



PESSAC BORDEAUX METROPOLE 2026

FISU
WORLD
UNIVERSITY
CHAMPIONSHIP
HANDBALL

NEWSPAPER



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CHAMPIONSHIP
HANDBALL 2026

20/06/2026

SUMMARY

OPENING CEREMONY

1

PHOTOS

2-3

UNITING SPORT AND CULTURE

4

OPENING MATCH AND SCORE

5

PHOTOS

6

LIVE MATCH BROADCASTS

7

OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony of the World University Handball Championships marked the beginning of a week dedicated to sport, sharing, and excellence. In a warm and festive atmosphere, the 11 participating nations from around the world made their entrance to the applause of the crowd, proudly displaying their national colours and embodying the diversity of the international university sports community.

The ceremony featured speeches from several key figures committed to the success of the event. Cédric Terret, President of the French University Sport Federation (FFSU), Bernard Muller, Vice-President of the University of Bordeaux, Ágnes Ančić-Valkai, representative of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), and Franck Raynal, Mayor of Pessac, each addressed the audience, with Mr. Raynal officially declaring the Championships open.

They highlighted the importance of university sport as a space for connection, personal development, and intercultural dialogue, while warmly welcoming the athletes and delegations in attendance.



@guillaume.mirand

The afternoon continued with a series of artistic performances combining music, dance, and contemporary aerial arts. These performances brilliantly reflected the energy, commitment, and team spirit that define handball, while also showcasing the host region and its rich cultural heritage.

The highlight of the ceremony was the gathering of all teams on the court. United in a shared moment of celebration, the athletes symbolically embodied the values of unity, respect, and friendship that lie at the heart of university sport. This powerful image perfectly illustrated sport's ability to bring people together and create lasting connections beyond borders.

The Opening Ceremony provided the ideal start to a competition that promises exceptional performances, memorable emotions, and meaningful human encounters throughout the week.



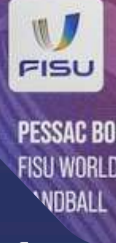
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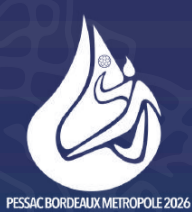
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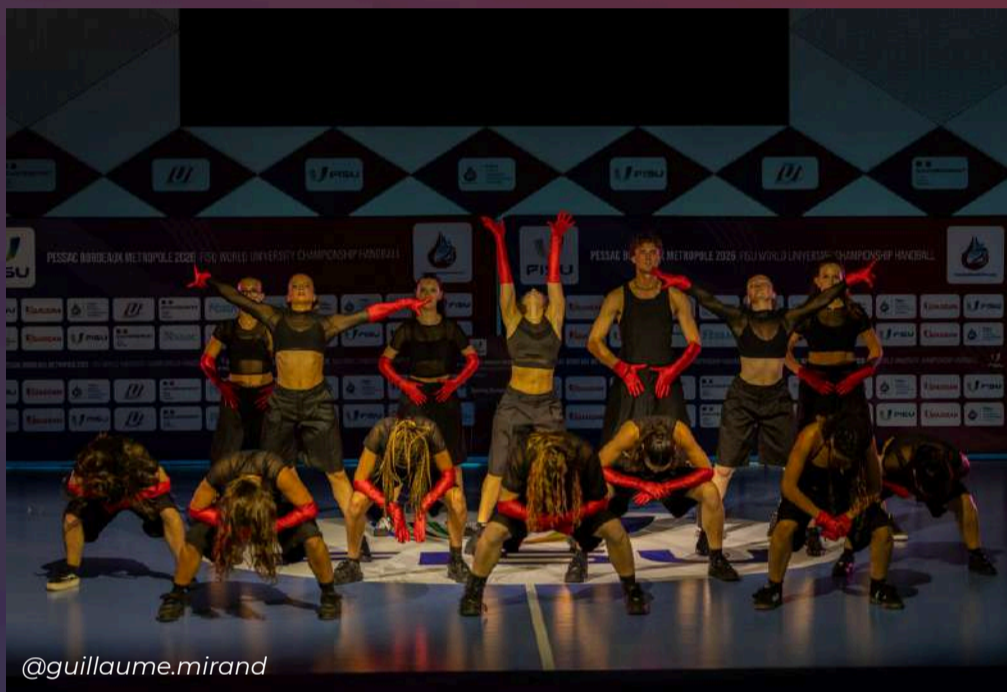
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UNITING SPORT AND CULTURE



The opening ceremony of the 2026 World University Handball Championship set the tone for the competition by combining artistic performance with the values of university sport.



Throughout the show, the dancers accompanied the different sequences of the ceremony through dynamic and contemporary choreography, reflecting the energy, commitment and team spirit that characterize both handball and university life. Their performances highlighted the diversity and openness that make this international event so unique.

One of the most memorable moments of the evening was the aerial performance of the acrobat, which brought a spectacular dimension to the production. Through impressive movements high above the stage, the acrobat symbolized ambition, self-improvement and the pursuit of excellence that inspire the student-athletes taking part in the championship.



This artistic creation emphasized the strong connection between sport, culture and youth, while celebrating the delegations gathered from around the world. An opening ceremony that perfectly reflected the spirit of the championship: dynamic, unifying and focused on bringing together the global university community.

OPENING MATCH & SCORE

The opening women's match of the 2026 World University Handball Championship delivered a closely contested encounter between France and the Netherlands.

From the opening minutes, both teams matched each other goal for goal in a game characterized by high intensity and frequent shifts in momentum. At halftime, the Netherlands held a narrow advantage, leading 15-14.

After the break, France managed to turn the game around with a strong second-half performance. Despite the Netherlands' continued resistance, the French team gradually took control and eventually secured a 30-27 victory.



@aa_sideline



@aa_sideline

This opening match highlighted the level of competition expected throughout the championship, with both sides remaining fully engaged in a closely fought contest until the final minutes.

In the stands, spectators turned out in large numbers to support the teams and contribute to the atmosphere of the opening day. Event partners were also present, demonstrating their commitment to supporting international university sport.

With a match full of intensity and suspense, the championship has begun on a promising note and offers an exciting preview of the high-level competition to come throughout the week.

WOMEN Group A



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5

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LIVE MATCH



BROADCASTS

How to Watch the Matches Live

The entire competition will be streamed live, so you can follow every match wherever you are. You can access the live broadcasts via the link in **@FISU's** bio.

- **Competition Phase** : From the start of the competition through the quarter-finals (included) : <https://www.youtube.com/@FISUtv>
- **Semi-finals and Final** : These matches will be broadcast on FISU's official platform : worlduniversity.sport.

To make access as easy as possible, all traffic will be redirected to the appropriate page. The **"Watch Live"** button will also be updated throughout the competition to direct you to the correct streaming platform.

Don't miss a single match and support your team throughout the competition !



CONTACT US

GENERAL ORGANIZATION

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SAFE ZONE Need Help ?

Have you experienced or witnessed inappropriate behaviour ?

Contact +33 6 44 42 98 80



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