

WORLD AQUATICS

WATER POLO WORLD CUP

BERLIN 2023

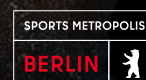


WORLD
AQUATICS

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

02-07 MAY
BERLIN

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Greeting	4
Water Polo World Cup 2023 Facts	5
Competition Schedule (Women)	6
Competition Schedule (Men)	7
Berlin Info	8
Participating Nations	11
Team Germany (Women)	12
Team Germany (Men)	15

IMPRESSUM

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It gives me immense pleasure to welcome the world's elite water polo players and their respective National Federations to the World Aquatics Men's and Women's Water Polo World Cup 2023, Division 2 tournaments in Berlin Germany.

This year's World Cup series sees the best water polo teams compete across a three-phase tournament. The first part of the tournament got underway with the twelve Division 1 men's teams playing in Zagreb (CRO) and Podgorica (MNE) in March while the eight Division 1 women's teams recently concluded the first phase play in Rotterdam (NED) and Athens (GRE) in April. The top six Division 1 men's and women's teams qualified for the World Cup Final.

Water polo teams in Division 2 will get their chance to qualify for the World Cup Final, with the two finalists from both the men's and women's Division 2 Qualifier events in Berlin booking their ticket to the World Cup Final. The women's tournament takes place from 2-4 May, while the men's tournament runs from 5-7 May.

Berlin has long been an aquatics hotspot. This year is no exception, with the German capital hosting a variety of World Aquatics events in 2023. I am sure the fans will be out in vast numbers again, making for an exciting playing environment.

The World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup Finals will follow Berlin as the top eight men's and women's water polo powers play in Southern California, USA. The setting could not be more spectacular, with the women's tournament taking place on the University of Southern California campus and the men playing in Long Beach – water polo's home when the Olympic Games return to Southern California in 2028.

With a spirit of innovation and collaboration within our community, the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup presents a new competition format in Berlin that will make the tournaments resonate even more with the players and fans.

I have no doubt that Berlin and our other fantastic host cities will provide our athletes and spectators with great entertainment and hospitality. And thanks to the support of the Local Organising Committees, local authorities, volunteers, sponsors and international media, the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup 2023 will represent another milestone in the history of this sport.

To all the athletes competing, I wish you the best of luck!

Husain Al Musallam

World Aquatics President

The new Water Polo World Cup format consists of two levels – with the top twelve men's and top eight women's teams in "Division 1", whereas "Division 2" will be open to any team from Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia & Oceania. Six teams from division one and two teams from division two can earn their spots in the Super Final through two qualification tournaments.

WORLD AQUATICS MEN'S WATER POLO WORLD CUP 2023

08 – 14 MARCH

MEN'S WATER POLO WORLD CUP, DIVISION 1

01 – 07 MAY

WATER POLO WORLD CUP, DIVISION 2 QUALIFIER – BERLIN (GER)

30 JUNE – 02 JULY

MEN'S WATER POLO WORLD CUP FINAL – LOS ANGELES (USA)

WORLD AQUATICS WOMEN'S WATER POLO WORLD CUP 2023

11 – 13 APRIL

WOMEN'S WATER POLO WORLD CUP, DIVISION 1 GROUP A AND B – ROTTERDAM (NED)

19 – 21 APRIL

WOMEN'S WATER POLO WORLD CUP, DIVISION 1 GROUP A AND B – ATHENS (GRE)

01 – 07 MAY

WATER POLO WORLD CUP, DIVISION 2 QUALIFIER – BERLIN (GER)

23 – 25 JUNE

WOMEN'S WATER POLO WORLD CUP FINAL – LONG BEACH (USA)

World Aquatics Executive Director, **Brent Nowicki**, said: "We are confident that the World Cup will bring exciting new engagement for teams and fans. The new format for this World Cup is poised to bring this dynamic team sport to new heights."

All seven of the host cities featured in the Men's and Women's Water Polo World Cup 2023 season add to their water polo event legacies this season. Berlin held both the men's Super Final and the Water Polo World Cup previously, along with the Olympic Water Polo Tournament during the 1936 Games when only men competed on the sport's Olympic stage.

Formerly known as the Water Polo World League, the annual international water polo tournament for national teams began in 2002 for men and in 2004 for women.

Serbia leads the all-time nations list with 10 titles, it's last coming in 2019 during a home final in Belgrade. Italy comes in as the defending champion, while Montenegro won the tournament in 2020. Due to the global pandemic, no Water Polo World Cup season was played in 2021. In the women's tournament, the United States won the event's first edition in Long Beach (USA) in 2004 and with the tournament headed back to the same place this year, the Americans will be going for their record-extending 15th Women's Water Polo World Cup gold. Four other teams have won the women's tournament: Greece (2005), Russia (2008), China (2013), and Spain (2022).



Group A: South Africa, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Israel
Group B: New Zealand, Kazakhstan, Germany, Great Britain

TUESDAY, MAY 2ND

08:30 AM: South Africa vs. Israel	04:00 PM: South Africa vs. Ukraine
10:00 AM: Uzbekistan vs. Ukraine	05:30 PM: Uzbekistan vs. Israel
11:30 AM: New Zealand vs. Great Britain	07:00 PM: Kazakhstan vs. Great Britain
01:30 PM: Kazakhstan vs. Germany	08:30 PM: New Zealand vs. Germany

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3RD

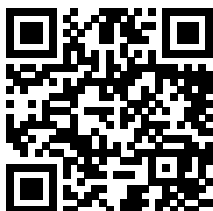
02:00 PM: Uzbekistan vs. South Africa
03:45 PM: Ukraine vs. Israel
05:30 PM: Kazakhstan vs. New Zealand
07:15 PM: Germany vs. Great Britain

THURSDAY, MAY 4TH

02:00 PM: Fourth Group B vs. Fourth Group A
03:45 PM: Third Group B vs. Third Group A
05:30 PM: First Group A vs. Second Group B*
07:15 PM: First Group B vs. Second Group A*

*The winners of those two games will qualify for the World Cup Super Final from June 23 – 25 in Long Beach (USA).

Starting times may change at short notice due to TV broadcasts.





Group A: China, Germany, Malta, South Africa
Group B: Romania, New Zealand, Kazakhstan, Iran

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH

08:30 AM: Romania vs. Iran	04:00 PM: Romania vs. Kazakhstan
10:00 AM: New Zealand vs. Kazakhstan	05:30 PM: New Zealand vs. Iran
11:30 AM: China vs. South Africa	07:00 PM: China vs. Malta
01:30 PM: Germany vs. Malta	08:30 PM: Germany vs. South Africa

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

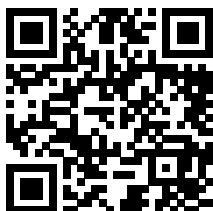
02:00 PM: Malta vs. South Africa
03:45 PM: New Zealand vs. Romania
05:30 PM: Kazakhstan vs. Iran
07:15 PM: Germany vs. China

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH

02:00 PM: Fourth Group B vs. Fourth Group A
03:45 PM: Third Group B vs. Third Group A
05:30 PM: First Group A vs. Second Group B*
07:15 PM: First Group B vs. Second Group A*

*The winners of those two games will qualify for the World Cup Super Final from June 30 – July 02 in Los Angeles (USA).

Starting times may change at short notice due to TV broadcasts.





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BERLIN

A Hotspot in International Aquatics

Berlin has long been a hotspot in international aquatics. The German capital is a frequent host of the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup – in fact, no other city has hosted this event more often. Berlin also played host to a variety of national and international events in swimming, diving and water polo in the past and again this year. The SSE arena and the adjacent Velodrom are located within a huge sports complex that rises only a few feet above the ground. Today, the SSE, with 8 pools and a capacity of 2.136 spectators, is the largest and only fully accessible indoor swimming venue in Berlin. In the year 2002 and then again in 2014, the SSE provided a compelling atmosphere for the European Aquatics Championships.

HERE ARE FIVE TOP TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN BERLIN TO VISIT BETWEEN THE COMPETITIONS:

BRANDENBURG GATE

The Brandenburg Gate is the Berlin landmark and symbol of reunification. Built in 1791, it was originally just one of many city gates around Berlin. In front of the gate, there is the Pariser Platz – a beautiful square surrounded by the historic Hotel Adlon and the Academy of Arts. The famous Reichstag, home of the German parliament, is also nearby. Stroll along the Spree River or take a boat trip to experience the modern government district from the water.

TV TOWER

At 368 meters, the TV Tower (Fernsehturm) is not only Berlin's, but Germany's tallest building. Built in the 1960s, it offers visitors a unique 360 degrees panorama of the city. The TV Tower is located on Alexanderplatz, the center of former East Berlin. From here, it's only a stone's throw to the historic Nikolaiviertel and to the hip quarters of Berlin-Mitte.

KURFÜRSTENDAMM

If you want to go shopping, this is the place to be. The Kurfürstendamm is Berlin's most popular shopping mile – a 3.5 kilometer-long boulevard with theatres, cafés and shops. On the extension of the Kurfürstendamm, the "Tauentzienstrasse", you can find the KaDeWe, the largest department store on the European mainland. Or would you rather go to the Zoo Berlin, Germany's oldest zoo?

GENDARMENMARKT

The Gendarmenmarkt is one of the most beautiful squares in Berlin. With the concert hall designed by famous architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel and the German Cathedral and French Cathedral, it boasts three architectural highlights of the German capital. Have a break in one of the many cafés and then continue on to Friedrichstrasse, another exclusive shopping mile.

MUSEUM ISLAND

Museum Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and combines some of Berlin's most important exhibition venues: the Old Museum, the New Museum, the Bode Museum, the Pergamon Museum and the Old National Gallery. Their collections showcase over 6,000 years of art and cultural history. Also don't miss the monumental Berlin Cathedral.



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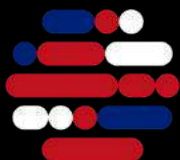
WOMEN:

Germany



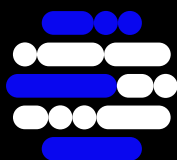
GER

Great Britain



GBR

Israel



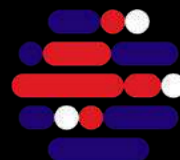
ISR

Kazakhstan



KAZ

New Zealand



NZL

South Africa



RSA

Ukraine



UKR

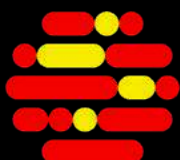
Uzbekistan



UZB

MEN:

People's Republic of
China



CHN

Germany



GER

Iran



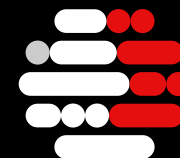
IRI

Kazakhstan



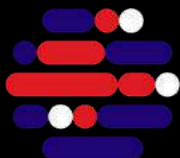
KAZ

Malta



MLT

New Zealand



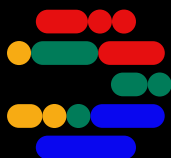
NZL

Romania



ROU

South Africa



RSA



A MIX OF TALENT AND EXPERIENCE: THAT'S THE GERMAN WOMEN'S TEAM FOR THE WATER POLO WORLD CUP

With a mix of up-and-coming talent and experienced players, Germany's women will be entering the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup from May 2nd to 7th in Berlin. National coach **Sven Schulz** has nominated a total of 14 players for the tournament in the capital, including many from the junior team, which has repeatedly attracted international attention in recent years. "Some of them took part in the women's European Championship last year and were also able to impress there. Now, with **Greta Tadday, Yara Bonett, Georgia Sopiadou, Jamie-Julique Haas, Ioanna Petiki, Vivien-Sophie Krause and Jana Stüwe**, young players are again given the chance to gain international experience. This tournament against strong international competition is now an excellent opportunity to further advance the development of the team," says Schulz.

The youngsters are supported by established players such as **Aylin Fry** (SV Bayer Uerdingen 08) – currently the number one goalscorer in the Bundesliga. Captain **Gesa Deike** (LUC Métropole Lille/FRA) is one of three players in the current squad who are active abroad and have been able to gain additional experience there. "I made great progress again this season and was able to improve my center game and my shot. And the national team also benefits from that," says the 28-year-old, who is under contract with the French cup winner and series champion.

Although some players from last year's European Championship squad cannot come to Berlin because they are now studying at college in the USA, are still playing in their foreign league or are prevented by exams, Gesa Deike is nevertheless confident: "It will be a different team, but of course the younger players in particular want to

prove themselves and will therefore give everything," she says.

Bochum's **Felicitas Guse**, who will end her international career after many years as number one and always reliable support of the national team, will probably be in goal for the last time. **Pauline Pannasch** from Hamburg is back in the team, and as a left-hander she should provide additional goal danger. "We will hopefully experience a successful tournament together in Berlin. With the help of the audience, we hope for a surprise," says national coach Sven Schulz.

THE GERMAN WOMAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD CUP IN BERLIN:

Yara Bonett,
Aylin Fry,
Greta Tadday (all SV Bayer Uerdingen 08),
Felicitas Guse,
Jana Stüwe (both SV Blau-Weiss Bochum),
Ioanna Petiki,
Georgia Sopiadou (both SSV Esslingen),
Pauline Pannasch,
Vivien-Sophie Krause (both Eimsbütteler Turnverband),
Emma Koch (Wasserfreunde Spandau 04),
Jamie-Julique Haas (SC Chemnitz),
Gesa Deike (LUC Métropole Lille/FRA),
Antonia Merkel (Simalga Real Canoe NC/ESP),
Lynn Krukenberg (GZC Donk/NED)



GERMANY'S MEN HOPE TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS FROM THE FIRST ROUND AT THE WORLD CUP

Germany's men finished the first round of the World Aquatics Water Polo World Cup in March as undefeated group winners. For the upcoming World Cup tournament from May 2nd to 7th in Berlin, national team coach **Milos Sekulic** is now largely relying on the same staff and of course hopes for a similarly successful performance.

Of the 15 nominees in the squad, 14 were there in March. "The team stayed the same. These are the players who played the first round and had four wins there. In Berlin we want to improve further and present ourselves in the best possible way. The competition is strong, there are no easy games or victories that are taken for granted. I want everyone to try to do their best. And if we manage to qualify for the final tournament in the end, all the better," says Sekulic.

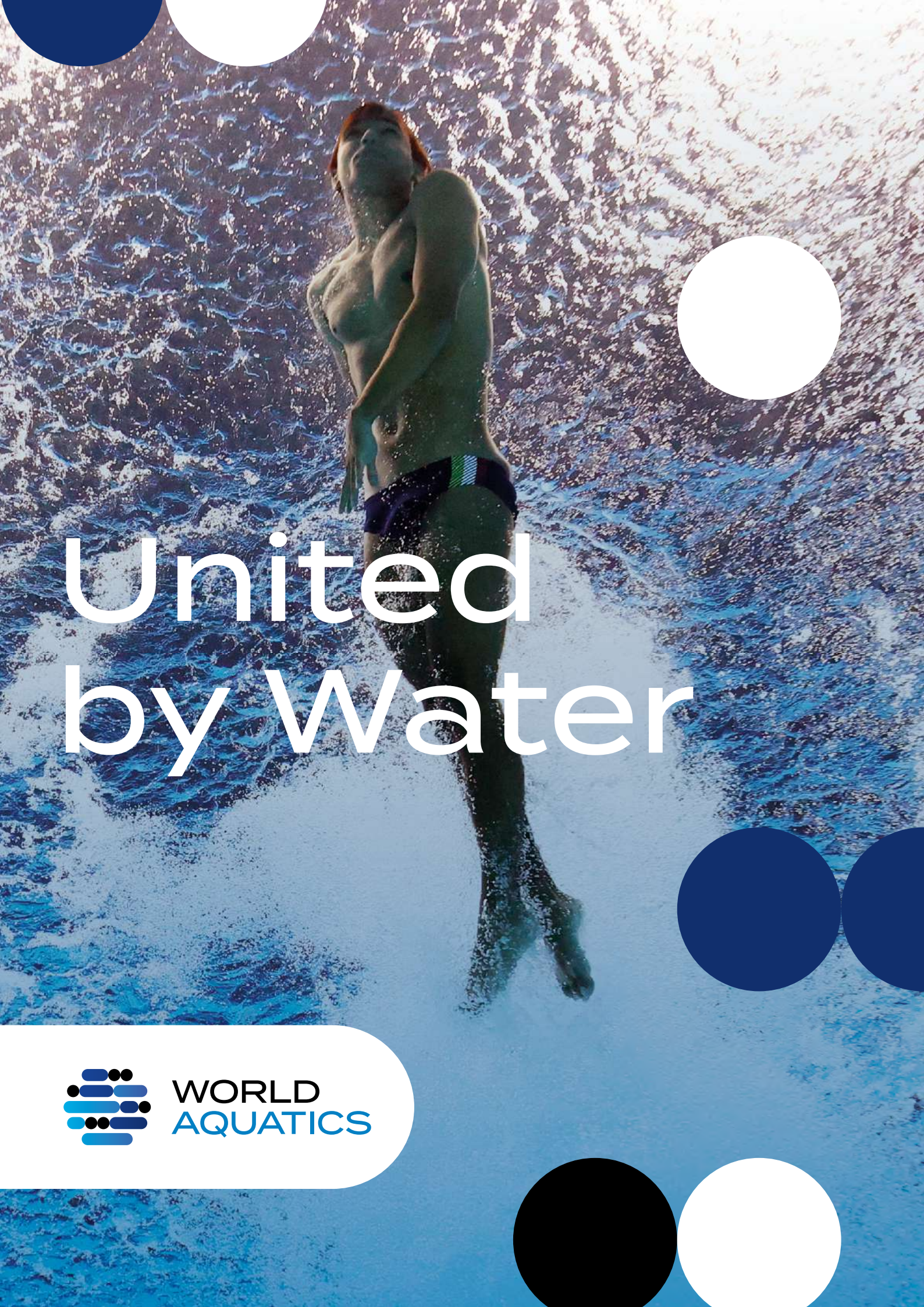
Only young **Finn Taubert** (OSC Potsdam), captain of the U17 national team and one of the greatest talents in this country, is new to the squad. "Finn Taubert is a young player who is increasingly offering himself. He was the youngest player on the team at the U17 European Championship two years ago under my leadership. Since then he has continued to develop well and absolutely deserves the invitation," said the national coach. "It's my job and part of my coaching philosophy to give young players a platform to show, offer and develop themselves. But Finn is certainly not the only young player who is being watched."

With six players, German record champions Wasserfreunde Spandau 04 have the largest contingent on the roster. Three of them – **Maurice Jüngling**, **Mateo Cuk** and **Denis Strelezkij** – were also there in 2018, when the World Cup was last held in Berlin and Germany achieved a strong fourth place with the help of the home crowd. In general, the local clubs from Berlin and Brandenburg are well represented in the squad, because the OSC Potsdam also has a trio in **Mark Dyck**, **Ferdinand Korbel** and

Taubert who can certainly also count on active support from the ranks. With Waspo 98 Hannover (four players), the White Sharks Hannover (one) and ASC Duisburg (also one player), all other semi-finalists, besides Spandau, of the current German championship are represented in the squad and thus all the top teams in German water polo.

THE GERMAN MEN TEAM FOR THE WORLD CUP IN BERLIN:

Zoran Bozic,
Yannek Chiru,
Mateo Cuk,
Maurice Jüngling,
Denis Strelezkij,
Max Vernet Schweimer (all Wasserfreunde Spandau 04),
Felix Benke, Mark Gansen,
Niclas Schipper,
Fynn Schütze (all Waspo 98 Hanover),
Mark Dyck,
Ferdinand Korbel,
Finn Taubert (all OSC Potsdam),
Finn Rotermund (White Sharks Hannover),
Aleks Sekulic (ASC Duisburg)



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