WINTER WORLD MASTERS GAMES • FINLAND 2028

Ice Hockey · Winter World Masters Games 2028

INVITATION TO COMPETE AND SPORTS INFORMATION

Vierumäki and Heinola, 14–23 January 2028 · Version 1, October 2026

1. Welcome to Vierumäki and Heinola

The Winter World Masters Games 2028 bring 14 winter sports to Lahti, Heinola and Levi on 14–23 January 2028. Ice hockey is played on three rinks, two at Vierumäki and one at the Heinola ice hall, from 15 to 23 January.

Seven categories, three waves of three days. Each category plays its group games, quarter-finals and placement games across the three rinks, and every wave ends with the medal games at Heinola. Three women's and four men's categories, from 30+ to 60+.

Masters compete for themselves. There are no national delegations, and teams with players from several nations are welcome. Nothing stops us.

2. Organisers

Role	Organisation
Event owner	World Masters Sports (WMS)
Organising committee	Salppuri Oy, Lahti
Competition organiser	Vierumäki: tournament leadership at both venues, in co-operation with Salppuri

Venue partner	City of Heinola, Vierumäki Resort
Rules	IIHF Official Rule Book, with the WWMG tournament rules in this invitation
Tournament Director	Appointed by Vierumäki
Contact	nothingstopsus@masters2028.com, subject "Ice Hockey"

3. Venues and rinks

Venue	Rink	Size
Vierumäki ice halls, Urheiluopistontie 400, 19120 Vierumäki	Rink 1	59 × 29 m
Vierumäki ice halls	Rink 2	58 × 26 m
Heinola ice hall (Heinolan jäähalli), Urheilukatu 2, 18100 Heinola	Rink	59 × 29 m

- Group games are split evenly between the three rinks. The semi-finals and medal games of every wave are played at Heinola.
- Vierumäki is about 30 km and Heinola about 35 km from Lahti. Accredited participants travel on local transport Lahti–Heinola at a special reduced rate, and a paid shuttle runs Lahti–Vierumäki–Heinola. Timetables and prices are published in 2027.
- Team accommodation at Vierumäki and in Heinola is booked through masters2028.com. Paid team services at Vierumäki, such as equipment storage, are published in 2027.
- Spectators have free entry at both venues.
- Helsinki Airport to Lahti: about 100 km, one hour by train or car.

4. Who can enter

- Every player is 30 or older on 31 December 2027, born in 1997 or earlier. Your age on that day sets your category.
- The youngest player sets the team's category. Players may be older than the category.
- Goalkeepers may be younger than the category in the 40+, 50+ and 60+ categories, women and men alike: 40+ goalkeepers are 35 or older, 50+ goalkeepers 45 or older, 60+ goalkeepers 50 or older on 31 December 2027. There is no exception in the 30+ categories.
- The Games are for amateurs. You are not a member of a national team and you have no professional contract in the 2027–28 season.
- A player plays for one team in one category. Teams may be formed across nations. Women may play in men's teams.
- No club or federation membership is required. We ask for your club in the registration.
- You have your own accident, health and liability insurance, including repatriation, valid in Finland for training and competition. The organiser takes out no insurance for participants.
- You compete at your own risk and you are responsible for your own fitness to compete. No medical certificate is needed; you confirm your health in the registration.
- Masters compete for themselves. There are no national delegations or quotas.

- Participants holding Russian or Belarusian citizenship may attend the Winter World Masters Games 2028 only if they also hold citizenship of another country or are permanent residents of a country other than Russia or Belarus, and they participate individually without using or displaying any Russian or Belarusian flags, symbols, names, abbreviations, colour combinations, anthems, or other national identifiers. This decision has been made by the Local Organising Committee and follows the policies of the Finnish Government and Finnish sports organisations. If the political situation changes, LOC is able to re-consider the decision any time.

5. Categories and waves

Category	Wave	Days	Teams / Fields
Women 30+	Wave 1	Saturday 15 – Monday 17 January	up to 8 teams
Men 50+	Wave 1	Saturday 15 – Monday 17 January	16 teams

Women 40+	Wave 2	Tuesday 18 – Thursday 20 January	8 teams
Women 50+	Wave 2	Tuesday 18 – Thursday 20 January	4 teams
Men 60+	Wave 2	Tuesday 18 – Thursday 20 January	12 teams
Men 30+	Wave 3	Friday 21 – Sunday 23 January	12 teams
Men 40+	Wave 3	Friday 21 – Sunday 23 January	12 teams

The organiser may adjust the number of teams in each category, combine categories or move a category to another wave to keep the schedule within rink capacity. Final fields are confirmed when team entries close on 30 November 2027.

Every category has one medal set: gold, silver and bronze.

6. Tournament format

Structure. Groups of four teams, single round robin. The group stage leads to quarter-finals, semi-finals, the bronze medal game and the gold medal game. Teams outside the medal bracket play placement games. Every team plays at least four games minimum.

Game. Three periods of 15 minutes effective time. Each game has a 1.5-hour slot including resurfacing. Games are played between 09:00 and 21:00.

Points and ranking. Group games may end in a tie: three points for a win, one for a tie, none for a loss. Tied teams are ranked by the game between them, goal difference, goals scored, fewest penalty minutes and, last, a draw of lots.

Play-off ties. A tied play-off game goes to five minutes of 3-on-3 sudden-death overtime, then a shoot-out.

Playing rules. No body checking. Slap shots are not allowed. Everything else follows the IIHF Official Rule Book.

Roster. Minimum 11 players, ten skaters and a goalkeeper; maximum 20 players including goalkeepers.

Schedule. The game schedule is published on masters2028.com in December 2027, after team entries close.

7. Programme (Preliminary)

Day	Ice hockey	Also on
Friday 14 January	Wave 1 teams arrive · accreditation · Team Captains' Meeting	Opening Ceremony, Lahti · accreditation opens at the Games Centre
Saturday 15 January	Wave 1: group games	
Sunday 16 January	Wave 1: group games and quarter-finals	
Monday 17 January	Wave 1: placement games · semi-finals, bronze and gold at Heinola · medal ceremonies	Wave 2 teams arrive · Team Captains' Meeting
Tuesday 18 January	Wave 2: group games	
Wednesday 19 January	Wave 2: group games and quarter-finals	
Thursday 20 January	Wave 2: placement games · semi-finals, bronze and gold at Heinola · medal ceremonies	Wave 3 teams arrive · Team Captains' Meeting
Friday 21 January	Wave 3: group games	
Saturday 22 January	Wave 3: group games and quarter-finals	

Sunday 23 January	Wave 3: placement games · semi-finals, bronze and gold at Heinola · medal ceremonies	Farewell Party, Lahti

Changes for organisational or safety reasons are announced at the Team Captains' Meeting and on masters2028.com.

8. Team Captains' Meeting

The Team Captains' Meeting of each wave is held on the arrival day, the day before the first game, at the team's first venue. One representative per team must attend. The Tournament Director presents the WWMG tournament rules, the schedule, the rinks, changing rooms and equipment rules, and the rosters are locked.

9. Rules

- The games follow the IIHF Official Rule Book, current edition, with the WWMG tournament rules in this invitation. Every player is responsible for knowing the rules before the first game.
- No body checking. Slap shots not allowed.
- Full protective equipment to IIHF rules, with the helmet chin strap fastened. Bring your own equipment; the equipment rules are presented at the Team Captains' Meeting.
- Referee decisions are final and cannot be protested. Questions of player eligibility go to the Tournament Director, whose decision is final. There is no protest fee.
- A match penalty is reviewed by the Tournament Director before the player's next game.
- Anti-doping: the WMS anti-doping rules and the WADA Code apply.

10. Entry and fees

- Registration opens on 1 November 2026 at masters2028.com. The first week is reserved for pre-registered athletes. Each player registers and pays personally online.
- Ice hockey: 225 € per player, VAT 13.5 % included. The game entry covers up to three sports; ice hockey counts as one. There is no team discount.
- The player who creates the team gets one team code and shares it. Every player enters the code with their registration and pays their own entry. The team is complete when at least 11 players have registered and paid under the code. Team staff register as accompanying persons.
- Places are allocated to complete teams in the order they are completed, up to the field of each category. Later teams go on a waiting list.
- Team entries close on 30 November 2027, or earlier when the category is full. Late fee +50 € from 1 October 2027.

- Roster changes are free until 30 November 2027, then 25 € per change. Rosters are locked at the Team Captains' Meeting.

11. Cancellation

When you cancel	Refund
Until 30 June 2027	Full refund minus 50 € admin fee
1 July – 30 November 2027	50 %
From 1 December 2027	No refund
With a doctor's certificate, any time	50 %

Entries cannot be transferred to another person. If the organiser cancels all your sports, 50 % is refunded. The general terms and conditions and the privacy policy on masters2028.com are part of this invitation.

12. Results and medals

Game schedule, game sheets and results are on masters2028.com. The medals are awarded at the Heinola ice hall right after each final: Wave 1 on Monday 17, Wave 2 on Thursday 20 and Wave 3 on Sunday 23 January. No flags, no national anthems: masters compete for themselves.

13. Accommodation and travel

Team accommodation at Vierumäki and in Heinola, and hotels in Lahti, are booked through masters2028.com. Local transport runs at a special reduced rate with your accreditation, and a paid shuttle connects Lahti, Vierumäki and Heinola. Details in 2027.

14. Coaches and companions

Team staff and companions register as accompanying persons on masters2028.com. Registration for accompanying persons opens in 2027.

15. Contact

nothingstopsus@masters2028.com · subject "Ice Hockey" · masters2028.com

Attachments: IIHF Official Rule Book. Changes for organisational or safety reasons are possible. The version date for this document is 15 October 2026.

NOTHING STOPS US.
WE ARE MASTERS.