

# FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship: Iran edges Poland in five-set thriller

## Sports Desk

Iranian boys held out a fight-back by Poland to beat the European opponent 3-2 (25-22, 25-14, 17-25, 14-25, 15-13) in Pool C of the FIVB U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Friday. This was a first victory for Iran – runner-up to France in the previous edition in 2023 – at this year's event following a shock five-set setback against Spain on the preceding day in the Uzbek capital. Opposite-spiker Amir Naderi chipped in a game-high 23 points for Iran, which was playing without Mahan Barzkar after the prolific outside-hitter suffered an injury in the fifth set against Spain to miss the rest of the tournament. Four other Iranians also finished in double figures on Friday, as Mohammad-Amin Rahimi contributed 14 points, with Nima Bateni, Seyyed Hossein Zamani, and Armin Asiaei scoring 10 apiece. Opposite Maksymilian Łysoni

and outside-hitter Oskar Trawka were the joint-top scorers for Poland, which had edged out Italy in five sets in their opening game, with 16 points while Jakub Szczurowski finished on 10. Chasing a third world under-19 title, and first since 2017, Iran will take on Tunisia today, before squaring off against Egypt (Monday) and Italy (Tuesday) in the pool phase. The top four in each of the three six-team groups will progress to the round of 16. Elsewhere on Friday, defending champion France celebrated a second win in Pool B by easing past Algeria in straight sets (25-16, 25-14, 25-14), while Belgium recovered from a first-day setback against Pakistan to defeat Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-21, 25-21, 25-16) in Pool A.

Iranian middle-blocker Armin Asiaei (19) celebrates a point with teammates during a 3-2 victory over Poland at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on July 25, 2025. ● FIVB



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## Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship: Iran pips Chinese Taipei to consolation fifth place

### Sports Desk

There was a bit of consolation for Iranian girls at the end of a tough Asian Youth Handball Championship campaign in Jinggangshan, China, courtesy of a 34-33 victory over the Chinese Taipei in the fifth-place playoff. Parisan Khosravi delivered a player-of-the-match performance with

11 goals, as the game finished 30-30 at the end of normal time before Iran came out victorious in the shootout. Diana Rezaei, meanwhile, contributed six goals before being forced out injured in the early stages of the second period, with Sana Folyoff. Iranian girls were unlucky to be drawn in the same group as Japan and South

Korea – top two in the previous edition – suffering back-to-back 40-27 defeats against the two Asian powerhouses, but they managed to beat India 42-30 to stand third in the Group B table. Iran then overcame Hong Kong 32-15, thanks to a prolific performance by Rezaei, before pulling off a win against the Chinese Taipei on Thursday.

Japan will be looking to defend its crown when taking on China in today's final showpiece at the Gymnasium of Jiangxi University of Software Professional Technology, with South Korea and Kazakhstan fighting for the third place. The four semifinalists have already booked a spot at the 2026 IHF Youth World Championship.

## Asian Roller Skating Championships: Iran beats China in women's inline hockey event

### Sports Desk

Iranian women's inline hockey team defeated China 2-1 in its second outing at the Asian Roller Skating Championships in Jecheon, South Korea, on Friday. Hadiseh Pourhashemi scored twice as Iranian girls celebrated a second

win in a row at the multi-sport event, having beaten India 6-1 in their opener. Next for Iran at the inline hockey contests is a game against the host today. Iran has already bagged two medals through Taraneh Ahmadi and Reza Lesani in the 20th edition of the competition.

A silver winner at the Asian Games in 2023, Ahmadi settled for a runner-up finish in the women's inline freestyle speed slalom event, while Lesani – a gold medalist at the Hero Battle Cup in Milan earlier in the month – took the bronze in the men's contests.



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## FIBA U16 Asia Cup WABA qualifiers: Iran suffers final defeat against Lebanon

### Sports Desk

Iran settled for a runner-up finish at the FIBA U16 Asia Cup West Asian qualifiers after an 88-80 against Lebanon in Thursday's final in Amman, Jordan. Johnny Sawma chipped in a game-high 33 points, as Lebanon celebrated a second win against Iran in the Jordanian capital, having come out victorious by an 84-70 scoreline when the two teams met in their opening game in Group A of the qualifiers. Mauricio Abboud contributed a double-double for Lebanon with 20 points and 15 rebounds, while Charbel El Herera (18 points) and Amin Nahle (12) also finished in double figures. Alireza Rashidi was the Iranian top scorer on Thursday with 30 points, followed by Mohammad-Safa Behnia (15), Mohammad-Saleh Pakgozar

(14), with Amirreza Azari registering a double-double with 13 points and 14 rebounds. A place in the final showpiece had already booked a spot for the two sides at

the 2025 FIBA U16 Asia Cup in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Iran bounced back from the first-day loss to Lebanon to beat Syria 86-81, before Bardia Khosravi

delivered an MVP performance with 19 points and 11 rebounds to help Iran come out victorious (96-88) against Jordan on Tuesday and advance to the final.



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