

unitedrafting



**KANION**  
RAFTING KLUB



## **2026 European Rafting Championships**

Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

May 27th to 30th

**BULLETIN 1**

## Welcome to Banja Luka!

From May 26th to 30th, the vibrant city of Banja Luka and the legendary Vrbas River will proudly host the 2026 European Rafting Championships. The event will be organised by **Rafting Club Kanjon** under the umbrella of **United Rafting**.

This is a unique opportunity for both passionate fans and newcomers to discover one of Europe's most exciting rafting destinations. Even more special, this event continues Banja Luka's rich legacy as a premier host of international rafting competitions, reaffirming its place on the European rafting map.

Located in the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Banja Luka is surrounded by lush forests, rolling hills, and dramatic river canyons. The Vrbas River, famous for its crystal-clear waters and dynamic rapids, flows directly through the city, offering a spectacular natural arena for world-class competition.

Banja Luka perfectly blends outdoor adventure with a relaxed urban atmosphere. Known for its tree-lined avenues, historic fortresses, and welcoming spirit, the city offers visitors a chance to experience both adrenaline and authentic Balkan culture. Along the riverbanks, local life thrives - cafés, restaurants, and riverside spots create a lively and unforgettable setting.

Beyond the competition, the region's identity is shaped by its people - dedicated athletes, outdoor enthusiasts, and proud locals who celebrate tradition while embracing a dynamic and modern lifestyle.

Don't miss out! Join us in Banja Luka to experience the power of the Vrbas, the excitement of elite rafting, and the energy of a truly unforgettable European Championship.

We look forward to welcoming you!



## Venue

The competition will take place on the spectacular Vrbas River canyon, just minutes from the city center of Banja Luka. This stretch of the river is widely regarded as one of the finest rafting venues in Southeast Europe, combining technical rapids with breathtaking scenery. The course offers a perfect balance between challenge and accessibility, making it ideal for high-level European Championship racing while remaining visually engaging for spectators.

Natural rock formations, clear waters, and steep canyon walls create a dramatic setting, while multiple viewing points along the river allow fans to follow the action closely. The proximity to the city ensures easy logistics for teams, officials, and visitors alike, with accommodation, services, and event facilities all within a short distance.

## How to get to Banja Luka

Reaching Banja Luka is straightforward, with several convenient travel options available. The nearest airport is Banja Luka International Airport (BNX), located about 25 km from the city center, offering regular connections to key European hubs. Alternatively, travelers can fly into Zagreb Airport (approximately 180 km away) or Sarajevo Airport (around 230 km), both providing a wider range of international flights.

Banja Luka is also well connected by road, with modern highways linking it to major regional cities. Direct bus services operate frequently from Zagreb, Sarajevo, and other Balkan destinations. For those traveling by car, the journey offers scenic views of rivers, mountains, and countryside landscapes. Once in the city, local transport and short travel distances make it easy to access the competition venue and accommodation areas.

## General information

The competition will be held in the **Classic Format**, including the disciplines: Sprint, RX and Slalom. The event will be organized in the following recognized divisions: **Men, Women, Mixed, Para-Rafting**

Age category: **Senior**

The race courses have a difficulty level of **III / III+**.

The event will be organised in accordance with the **United Rafting Sport Rules**.

## Provisional Schedule

TIME		Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Start	Finish	
09:00	17:00	Accreditation
11:00	15:00	Free Training
16:00	17:00	Head of Delegation's Meeting
20:00	22:00	Opening Ceremony
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>		
11:00	13:00	Slalom official training
14:00	16:00	<b>Sprint Race</b>
16:30	17:00	Sprint Race Medal Ceremony
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>		
10:00	14:00	<b>RX Race (Knock-out phase)</b>
16:00	17:00	<b>RX Race (Finals A &amp; B)</b>
17:30	18:00	RX Race Medal ceremony
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>		
16:00	22:00	<b>Slalom race</b>
22:30	23:00	Slalom Race Medal Ceremony
23:00	23:15	Closing Ceremony

## Registration

Entry and accreditation requests must be made by the National Federation using the [TheFlow](#). For detailed instructions on how to submit entries, please read [Registration handbook - National Delegations](#).

Any questions or issues to entries or accreditation should be sent to prior to the respective deadline.

Nominal entries deadline: **12th May 2026, 11:59 p.m CET**

The limit for teams' number for each National Federation is:

- 2 Senior Men Teams
- 2 Senior Women Teams
- 2 Senior Mixed Teams
- 2 Senior Para-Rafting Teams

**Event fee: €120 per person**

## Reminder

Each athlete competing must be entered by full name. Head of Delegations and staff must also be submitted for accreditation at this time. These entries will be used to produce the accreditation cards for all teams.

Entries or accreditation requests sent directly to the committee or the competition organizer will NOT be accepted.

Accreditations do not include food, accommodation and transport

## Terms of Payment

Participation fees must be paid via TheFlow at the same time as registration.

Registration cannot be completed without payment. Any questions or issues related to entries or accreditation should be sent to the organizers prior to the respective deadline.

## Sport venue areas

All competitors and officials will receive **accreditation** passes allowing access to the designated areas. General security at the venue will be guaranteed by a local security agency. The Organising Committee does not assume responsibility for missing equipment or other personal belongings.

**Parking areas** will be organised at the venue, and each team will be allowed to park one van with a trailer.

Rescue services will be present in the competition area **during the official training and competition time** to ensure water safety.

The Organising Committee kindly asks all participants to ensure that they have valid medical insurance in their respective countries. The Organising Committee will not cover any expenses related to hospital or dental treatment.

## Accommodation

The organiser will provide a free camp in Krupa on Vrbas. Teams wishing to use the camp must register by mail [raftingcentarkanjon@gmail.com](mailto:raftingcentarkanjon@gmail.com) (deadline May 03, 2026)  
The number of camping spots is limited. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Note: National Delegations are responsible for their own accommodation if the camp is full. A list of nearby hotels can be provided upon request.

## Contact

### Rafting Club Kanjon

For accommodation, meals, camp please contact [raftingcentarkanjon@gmail.com](mailto:raftingcentarkanjon@gmail.com).

For all other things please contact [raftingclubkanjon@gmail.com](mailto:raftingclubkanjon@gmail.com).

River Vrbas, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina