



Rome, 23<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Underwater Hockey (UWH) community,

The CMAS is a member of GAISF – Global Association of International Sports Federations and a recognized member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The safety and also the athletes' health is of great importance for IOC and CMAS. The CMAS has the responsibility to implement policies to prevent possible sport injuries during the CMAS international competitions.

With this responsibility, the IOC create regular guidelines to all members related with ethical principles (Ethics Commission) and protection of the health of athletes (Medical and Scientific Commission).

The Age Categories in the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) are the final result of these guidelines and recommendations, where were defined the following:

## 1. Youth Categories

- The Youth Age categories are all categories that includes athletes under 18 years old;
- In the Youth Age categories, the age difference within each category cannot exceed 3 years;

*Example - 2018 YOG: The age category for YOG participation athletes was 15, 16, 17 or 18 years old on 31 December in the year of the Games (between 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2000 and 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2003 for Buenos Aires 2018).*

## 2. Gender

- In Underwater Hockey the Age categories cannot include both genders.

## 3. Insurance:

- CMAS cannot present a legal defense if a possible injury occurred in youth categories (under 18), between two athletes with more than three years of difference and/or between a youth category athlete and an adult ( $\geq 18$ yo). The same situation can be related if a possible injury occurred in a female athlete who plays for male teams.

To prevent possible sport injuries occurred in the Underwater Hockey, the following age categories will be in force starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and the participation of the female athletes to the male teams during CMAS competitions will not be allowed.





Age Categories for Underwater Hockey:

AGE CATEGORY	MIN AGE	MAX AGE
<b>Master</b>	35	No limit
<b>Elite</b>	18	no limit
<b>Under 24</b>	19	23
<b>Under 19</b>	15	18

### **Master (35– no limit)**

The minimum age in the category of masters for 35 years will make it possible that some elite players who were not selected for the elite national teams can play in CMAS international competitions master category. The trend of our society is more and more we have athletes with greater competitive longevity and at the same time an increase of masters' players. In the future there may be a need to create more divisions inside Masters category.

### **Elite (18 - no limit)**

The Elite age category is the category where all the adults can play ( $\geq 18$  yo). In this category a player under 19 with 18yo, under 24 or a Master in the year of the Elite Tournament, can play in Elite category. The countries with strong development of the sport can use the best players and at same time the countries that are in development can use a bigger range of ages to participate in CMAS International Competitions.

### **U24 (23yo - 19yo)**

This category has an important mission in the development of sport in order to prevent the drop-out phenomenon. This category usually coincides with entrance in the university or the first job of the athletes. This age category is of extreme importance for the transition between the Youth and Elite.

### **U19 (18yo – 15yo)**

This category was defined based on the IOC's recommendation for the Youth Olympic Games. All the Age Categories under 15 have to be seen as guidelines to Long Term Development Athlete career, they are not related with CMAS International Competitions.

  
Director  
Underwater Hockey Commission  
João José





## DECLARATION

### 5<sup>th</sup> Age Group World Championship – 2019

#### 1. Divisions

For the 5<sup>th</sup> Age Group World Championship – 2019 which are to be held in Sheffield next year the age categories will be:

AGE CATEGORY	MIN AGE	MAX AGE
<b>Under 24</b>	19	23
<b>Under 19</b>	15	18

- U24 Men's Division. The age category is 19-23 inclusive.
- U24 Women's Division. The age category is 19-23 inclusive.
- U19 Men's Division. The age category is 15-18 inclusive.
- U19 Women's Division. The age limits are 15-18 inclusive.

#### 2. Age Determination, Divisions and Exceptions

2.1 The athletic age of a competitor is obtained by subtracting the year of birth from the current year. The competitor will compete from January 1 to December 31 of the year in this category.

#### 3. Age Exceptions

3.1 A player whose age place him/her in the Under-19 division may compete in Under-24 only if he or she is 18 years of age (adult) according the 2.1 of this declaration.

*João José*  
Director

Underwater Hockey Commission  
João José



## DECLARATION

### 16<sup>th</sup> European Championship - 2019

#### 1. Divisions

For the 16<sup>th</sup> European Championship - 2019 which are to be held in Castellón de la Plana, Spain the age divisions will be:

AGE CATEGORY	MIN AGE	MAX AGE
<b>Master</b>	35	No limit
<b>Elite</b>	18	no limit

- Elite Men's Division. Minimum age is 18. There is no upper age limit.
- Elite Women's Division. Minimum age is 18. There is no upper age limit
- Men's Master's Division. Minimum age is 35. There is no upper age limit.
- Women's Master's Division. Minimum age is 35. There is no upper age limit.

#### 2. Age Determination, Divisions and Exceptions

- 2.1 The athletic age of a competitor is obtained by subtracting the year of birth from the current year. The competitor will compete from January 1 to December 31 of the year in this category.

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