

J EUROPEAN CLUB COMPETITION - MEN

J.1 European Club Competition - Men

The European Club Competition - Men shall be organised in two different events:

- a) The European Champions League (named hereafter **ECLM**).
- b) The ETTU Cup (named hereafter **ETCM**)

J.1.2 The European Club Competition - Men shall be open for the winners of the ECLM and ETCM of the previous season and up to seven (7) clubs of each Member Association, taking part during the same season in the top national league, and having been entered by their Association.

J.1.3 The competition shall be conducted on behalf of the Club Competition Official by the ETTU General Secretary, who shall have the authority to change dates of matches whenever needed. Upon a justified request from a club, the Executive Board shall have the authority to change the venue of a match even to a location situated on the territory of a neighbouring Member Association. All matches shall be played at a venue located within 4 hours from CET time.

J.2 QUALIFICATION

J.2.1 ECLM

The ECLM shall be open only to

- a) the winner of the ECLM of the previous season;
- b) the fifteen (15) highest ranked teams (considering all entries) from the seeding list based on the total number of ranking points of the three highest ranked players on the current World Ranking List, but only one (1) "foreign player" being considered.

J.2.1.1 No more than four (4) clubs from the same Association are entitled to participate in the ECLM.

J.2.1.2 If a qualified club does not enter the ECLM or does not fulfil the requirements set up, the Executive Board will decide which other club may fill the vacant position.

J.2.1.3 In case a qualified club does not participate in the ECLM, this club is not allowed to participate in the ETCM neither.

J.2.1.4 Every club engaged in the ECLM has to participate with one representative in at least one meeting per season, convened by ETTU.

J.2.2 ETCM

All teams not qualified for the ECLM may play in the ETCM.

J.3 MARKETING REGULATION (only for ECLM)

J.3.1 The ETTU holds the following rights for every team match within the ECLM:

J.3.1.1 The international TV rights.

J.3.1.2 The rights for live streaming on Internet.

J.3.1.3 The exclusive right to appoint a title sponsor – to be communicated at least 3 months before the start of the ECLM – plus the right to provide advertising exposure to the title sponsor at every ECLM match.

Host clubs must always, in any publication under their responsibility regarding the ECLM, use the correct denomination of the title sponsor. A club failing to do this shall be fined by the Club Competition Official and eventually made liable for the payment of all undisputed damages claimed by the title sponsor.

J.3.1.4 Advertisement space on 25 % of the surrounds per court. (only in case a title sponsor has been appointed)

J.3.2 Every club participating in the ECLM has to fulfil the obligations regarding the production of live streaming.

J.3.2.1 Every club in the ETCM reaching the quarter finals has to fulfil the obligations regarding the production of Live Streaming.

J.3.3 Each club participating in the ECLM has to provide the necessary facilities and staff for the electronic transmission of each home match by a “live ticker” system (LSS) made available by the ETTU.

The LSS Service may also be provided by the Host Club using another than the ETTU's tool, but only after previous authorisation by the ETTU. In any case, additional services must not be less than those provided by the official ETTU web site.

All relevant technical details are stated in the respective directives.

J.4 ENTRIES

J.4.1 A club wishing to enter the ETTU Club Competition - Men shall send a completed entry form to the ETTU Secretariat to arrive latest by 1st of June, including the address, the phone numbers and e-mail address of their playing hall, the type of the floor the club uses for the home matches, the equipment used (tables, nets, colour of the shirts, balls), the names of its six eligible players and the name of the responsible, authorized club representative.

In case of emergency (illness or injuries of several players) the ETTU General Secretary may allow the participation of a not nominated player. In such a case a nominated player cannot be nominated as reserve player for the relating match.

J.4.2 Together with the entry form for its team, a club shall submit, separately for each one of its nominated players, a player registration form provided by the ETTU.

This registration form must include the confirmation, that

- a) the club and the player have signed a contract ensuring that the player will be at the disposal of the club during the whole period of the relevant playing season,
- b) the club and the player have accepted the provision of article J.8.5 in the ETTU Handbook regarding the eligibility for the ECLM.

The registration form must be signed by the player.

J.4.3 The authorization to enter the ECLM must be obtained from the National Association, which shall be responsible for its clubs and players with respect to entry fee, discipline, nominations, eligibility and in compliance with the ETTU regulations.

- J.4.4 The Associations concerned shall send to the ETTU bank account the following entry fees:
 ECLM: 2,000 €
 ETCM: 250 €.

J.5 FIXTURES

- J.5.1 The competition shall be held each season between 1st August and end of June, according to a schedule agreed by the Executive Board.
- J.5.2 The actual playing season shall be from the day before the first round of the competition until the day after the second final match.

J.5.3 ECLM

- J.5.3.1 Matches shall normally be played on a Friday, but clubs may agree to play on an earlier date or on the following Saturday or Sunday. In case of disagreement the official playing day is Friday.
- J.5.3.2 Dates and times of the final matches have to be approved by the ETTU in advance. All clubs participating in the final matches are invited to have their matches played on different days (or at least at different times) for a better promotion of the event.
- J.5.3.3 In the last round of the group matches, all matches shall be played on the same day (Friday) and started at the same time (7,30 p.m. – CET).
- J.5.3.4 For the group matches the home club shall send the visiting club a written invitation, to arrive not later than 6 weeks before the match is due to be played, giving details of the location, date, starting time and accommodation, and shall send a copy of this invitation to the ETTU Secretariat. Clubs failing to respect this provision and/or the relating deadline are subject to a fine (according to clause J.16).
 For the quarter-final, semi-final and final matches the qualified clubs shall send to their opponents, as soon as possible, a written invitation giving details of the location, date, starting time and accommodation, and shall send a copy of this invitation to the ETTU Secretariat.

J.5.4 ETCM

- J.5.4.1 In the first two rounds, group matches shall be played on Saturday and on Sunday, whereof the time schedule shall be as follows:

Group with 4 teams:

Round 1: Saturday at 2 pm
 Round 2: Saturday at 7 pm
 Round 3: Sunday at 10 am

Group with 5 teams:

Round 1: Saturday at 10 am
 Round 2: Saturday at 2 pm
 Round 3: Saturday at 7 pm
 Round 4: Sunday at 10 am
 Round 5: Sunday at 2 pm

- J.5.4.2 Starting with the 3rd round, matches shall normally be played on a Friday, but clubs may agree to play on an earlier date or on the following Saturday or Sunday. In case of disagreement the official playing day is Friday.

J.5.4.3 The home club shall send to the visiting club a written invitation, to arrive not later than 21 days before the match is due to be played, giving details of the location, date, start time and accommodation, the brands and colours of tables and balls which will be used in the match, and shall send a copy of this invitation to the ETTU Secretariat. Clubs failing to respect this provision and/or the relating deadline are subject to a fine (according to clause J.16).

J.6 HOSPITALITY

J.6.1 The home club shall provide to the away club free hospitality, full board and lodging at a hotel of good standard for 2 days/nights (in case of a group with 4 teams and for direct knock-out matches), respectively for 3 days/nights (in case of a group with 5 teams) for 5 visiting persons, as well as transport from the local airport or railway station to the hotel or playing hall and back.

J.6.2 For the second final match, the host club shall moreover provide free hospitality for two (2) days for 1 ETTU representative.

J.7 THE DRAW

J.7.1 The draw shall be made in public by the ETTU General Secretary on a date and place to be published at least two months in advance on the official ETTU web site. Only clubs which have complied with regulation J.4 will be included in the draw. All clubs entered and all Member Associations will be notified of the result of the draw.

J.7.2 ECLM

J.7.2.1 The draw for all sixteen (16) teams in the competition will be according to a specific seeding list set up by the Ranking Committee and based on the total number of the ranking points on the current World Ranking of the 3 highest ranked players nominated by each club, but only 1 “foreign player” being considered for that purpose. The team seeded number 1 shall be placed in position 1 of Group A; the team seeded number 2 shall be placed in position 1 of Group D; the teams seeded number 3 and 4 shall be drawn between positions 1 of groups B and C. The remaining teams shall then be drawn 4 by 4 between the 4 groups.

Clubs from a same Association shall, as far as possible, be drawn into different groups.

J.7.3 ETCM

J.7.3.1 8 teams will be directly drawn to the second round and 8 teams will be drawn into the 'Last-16'-round.

These latter 8 teams shall be drawn according to a relating seeding list set up by the Ranking Committee and based on the total of the ranking points on the current World Ranking of the 3 highest ranked players nominated by each club, but only 1 “foreign player” being considered for that purpose.

J.7.4 For players who are no longer listed on the World Ranking, the following regulation will be applied:

- **50** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is less than 2 year old;
- **100** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 2 and 3 years old;
- **150** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 3 and 4 years old;
- **200** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 4 and 5 years old;
- **250** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 5 and 6 years old;
- **300** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 6 and 7 years old;
- **350** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 7 and 8 years old;
- **400** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 8 and 9 years old;
- **450** points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 9 and 10 years old.

No points for players who were never on the World Ranking List (except for Chinese players).

Players not included in the World Ranking List but having a high ranking in a National League may be given a value of up to **2100** points by the Ranking Committee.

J.8 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS (ECLM and ETCM)

J.8.1 Only nominated players are entitled to represent their club.

A club shall nominate 6 players on the relevant entry form. In this list, only 2 players who are not eligible in accordance with the provisions of Regulation B.10 to represent the club concerned ("foreign players") may be nominated and must be clearly designated. Amendments to this list may be made only up to the draw and shall be sent by e-mail to the ETTU Secretariat; no alterations shall be accepted after the draw.

In case a player starts the competition as a "foreign player" and his nationality changes during the playing season he shall nonetheless continue to be considered as a "foreign player" up to the end of the current playing season.

J.8.2 Only 1 "foreign player" is entitled to participate in a team match. In case one "foreign player" is nominated to participate in the team match, it is not allowed to nominate the second "foreign player", if given, as "reserve player".

J.8.3 By 10th of August the ETTU Secretariat shall send to the participating clubs and to their Associations a list of the players nominated by each club.

J.8.4 A player shall compete only for one club in the period starting the day before the first round of the competition until the day after the club of the player has played the last match in the competition of the event in international team competitions under the control of the ETTU or any other Continental Federation/Union. This regulation also applies to players who are principally eligible to take part in team competitions on

national level under the authority of an ITTF Member Association, except commitments for their national team.

J.8.5 ECLM

Only players who have participated in at least 50% of the group matches are allowed to play the quarter-final, semi-final and final matches. Reserve players being present in the playing hall of a match will be considered as participants of that match, if their presence is confirmed by the Referee on the result sheet of that match.

J.9 PLAYING FORMAT

J.9.1 ECLM

J.9.1.1 The ECLM will be played in two stages.

J.9.1.2 In the 1st stage, the teams will be divided into 4 groups of 4 teams and in each group the teams of this group will play each other in order to determine the final ranking order in each group.

J.9.1.3 In the 2nd stage the winners and the 2nd ranked teams of the groups will play in a single knock-out competition, with quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final, to determine the winner of the competition.

The home right for the first leg of these matches will be given to the 2nd ranked teams of the groups, for the final matches the home right for the first leg will be given to the lower ranked team.

After the group matches of the ECLM, the four teams ranked on position 3 in the four groups shall continue to compete in the ETTU Cup.

J.9.1.4 In all stages each tie will be played in 2 legs, home and away.

J.9.1.5 If in a match of the second stage each team has won one leg, the winner will be the team with the better aggregate score, the two legs being considered together, first in individual matches, then in games and finally in points. If the teams are then still at equality, the winner shall be decided by lot.

J.9.2 ETCM

J.9.2.1 In the first two rounds the competition shall be played in groups of 3, 4 or 5 teams. In the 1st round, the teams finishing in positions 1 and 2 in every group will qualify for the second round.

J.9.2.2 In the second round the competition shall be played in groups of 4 teams. The teams finishing in position 1 in every group shall qualify for the round of the last sixteen.

J.9.2.3 From the 3rd round on, a competition according to the single knock-out system will be used with 8 teams drawn directly into the last 16 according to the provisions of Regulation J.7.3., and the 4 teams having been ranked 3rd in the ECLM groups) drawn directly to the quarter-finals.

J.9.2.4 The quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals will be played in 2 legs, home and away. The home right for the first leg will be given to the lower ranked team.

J.9.2.5 If each team has won one leg, the winner will be the team with the better aggregate score, the two legs being considered together, first in individual matches, then in games and finally in points. If the teams are then still at equality, the winner shall be decided by lot.

J.9.3 In a group, 2 match points shall be awarded for a win, 1 for a loss and 0 for a loss in a not played or unfinished match, and the ranking order shall be determined primarily by the numbers of match points gained.

J.9.3.1 If 2 or more teams have gained the same number of match points, their relative positions shall be determined by the results only of matches between them, taking successively the numbers of match points, then the ratio of wins to losses in games and then the ratio of wins to losses in points, as far as it is necessary to determine the ranking order.

J.9.3.2 If after any step the positions of one or more teams have been determined while others are still equal, the results of matches in which those teams took part shall be excluded from any further calculations needed to resolve the equalities in accordance with the procedure of J.9.3.1.

J.9.3.3. If 2 or more teams have gained the same number of match points and have the same ratios of wins to losses in games and points, their relative positions shall be decided by lot.

J.10 PLAYING SYSTEM

J.10.1 The playing system shall be the new Swaythling Cup system (best of 5 singles).

J.10.2 A team shall consist of 3 or 4 players selected from those nominated by the team's club for the event.

J.10.3 All individual matches (singles) shall be played on the same table.

J.10.4 The home team is considered to be composed by the players A1, A2, A3 and the visiting team is considered to be composed by the players B1, B2, B3.

The order of play in a team match shall be A1 v B2, A2 v B1, A3 v B3, A1 v B1, A2 v B2, and the match shall end when a team has won 3 singles, each the best of 5 games.

After the second single in a team match, player No. 4 of the team may replace player A1 or A2 (for the home team) respectively player B1 or B2 (for the away team). Such a player substitution must be announced by the respective team captain to the Referee at the latest before the start of the third single.

J.10.5 There shall be only one interval of not more than 15 minutes after the second individual match. For televised matches there shall be no delays.

J.11 PLAYING CONDITIONS

J.11.1 For the ECLM the dimensions of the playing court shall not be less than 16 m long, 8 m wide and 5 m high, for the ETC the dimensions of the playing court shall not be less than 14 m long, 7 m wide and 4 m high.

J.11.2 All matches in the ECLM shall be played on ITTF approved floor mats.

J.11.3 The light intensity shall not be less than 600 LUX over the table.

- J.11.4 The minimum temperature in the playing area shall not be less than 16° C.
- J.11.5 The playing conditions must be checked and approved by the Referee, whose decision shall be final. Even in case of disputes about the playing conditions the clubs are obliged to play the match.

J.12 TROPHIES

- J.12.1 The “European Champions League Trophy” and the “ETTU Cup – Men” shall be presented by a representative of the ETTU to the respective winning teams.
- J.12.2 Medals shall be presented by a representative of the ETTU to the individual members of the winning team and the losing finalists of the ECLM and ETCM.

J.13 DRESS/COLOURS

- J.13.1 The home club shall notify the visiting team of the colours of its playing clothing and the visiting team shall wear different colours.
- J.13.2 Advertisements on players’ clothing shall comply with ITTF Regulations for International Competitions.

J.14 REFEREES and UMPIRES

- J.14.1 For all matches other than the quarter-final, semi-final and final matches (in the ECLM), semi-final and final matches (in the ETCM) the Association of the home club shall appoint at least three umpires. At least one of these umpires shall be an International Umpire and shall additionally fulfil the duties of the Referee.
- J.14.2 For the quarter-final, semi-final and final matches (in the ECLM), semi-final and final matches (in the ETCM) the General Secretary, in co-operation with the Referees and Umpires Committee, shall arrange for two International Umpires coming from an Association other than those of the clubs whose teams are involved in the respective match. One of these International Umpires shall additionally fulfil the duties of the Referee. The Association of the home club shall provide umpires to perform the duties of assistant umpires.
 - J.14.2.1 In emergency cases, other international umpires present at the match may replace the missing nominated umpires, one of them taking over the duty as Referee.
- J.14.3 The umpires appointed by the ETTU shall receive free hospitality, a daily allowance of 15 € and shall also get their travel expenses reimbursed by the home club.

J.15 RESULTS

- J.15.1 Immediately after a match the home club shall send by e-mail to both the ETTU Secretariat and the ETTU result service a copy of the results sheet, and within 3 days the home club shall send the official results sheet to the ETTU Secretariat by normal post.

J.16 ECCM PENALTY CATALOGUE

- J.16.1 A club violating the ITTF Laws, the ETTU Constitution, the ETTU regulations or the ETTU Directives may be disqualified from the competition, may be fined up to 5,000 € and may be banned from competing in the ECL and/or the ETTU Cup in the following season(s). The same penalties may be imposed on a team which has refused to continue the match until its end or whose players, coaches or officials during or in connection with a match have behaved in a way that the table tennis sport has been brought into disrepute.
- J.16.2 In case of infringement of Regulation J.8.5, the club may be disqualified from all competitions under the jurisdiction of the ETTU, and may be banned for one or two seasons and fined up to 5,000 €. The team of such a player may lose all matches of the current playing season by 3:0.
- J.16.3 A club not fulfilling the duties to offer appropriate hospitality (at least *** hotels plus lunch and dinner) may be fined up to 3,000 € and lose the right to play at home for up to 5 home matches.
- J.16.4.1 A club failing to observe the Regulations concerning advertisement within the playing area may be disqualified from the competition, may be fined up to 5,000 € and may be banned from competing in the following 1 or 2 seasons.
- J.16.4.2 A club whose players fail to observe the Regulations concerning advertisements on players' clothing may be disqualified from the competition, may be fined up to 5,000 € and may be banned from competing in the following 1 or 2 seasons.
- J.16.5 A club nominating a player and qualifying for the ECL through this player's ranking points, but not letting this player take part in the competition, may be fined up to 5,000 € and may be banned from competing in the ECLM and/or ETCM in the following seasons.
- J.16.6 A club failing to send the results of a match as specified (to both addresses, the result service and the ETTU Secretariat), failing to make a prompt and satisfactory financial settlement with an opposing club, using wrong equipment, not inviting the opponent team before the relating deadline or failing to provide the LSS may be subject to a fine of 500 € on the first occasion; on a second occasion this fine is increased to 1,000 € and on all further occasions to 2,000 €.
- J.16.7 In case a club entering the Men's club competitions and qualified for the ECLM decides not to participate may be fined up to 2.000 € and may be banned from competing in the ETTU Club competitions for 1 or 2 seasons.
- J.16.8 All the penalties mentioned in this chapter shall be imposed by the Club Competitions Official.

J.17 JURISDICTION

- J.17.1 A club wishing to protest about any aspect of an ECCM match shall send this protest, together with all relevant details, by e-mail to the ETTU Secretariat, within 2 working days after the date of the match. No protest shall be accepted after this deadline.
- J.17.2 The club competition official has to take a decision concerning a protest as soon as possible after the protest has been received and the necessary hearing and investigations have been concluded.

- J.17.3 A club wishing to protest against a decision of the Club Competition Official shall send this protest, together with the relevant details, including reasoning, by e-mail via the ETTU Secretariat to the Board of Justice within 4 working days after the receipt of the decision. No protest shall be accepted after this deadline.
- J.17.4 The costs of the procedure of the BoJ shall include the actual expenses and the lodging's fee of 1.000 €. This latter fee shall be paid into the ETTU bank account and has to be received by the ETTU within eight (8) days of the submission of the case.
- J.17.5 Through the intermediary of the General Secretary, the BoJ shall inform the opposing or accused party (parties) within fifteen (15) days of the case lodging.
- J.17.6 Any appeal against the decision of the Board of Justice shall be made to the Board of Appeal, within 3 working days of the notification of the decision of the Board of Justice, which should principally be communicated via the ETTU Secretariat. The decision of the Board of Appeal shall be final on ETTU level.
- J.17.7 The costs of the procedure of the BoA shall include the actual expenses and the appeal fee of 1.000 €. This latter fee shall be paid into the ETTU bank account and has to be received by the ETTU within eight (8) days of the submission of the case.
- J.17.8 Through the intermediary of the General Secretary, the BoA shall inform any other party (parties) concerned within fifteen (15) days of the appeal lodging.
- J.17.9 At the time of making a protest, the protesting club shall send to the ETTU bank account a fee of 1.000 € per case, which will be refunded if the protest is not upheld or if the contested sentence is cancelled.
- J.17.10 At the time of making an appeal, the appealing club shall send to the ETTU bank account a fee of 1.000 € per case, which will be refunded if the appeal is not upheld or if the contested sentence is cancelled.
- J.17.11 In case of, any appeal against the decision of the Board of Appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sports shall be made within 14 days of the notification of the decision of the Board of Appeal, which should principally be communicated via the ETTU Secretariat.
