2026 HADO WORLD CUP Draw Rules

I. General Provisions

(1) The seeding is based on the final standings of the 2025 HADO WORLD CUP. The teams are divided into four seed pots according to their final rankings.

(2) The draw order is fixed from the higher-ranked pots to the lower-ranked pots: Pot 1, Pot 2, Pot 3, and then Pot 4. Each pot must be fully assigned and the placements verified before the draw proceeds to the next pot.

II. Groups

The 24 teams will be divided into four groups - Groups A, B, C, and D - with 6 teams in each group.

III. Seed Pot Allocation

Based on the final standings of the 2025 HADO WORLD CUP, the 24 teams are divided into four seed pots as follows:

1. Pot 1 consists of the teams ranked 1st-4th in 2025, for a total of 4 teams: Japan, Republic of Korea, USA, and England.

2. Pot 2 consists of the teams ranked 5th-8th in 2025, for a total of 4 teams: China, Greece, New Zealand, and Türkiye.

3. Pot 3 consists of the teams ranked 9th-18th in 2025, for a total of 10 teams: Australia, Cyprus, Wales, Malaysia, Spain, France, Chinese Taipei, Morocco, Hong Kong, China, and Scotland.

4. Pot 4 consists of 6 teams that are new to the 2026 tournament and therefore have no 2025 ranking: Philippines, India, Italy, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, and North Macedonia.

IV. Draw Procedure

1. Pot 1: The 4 teams are assigned directly according to their final 2025 rankings and will not participate in a random draw. Japan is placed in Group A, Republic of Korea in Group B, USA in Group C, and England in Group D, with one Pot 1 team in each group.

2. Pot 2: The 4 teams (China, Greece, New Zealand, and Türkiye) will be drawn randomly and assigned in sequence to Groups A, B, C, and D, with one Pot 2 team in each group.

3. Pot 3: Before drawing the teams, a Group Priority Order will first be determined. The four group markers - A, B, C, and D - will be mixed, and the draw guest will draw them one by one. The resulting sequence will become the Group Priority Order. The 10 team lots will then be mixed and drawn one by one, with teams assigned cyclically according to that Group Priority Order. Teams 1-4 drawn will be assigned respectively to the 1st-4th groups in the Group Priority Order. Teams 5-8 drawn will again be assigned one to each group in the

same order, resulting in 2 Pot 3 teams in each group. Teams 9 and 10 drawn will then be assigned respectively to the first two groups in the Group Priority Order, with each of those groups receiving only one additional Pot 3 team. After completion, the first two groups in the Group Priority Order will each contain 3 Pot 3 teams, while the remaining two groups will each contain 2 Pot 3 teams.

4. Pot 4: The 6 teams will be drawn randomly, one by one. Each drawn team will be assigned to the group that currently has the greatest number of remaining slots. If two or more groups have the same number of remaining slots, priority will be given to the group appearing earlier in the Group Priority Order. This process will continue until all four groups contain 6 teams. Accordingly, each group containing 3 Pot 3 teams will receive 1 Pot 4 team, while each group containing 2 Pot 3 teams will receive 2 Pot 4 teams.

V. Seed Pot and Slot Distribution

Group	Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3	Pot 4	Total per Group
A	1 team	1 team	2 or 3 teams	1 or 2 teams	6 teams
B	1 team	1 team	2 or 3 teams	1 or 2 teams	6 teams
C	1 team	1 team	2 or 3 teams	1 or 2 teams	6 teams
D	1 team	1 team	2 or 3 teams	1 or 2 teams	6 teams
Total	4 teams	4 teams	10 teams	6 teams	24 teams

Note: After the Pot 3 draw, two groups will each contain 3 Pot 3 teams, while the other two groups will each contain 2 Pot 3 teams. Pot 4 will then fill the remaining slots accordingly: groups with 3 Pot 3 teams will receive 1 Pot 4 team, and groups with 2 Pot 3 teams will receive 2 Pot 4 teams.