National selection criteria

2026 European Under 21 Championships

15-18/12/2026, Split (Croatia)

1. General information

1.1 Date of the championship

The European Championship U21 2026 (EC U21 - 2026) Taekwondo will take place from 15th to 18th December 2026.

1.2 Place

Split (Croatia)

1.3 Eligibility

The requirements to participate in the EC U21 - 2026 are as follows. The taekwondoin must :

- Hold a valid 2026 WT GAL,
- be a member of a federation that is also affiliated with the Belgian Taekwondo Federation,
- have Belgian nationality,
- be the holder of at least a 1st Kup diploma,
- born in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

1.4 Weight Classes

The available weight classes are as follows:

- Women: -46, -49, -53, -57, -62, -67, -73, +73 kg
- Men: -54, -58, -63, -68, -74, -80, -87, +87 kg

1.5 Number of selected persons per category

Two taekwondoins per weight category per country can be selected.

1.6 Registration period

The registration period starts on 22/10/2026 and closes on 22/11/2026 (at 23:59).

1.7 Selection period

The selection period starts on 01/03/2026 and closes on 15/11/2026 (at 23:59).

2. The national selection criteria

2.1 The selection criteria

To gain direct selection for participation in the EC U21 - 2026, the Belgian taekwondoin must meet at least the following conditions:

a) Have been selected for the 2026 Senior European Championships
b) Have won a top 4 at the 2026 Junior World Championships

Comments:

- The senior taekwondoin will be selected in the weight class in which he meets the selection criteria.
- The junior taekwondoin will be selected in the most suitable weight class. The weight of the taekwondoin, properly hydrated (with an empty stomach and bladder), should not be more than 5% higher than the weight of the desired weight class.

2.2 In the event of equality

If more than one taekwondoin meet the selection criteria « a » or « b », the following will be decided:

- The taekwondoin who achieved a top 8 place at the 2026 Senior European Championship will be selected
- If the senior taekwondoin does not achieve a top 8 place, the junior taekwondoin will be selected.

In categories where no taekwondoin meets this second criterion, criteria 2.3 shall can then apply.

2.3 Deliberation criteria

Since the European U21 Championships are open to participants from different age categories (juniors and seniors), the National Selection Committee (NSC) will also select based on motivated applications submitted by the technical departments of each federation. After analysing the chances of success, the NSC will decide about a possible selection.

Despite this, there are minimum criteria to be considered for selection:

- The junior taekwondoin must :
  - Have reach a top 8 at 2026 Junior world Championships
    or
  - have won at least 2 silver medal E1/G1- at E/G-rank tournaments with at least 2 fights won, during the selection period.
- The senior taekwondoin must :
  - Meet the deliberation criteria for 2026 Senior European Championship
    or
  - Have won at least two fights at a G-rank tournament during the selection period.

Applications must be submitted to the NSC no later than Monday 16/11/2026.

3. Notes on the Direct Selection Tournament 2026

ETU organized some tournaments that lead to direct selection for the EC U21 – 2026 : European Club Championships, Multi-European Games, and Presidents Cup, respectively.

The sub-federation to which the athlete(s) selected in this way belong, reserves the right to provide financial support for the travel costs or not.

If two taekwondoin meet the national selection criteria in the same category and one of them has obtained a selection place through direct selection, both taekwondoin will be selected.