2026 HADO WORLD GLOBAL 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 21 participating teams, exceeding the number of groups (9). China's 21 teams will therefore be distributed as evenly as possible: three groups will contain 3 Chinese teams each, and six groups will contain 2 Chinese teams each. 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 54 teams will be divided into nine groups, Groups A-I, with six teams in each group. Each group will play a single round-robin. The top three teams from each group will advance, together with the five best fourth-placed teams across the nine groups, for a total of 32 teams advancing to the Round of 32 knockout stage.

III. Participating Teams

A total of 54 teams from 21 countries/regions have been finally confirmed, as follows:

No.	Country/Region	No. of Teams
1	China	21
2	Japan	6
3	Republic of Korea	4
4	Hong Kong, China	3
5	Greece	2
6	Türkiye	2
7	Malaysia	2
8	USA	1
9	England	1
10	New Zealand	1
11	Spain	1
12	Australia	1
13	Scotland	1
14	Wales	1
15	Morocco	1
16	France	1
17	Cyprus	1
18	Belgium	1
19	North Macedonia	1
20	Chinese Taipei	1
21	Philippines	1
Total	**-**	**54**

IV. Draw Procedure

1. Draw Equipment: Three draw boxes will be used. Box 1 will contain nine group identifier balls marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, which will be used to determine the priority order of the groups. Box 2 will contain one identifier ball for each of the other 20 countries/regions excluding China: Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, China, Greece, Türkiye, Malaysia, USA, England, New Zealand, Spain, Australia, Scotland, Wales, Morocco, France, Cyprus, Belgium, North Macedonia, Chinese Taipei, and Philippines. 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 21 teams. The team balls for the other 20 countries/regions will be organized separately by country/region and kept beside the draw boxes until required. Each of Groups A-I has six fixed team slots.

2. Determining the Group Priority Order: At the start of the draw, the nine group identifier balls A-I 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 resolving ties when two or more groups have the same number of available slots.

3. Placement of Chinese Teams: The 21 Chinese team identifier balls in Box 3 will be mixed thoroughly and drawn one by one. Teams will be placed cyclically according to the predetermined group order. For example, if the group order begins C, A, F, ..., the first 18 teams will be placed cyclically across all nine groups so that each group receives two Chinese teams. The 19th, 20th, and 21st teams will then be placed into the first three groups in the group order, respectively. After placement is complete, the first three groups in the group order will each contain 3 Chinese teams, while the remaining six groups will each contain 2 Chinese teams, resulting in a balanced distribution of 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 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 20 countries/regions have been processed.

5. Placement Results: Under the procedure above, Japan's 6 teams will be placed into 6 different groups, one team per group; Republic of Korea's 4 teams will be placed into 4 different groups; Hong Kong, China's 3 teams will be placed into 3 different groups; and the 2 teams from each of Greece, Türkiye, and Malaysia will be placed into 2 different groups, one team per group. Each of the remaining countries/regions with one team will be placed into one of the groups with 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 teams, 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	9	6	54
Total	**9**	**-**	**54**

Note: There are nine groups, Groups A-I, with six fixed team slots in each group.

The distribution of each country/region across Groups A-I 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-I	Maximum per Group
China	21	3 teams in each of 3 groups; 2 teams in each of 6 groups	3
Japan	6	1 team in each of 6 different groups	1
Republic of Korea	4	1 team in each of 4 different groups	1
Hong Kong, China	3	1 team in each of 3 different groups	1
Greece	2	1 team in each of 2 different groups	1
Türkiye	2	1 team in each of 2 different groups	1
Malaysia	2	1 team in each of 2 different groups	1
All other countries/regions with 1 team (14 in total; see Section III)	1 each	Each placed into one group, 1 team	1