DECIDED“).
- **WE NEED AT LEAST 300 VOTES:** Please **share** and actively promote the poll within your community as soon as you receive the voting link or other info material, as widespread participation is important to validate the decision. Use all available channels, such as Telegram, Poloverse, WhatsApp, club chats, etc. The aim is to give **as many eligible players as possible the opportunity to participate with their own voice**.

7. WHEN?

Voting opens: around 01 September 2026

Deadline: 01 October 2026

Result: soon after the votes are counted

8. PRIVACY

Voters' identities are not linked to the votes. Identifying information is stored in a separate file from the votes casted. No direct link between an individual voter and their vote is made public. **Votes are pseudonymised and published in shuffled batches.**

This provides a good level of identity protection, and enables validation of the vote within our technical capabilities.

9. TALK BEFORE YOU VOTE

AT YOUR CLUB. *Have a discussion after training. Organise a club meeting*
IN YOUR COUNTRY. *Organise a video-conference. Open a national topic on Telegram or Poloverse*
WITH OTHER PLAYERS. *Talk to people who have different experiences from yours.*

Consider the potential benefits, drawbacks and consequences of each option. The goal is not to agree: the goal is to make an informed decision. Below we offer some examples of questions worth discussing with your peers:

General questions:

- What do we want the Euros to achieve: the highest level of competition, broader participation, representation, or a combination?
- Should the Euros reflect the *current state* of bike polo, or actively help shape its *future*?
- Is equal opportunity enough, or do we also want equal representation?
- What is the effect of both formats to competitive FINTA players?
- Will teams have enough time to form?
- How should regional qualifiers look like?

Arguments for mandatory mixity

- If we wait for participation to become balanced naturally, what makes us think it will happen?
- Could mandatory mixity create opportunities for FINTA players that the current system does not?
- What would we gain from having more FINTA players competing at the highest level?
- Would changing the rules change participation in the long term?

Arguments against/concerns

- Are there enough FINTA players at the required level to make mandatory mixity work?
- Will teams have enough time to form?
- Could players be selected primarily to fulfil a requirement rather than for sporting reasons?
- What happens if there are not enough FINTA players who want to compete at Euros level?

9. WANT TO GO DEEPER?

READ / WATCH / REFLECT

These resources are here to inform the discussion — not to tell you how to vote:

- [„towards a mixed-gender mandatory euros“](#), Poloverse thread, 2026
- [„Sooo, what exactly does mixed mean?“](#), Poloverse thread, 2024
- [„It's about time we get an EHBA election“](#), Poloverse thread, 2023
- [„Polo in Europe is much more of a boys club than in NA“](#), Poloverse thread, 2023
- [„EHBA board elections, \[...\]“](#), Poloverse thread, 2021
- [„Mapping the World - When Sport Becomes Political“](#), ARTE Documentary, 2018