

Junior International Championship Kaniow 2026

Bulletin 1



29.7. - 2.8. 2026

Dates, location, information, registration

Introduction

We would like to invite you to the 2026 Junior Canoe Polo Championships, which will take place in Kaniow, Poland. This event continues the tradition of the Junior Championships held in Belfast since 2017. Pete Boyle, the founder and organiser of the Belfast tournament, supports this initiative and is providing his patronage to the event.



Preface

In 2017, we received our first invitation to take part in an international junior championship in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The invitation itself, and the chance to offer Czech juniors an international tournament in different age categories, was a strong motivation for training. I would say that the 2017 event and its following editions helped shape the next generation of canoe polo players—not only in Czechia, but also in many other countries, including outside Europe.

During each tournament, besides the sporting experience, new connections and friendships were created—not only among players and coaches, but also among parents, volunteers, and the whole canoe polo family. Over the years, club boards also managed to improve the organisation of these trips and to develop better ways of financial and material support from national federations. Overall, it is hard to find any real negatives. Perhaps the only one was the heavy feeling of melancholy after returning home—but it always disappeared quickly with the next training session or tournament.

Players who are now shaping world canoe polo—such as Angus, Caleb, Fergal, Sara, and others—have grown up, and it is understandable that the motivation to keep organising the junior event in the same place has become a bit lower. The time has come to take over the baton and continue the tradition. In autumn 2025, we therefore met in an inter-club cooperation between KP Praha, UKS SET Kaniow, and UKS Katowice, and we would like to offer you the continuation of this successful series of international junior tournaments—this time at the UKS SET Kaniow club venue.

Organising Team

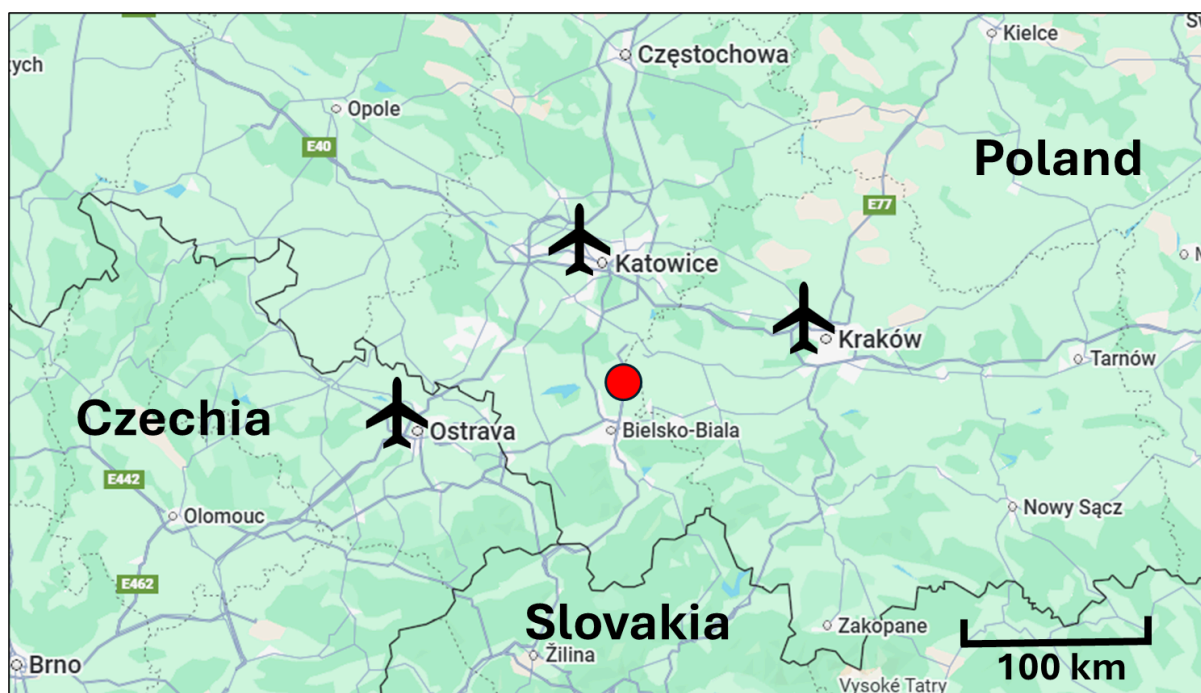
The organising team consists of members of the clubs UKS Set Kaniów, UKS Kanu Katowice, and KP Praha.

Official contact email: juniorkaniow2026@gmail.com

Organizers: Dariusz Pilarz, Łukasz Pilarz, Szczepan Witasek, Petr Ježdík, Jakub Koutník, Agnieszka Dobel

Location

- **Venue:** Kaniów – Czechowice-Dziedzice (near Bielsko-Biała), Poland
- **Address:** Malinowa 6, 43-512 Kaniów, Poland
- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/6riTCmSBBQoPEmcF7>



Venue location (Kaniów) and nearby airports (OSR, KTW, KRK)

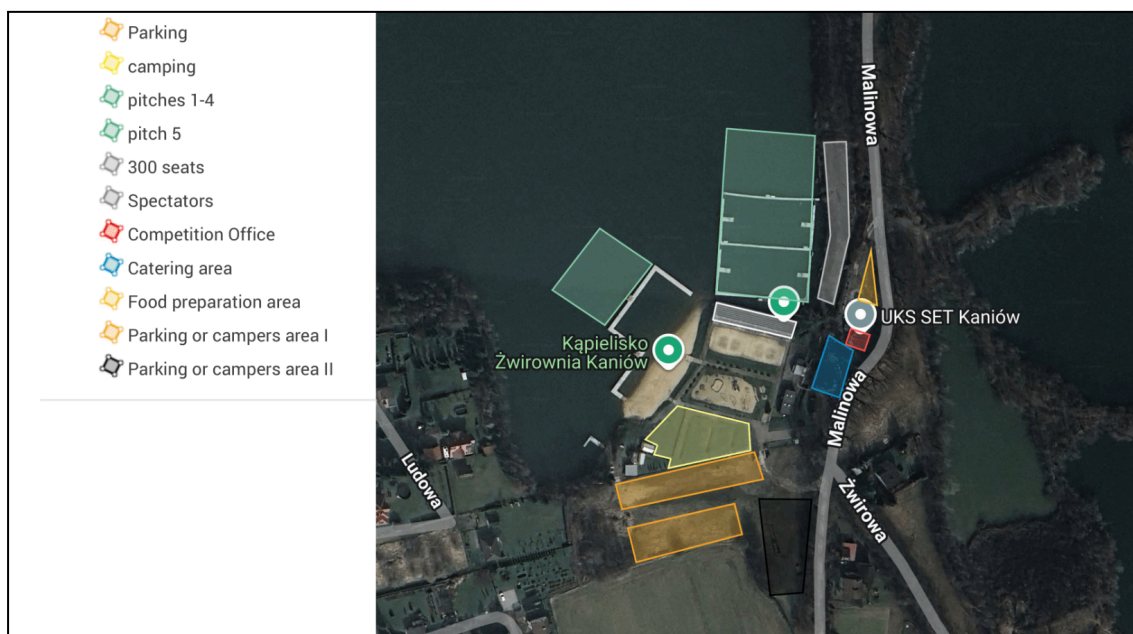
Accessibility and Transport

Within approximately 100 km, there are three international airports:

- Kraków (KRK)
- Katowice (KTW)
- Ostrava (OSR)
- Transport for people and kayaks can be arranged through the organiser from the airports.

Venue

- **Venue site:** A lake with permanent canoe polo pitches.
- In 2025, the venue hosted the ECA Canoe Polo European Club Championships (ECC). It also regularly hosts tournaments such as the Polish Championships and the Kaniow International Tournament.
- **Number of pitches:** 5



Venue: Junior Canoe Polo Championships, Kaniow

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1yVW-Da99_sHKA5W_0Xtu6qv7eVPPmSs&usp=drive_link

Programme

Event dates: 28.7.– 2.8. 2026

- **28.7. (Tuesday)** venue opens, free training sessions
- **29.7. (Wednesday)** official training sessions + opening ceremony
- **30.7. (Thursday)** match day 1
- **31.7. (Friday)** match day 2
- **1.8. (Saturday)** match day 3
- **2.8. (Sunday)** match day 4 - finals (the last match will start at 15:00)
- **3.8. (Monday)** teams depart, venue closes

Registration

Teams may register as national teams (preferred) or club teams.

Registration will take place in phases:

Phase 1: registration deadline is 17 March 2026.

In this phase, each club can register only one team per category (no B teams).

Phase 2: If the tournament capacity is not filled in Phase 1, it will be possible to register additional B teams.

Registration is open via this form: <https://forms.gle/NmCr7KwPqw49oBDG6>

Categories

- **U12 (2014):** 10 teams*
- **U14 (2012):** 10 teams*
- **U16 (2010):** 16 teams*
- **U18M (2008):** 16 teams*
- **U18W (2008):** 10 teams*
- **U21M (2005):** 12 teams*
- **U21W (2005):** 10 teams*
- **U23 (2003):** 6 teams*

*approx. capacity

Total maximum capacity: 75 teams

Fees

The tournament is non-profit. The entry fee is set to cover direct tournament costs only (mainly referees).

Entry fee: €150 per team

UKS SET KANIOW
BATALIONOW CHLOPSKICH 15 43-514 KANIOW
IBAN: PL 89 1050 1256 1000 0022 8495 8069
SWIFT: INGBPLPW (ING Bank Slaski)

Registration is confirmed after payment. If there are more registrations than the tournament capacity on 17.3.2026, the organizer reserves the right to adjust the start list.

Catering - Canoe Polo Kitchen

It will be possible to order catering for the whole tournament (breakfast, lunch, dinner, plus fruit, bread/rolls, and snacks available throughout the day). A team of cooks will prepare the meals on site.

The main benefit is that food is available throughout the day, so teams and players can fit meal times around the game schedule.

At the same time, we would like **each delegation to bring 1–2 volunteers** (typically parents) to help with meal preparation for catering teams (for example for 1–2 days).

We have very good experience with this shared cooking model from Belfast: at the Belfast event in 2025, we prepared food together this way (Czech Republic and Denmark—around 11 teams in total). For this championship, we would like to involve more teams in the shared “canoe polo kitchen.” We believe that cooking together will create a friendly international group and contribute significantly to the overall atmosphere of the event.

This model also seems to us to be the best organisationally, the most cost-effective, and the most sustainable.

Catering price: approximately **€12 per person per day** (to be confirmed based on the number of registered athletes and volunteers).

There will also be a separate snack bar at the venue (coffee, drinks, burgers, chicken strips, zapiekanka, etc.), and supermarkets are about 5 minutes away by car.



catering team 2024 (Belfast)

Referees

ICF referees will be invited to the tournament. We would also like to invite developing referees (junior or senior) who are considering becoming ICF referees in the future, as well as referees who do not yet hold a licence. We help to cover referees' travel costs, accommodation, and meals. If anyone is interested in attending the tournament as a referee, please contact us at juniorkaniow2026@gmail.com

Accommodation

Accommodation options:

- camping in your own tents directly at the venue (free of charge)
- guesthouses and hotels near the venue
- if needed, we can help you choose and book accommodation

Boat Rental

If needed, it will be possible to borrow plastic boats from the organisers (Exo / Dragorossi). Availability will be limited, and requests must be submitted in advance.



For more information, contact us at juniorkaniow2026@gmail.com

Photos: Ladislav Koutník, Matěj Kodiak Bartík