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- Draw for SWE 2011



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### On Friday, the Preliminary Round groups of the 2011 Men's WCh in Sweden will be drawn

When the draw for the Men's WCh in Sweden (13 to 30 January 2011) will take place in Gothenburg on Friday evening, starting from 18:24, we will finally know which teams will play against each other. Pot 6 (top seeded teams) includes the four semifinalists of the ECh in Austria, European Champion France, silver medalist Croatia, Iceland (bronze) and Poland. Three of these teams – France, Croatia and Poland – had also qualified for the semi-finals of the last WCh in Croatia. Pot 5 (second best row) contains Denmark, Spain, Norway and the host country Sweden which is allowed to chose its Preliminary Round group. Germany, Austria, Serbia and South Korea, which is the best seeded non-European team, are the countries in Pot 4. The next performance row includes Hungary, Tunisia, Romania and Slovakia. In Pot 2, Egypt is the strongest competitor in addition to the Pan-American champion Argentina, Algeria and Brazil. The pot which seems to be the weakest contains the WCh newcomers Chile and Bahrain as well as Japan and Australia. In Gothenburg, these 24 teams will be drawn into four Preliminary Round groups.

After the Preliminary Round (four groups including six teams each), the Main Round will start, for which the best three teams of the Preliminary Round groups will qualify, keeping the points scored against the previous opponents which also succeeded in qualifying. The best two teams of both Main Round groups will qualify for the two semi-finals. The remaining eight teams will compete for the places 5 to 12. The draw on Friday takes place within the framework of the Partille Cup (international youth tournament) and is carried out by the Swedish World Handball Player of the Century, Magnus Wislander, the Swedish international Johanna Ahlm and Leon Kalin (Slovenia), the President of the IHF Commission of Organizing and Competition. The Swedish television is broadcasting the ceremony live from 18:15. The WCh in Sweden will start with the opening match of the host team in Gothenburg on 13 January. The other 22 teams will play their Preliminary Round matches in Gothenburg, Linköping, Norrköping, Malmö and Lund in the southern part of Sweden from 14 January to 20 January. The matches of the two Main Round groups including six teams each will be held in Jonköping, Malmö and Lund whereas the President's Cup (places 13 to 24) will take place in Skövde, Malmö, Lund and Kristiansand. On 28 January, the two semi-finals will be played in Kristiansand and Malmö. The places 5 to 12 will be determined at the same time and also in the same cities. The final as well as the third-place play-off will take place in the huge Malmö Arena on 30 January.

The World Champion of Malmö will be the first team to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games directly. The places 2 to 7 will directly qualify for the qualification tournaments.

