2026 HADO INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS CHAMPIONSHIP
DRAW RULES

I. General Rules

1. No seeded teams will be designated for this tournament, and there will be no division into seeded and unseeded pots. Instead, separate country/region pools will be established, and teams will be drawn and placed by country/region in sequence.

2. The draw will follow the principle of avoiding teams from the same country/region being placed in the same group wherever possible. China is the only exception because it has 10 participating teams, exceeding the number of groups (4), making complete avoidance impossible. China's 10 teams will therefore be distributed as evenly as possible in a 3, 3, 2, 2 pattern. No group may contain more than 3 Chinese teams.

3. The entire draw will be conducted publicly. As China has the largest number of teams and requires special balancing because its number of teams exceeds the number of groups, China will always be placed first. The group priority order and the processing order of all other countries/regions will be determined by draw to ensure fairness, impartiality, and traceability.

II. Group Stage

The 24 teams will be divided into four groups, Groups A, B, C, and D, with six teams in each group. Each group will play a single round-robin, and the top two teams from each group will advance, for a total of eight teams entering the quarterfinal knockout stage.

III. Participating Teams

A total of 24 teams from 6 countries/regions have been finally confirmed, as follows:

No.	Country/Region	No. of Teams
1	China	10
2	Republic of Korea	4
3	Japan	3
4	Malaysia	3
5	Hong Kong, China	3
6	Greece	1
	Total	**24**

IV. Draw Procedure

1. Draw Equipment: Three draw boxes will be used. Box 1 will contain four group identifier balls marked A, B, C, and D, which will be used to determine the priority order of the groups. Box 2 will contain one identifier ball for each of the five countries/regions other than China: Japan, Republic of Korea, Greece, Malaysia, and Hong Kong, China. These balls will determine the order in which the countries/regions are processed. Box 3 will be used for team balls and, at the start of the draw, will contain the identifier balls for China's 10 teams. The team balls for the other five countries/regions will be organized separately by country/region and kept beside the draw boxes until required. Groups A, B, C, and D each have six fixed team slots.

2. Determining the Group Priority Order: At the start of the draw, the four group identifier balls A, B, C, and D in Box 1 will be mixed thoroughly and drawn one by one by the draw guest. The resulting sequence will become the “Group Priority Order” (hereinafter referred to as the “group order”). This order will serve as the common basis for China's cyclical placement and for determining priority whenever two or more groups have the same number of available slots.

3. Placement of Chinese Teams: The 10 Chinese team identifier balls in Box 3 will be mixed thoroughly and drawn one by one, with teams placed cyclically according to the predetermined group order. For example, if the group order is D, C, B, A, the 10 teams will be placed in the following sequence: D, C, B, A, D, C, B, A, D, C. After placement is complete, the first two groups in the group order will each contain 3 Chinese teams, while the remaining two groups will each contain 2 Chinese teams, resulting in a balanced distribution of 3, 3, 2, 2. No group may contain more than 3 Chinese teams.

4. Placement of Teams from Other Countries/Regions: After all Chinese teams have been placed, Box 3 will be emptied. One country/region identifier ball will then be drawn from Box 2 to determine the first country/region to be processed. All team balls for that country/region will be placed into Box 3, mixed thoroughly, and drawn one by one. Each team drawn will be placed into the group that currently has the fewest total teams. If two or more groups

have the same total number of teams, the team will be placed into the group that appears earlier in the predetermined group order. After all teams from that country/region have been placed, the next country/region identifier ball will be drawn from Box 2 and the same procedure will be repeated until all five countries/regions have been processed.

5. Placement Results: Under the procedure above, Republic of Korea's 4 teams will be placed into Groups A, B, C, and D, with one team in each group. The 3 teams from each of Japan, Malaysia, and Hong Kong, China will each be placed into 3 different groups, with one team per group. Greece's single team will be placed into the group that has the fewest total teams at that time. Except for China, no country/region may have more than one team in the same group, thereby minimizing matchups between teams from the same country/region. The entire draw will proceed according to the established rules. Whenever groups are tied in the number of available slots, the predetermined group order will be used directly without an additional draw, ensuring that the groups remain balanced throughout.

V. Group Slot Distribution

Group Type	No. of Groups	Teams per Group	Total
6-team groups	4	6	24
Total	**4**	**-**	**24**

Note: There are four groups, Groups A, B, C, and D, with six fixed team slots in each group, for a total of 24 teams.

The distribution of each country/region across the four groups and the maximum number of teams from the same country/region permitted in one group are shown below:

Country/Region	No. of Teams	Distribution across Groups A-D	Maximum per Group
China	10	3 teams in each of 2 groups; 2 teams in each of 2 groups (3, 3, 2, 2)	3
Republic of Korea	4	1 team in each group (1, 1, 1, 1)	1
Japan	3	1 team in each of 3 different groups	1
Malaysia	3	1 team in each of 3 different groups	1
Hong Kong, China	3	1 team in each of 3 different groups	1
Greece	1	1 team in 1 group	1
Total	**24**	**6 teams per group**	**-**