

J EUROPEAN CLUB COMPETITION - MEN

J.1 European Club Competition – Men (ECCM)

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

- a) The Table Tennis Champions League (named hereafter **TTCL**).
- b) The ETTU Cup (named hereafter **ETCM**)

J.1.2 The European Club Competition - Men shall be open for the winners of the TTCL and ETCM of the previous season and up to eight (8) 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 Secretary General, who shall have the authority to change dates of matches whenever needed. The ETTU Secretary General 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 5 hours from CET.

J.2 QUALIFICATION

J.2.1 TTCL

The TTCL shall be open only to

- a) the winner of the TTCL 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 (last available) World Ranking List, but only one (1) “foreign player” (non-European) being considered.

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

J.2.1.2 If a qualified club does not enter the TTCL or does not fulfil the requirements set up, the next highest ranked club of the seeding may fill the vacant position.

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

After release of the seeding list, clubs have a 48 hours exit possibility. The clubs and the association of the clubs have to notify ETTU about their withdrawal by email. A cancellation fee of two hundred (200) € has to be paid to the ETTU bank account. All withdrawals after the exit possibility will be fined up to five thousand (5.000) €.

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

J.2.2 ETCM

All teams not qualified for the TTCL are qualified to play in the ETCM. After release of the seeding list, clubs have a 48 hours exit possibility. The clubs and the association of the clubs have to notify ETTU about their withdrawal by email. A cancellation fee of two hundred (200) € has to be paid to the ETTU bank account. All withdrawals after the exit possibility will be fined up to five thousand (5.000) €.

J.3 MEDIA AND MARKETING REGULATION

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

J.3.1.1

- any kind of Television transmission
- -Internet Broadband Streaming
- -IPTV and Data & Scoring Rights (live, delayed and excerpts)
- -Mobile devices rights (incl. DVBH) and Radio rights
- worldwide media rights in relation to all matches played within the TTCL for unrestricted exploitation (e.g. also archive rights and any kind of exploitation for betting purposes) in all languages by any kind of media, already existing or invented/created in future, including but not limited to.

J.3.1.2

The right to sell, market and/or exploit any and all sponsorship and marketing rights (already existing or invented or created in future) capable of being marketed in relation to the TTCL, in particular the exclusive right to appoint a title or other sponsor – to be communicated before the start of the TTCL – plus the right to provide advertising exposure to the title or other sponsor at every TTCL match.

Host clubs must always, in any publication under their responsibility regarding the TTCL, 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.3.2 Every club participating in the TTCL semi-final and final matches shall provide an international high quality TV signal in accordance with the TV production guidelines (see directives) of its home matches with an uplink signal for the use of ETTU or any of its sublicensees, at its own cost.

J.3.3. Every club in the European Club Competition - Men (ECCM) has to fulfil the obligations regarding the production of live streaming. Therefore, every club has to provide a dedicated physical Internet connection with a minimum UPLOAD bandwidth of three Megabit/sec. Additionally, every club has to provide a Provision of a router with at least four Ethernet ports (DHCP configuration). All further relevant technical details are stated in the respective directives which have to be observed by the Clubs participating in the ECCM.

- J.3.4 Each club participating in the ECCM has to provide the necessary facilities and staff for the electronic transmission of each home match by a “live ticker” system (LSS) if 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 (ECCM) shall enter via his national association at the online entry system by entering all requested data i.e. the name of the club, address, name of the responsible authorised club representative, with its phone numbers and e-mail address, address of the playing hall, type of the floor for the home matches, equipment (tables, nets, colour of the shirts, balls), names of min. six (6) and max. 8 eligible players.
In case of emergency (illness or injuries of several players) the ETTU Secretary General 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 and must be lower ranked than the top 3 players of the club.
The National Association of the club 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 or clubs concerned shall pay to the ETTU bank account the following entry fees upon reception of the seeding list:
TTCL: 2,000 €
ETCM: 400 €.

J.5 FIXTURES

- J.5.1 The competition shall be held each season between 1st August and 30th June, according to a schedule published by ETTU.
- 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 **TTCL**
- J.5.3.1 Matches shall normally be played during a date of the scheduled weekend. The club playing at home decides about the playing date and starting time of the scheduled weekend. Once playing date and starting time are fixed, clubs can no more change it unless written authorisation received by ETTU and its marketing partner.
- J.5.3.2 Dates and times of the matches have to be approved by the ETTU and its marketing partner and clubs shall communicate them to both the ETTU and its marketing partner without delay*.
- 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 matches the home club shall send the visiting club a written invitation, to arrive without delay* giving details of the location, date, starting time and accommodation possibilities (J.6), and shall send a copy of this invitation to the ETTU Secretariat and to its marketing partner by email. Clubs failing to respect this provision are subject to a fine (according to clause J.16).

Clubs having players needing a special invitation to obtain visa to travel to different countries must inform the opponent club immediately and the home club has to provide them with such an invitation letter needed. The home club however is not obliged to send such invitation letters by post to a country outside Europe.

* These deadlines are laid down in the directives and or the important information document.

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 during a date of the scheduled weekend but clubs may agree to play on an earlier date. The club playing at home decides about the playing date and starting time of the scheduled weekend. Once playing date and starting time are fixed, clubs can no more change it unless written authorisation received from ETTU.

Dates and times of the matches have to be approved by the ETTU and clubs shall communicate them to the ETTU without delay*.

J.5.4.3 The home club shall send to the visiting club a written invitation, to arrive without delay* giving details of the location, date, starting time and accommodation possibilities (J.6), 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 by email. Clubs failing to respect this provision are subject to a fine (according to clause J.16).

Clubs having players needing a special invitation to obtain visa to travel to different countries must inform the opponent club immediately and the home club has to provide them with such an invitation letter needed. The home club however is not obliged to send such invitation letters by post to a country outside Europe.

* These deadlines are laid down in the directives and or the important information document.

J.6 HOSPITALITY (TTCL and ETCM)

J.6.1 The home club shall propose to the away club a hotel of good standard, and inform them about the room rates and the hotel's website link without delay*. In case the away club does not agree on the proposal, the away team is free to choose another hotel. Booking and payment of the hotel is the obligation of the **away club**. The transport from and to the local airport or from and to the railway station (home club to decide if transport from and to the airport or from and to the railway station) to the hotel or to the playing hall and back must be provided free of charge by the **home club**. If the away team chooses another hotel than the one proposed by the home team, transportation must be only taken over by the home team if the distance to the playing hall is not more than 20 km further away than the proposed hotel from the playing hall.

Lunch and dinner must be provided free of charge by the **home club** during the days where matches are played.

J.6.2 For the semi-final and final matches, the host club shall provide free hospitality for one (1) day and night for 2 ETTU representatives.

J.7 THE DRAW

J.7.1 The draw shall be made in public by the ETTU on a date and place to be published 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 TTCL

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 last available World Ranking at the final date for entries of the 3 highest ranked players nominated by each club, but only 1 "foreign player" (non-European 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 Teams ranked 1-8 of the ETCM seeding list will be directly drawn to the 'Last-16'-round (Round 3) and teams ranked 9-16 of the ETCM seeding list will be drawn directly to the second group round.

J.7.4 Players who are not listed on the World Ranking but having a high ranking in a national league may be given Ranking Points by the ETTU Ranking Committee.

J.8 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS (TTCL and ETCM)

J.8.1 Only nominated players are entitled to represent their club.
A club shall nominate via its national association 6 – 8 players. 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. 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 After the entry deadline the ETTU Secretariat will 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 TTCL

Only players who have participated in at least 50% of the group matches are allowed to continue playing in the final stages i.e. 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, but only if their presence is confirmed by the Referee on the result sheet of that match. Club captains are responsible to check if their players present are written on the score sheet while signing it. No later request will be accepted.

J.9 PLAYING FORMAT

J.9.1 TTCL

J.9.1.1 The TTCL 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 the quarter-final matches will be given to the 2nd ranked teams of the groups, for the semi-final and final matches the home right for the first leg will be given to the lower ranked team of the seeding list.

After the group matches of the TTCL, 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 group matches. In the 1st round, the teams finishing in positions 1 and 2 in every group will qualify for the second round. Depending on the number of teams entered and the number of teams in the groups, some or all 3rd positioned clubs may also qualify for round 2. This will be communicated to all concerned after the draw.

J.9.2.2 In the second round, the teams finishing in position 1 in every group shall qualify for the 3rd round or the round of the last sixteen.

Depending on the number of teams in the previous groups, some or all 2nd positioned clubs may also qualify for round 3. This will be communicated to all concerned after the draw.

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 (Round 3) according to the provisions of Regulation J.7.3., and the 4 teams having been ranked 3rd in the TTCL groups) drawn directly to the quarter-finals.

Home right in round 3 and round 4 will be given to the higher ranked team from the seeding list.

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 from the seeding list.

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 or for any other marketing reasons, there shall be no delays.

J.11 PLAYING CONDITIONS

- J.11.1 For the TTCL 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 TTCL shall be played on ITTF approved floor mats.
- J.11.3 The light intensity shall not be less than 800 LUX over the table.
- J.11.4 The minimum temperature in the playing area shall not be less than 16° C.
- J.11.5 For the TTCL, 36 A-boards must be used starting at the semi-finals.
- J.11.6 Background shall be kept dark.
- J.11.7 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 “Table Tennis Champions League Trophy” and the “ETTU Cup – Men Cup” 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 TTCL 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 the Association of the home club shall appoint at least three umpires and have to get the prior approval by the ETTU URC. 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 the ETTU URC 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.
For the semi-finals, one of the umpires shall be an IR or IU-BB and for the finals, both umpires shall be IR or IU-BB.
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 (every umpire is entitled for a single room), a daily allowance of 20 € and shall also get their travel expenses reimbursed by the home club.
Payment must be done to the umpires in cash and in € upon their arrival.

J.15 RESULTS

- J.15.1 Immediately after a match the home club shall send by e-mail to the ETTU Secretariat, the ETTU result service and to the ETTU URC Chair a copy of the results sheet.

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 and may be financially fined.
A team which has refused to continue the match until its end may be fined up to 5,000 €.
A team 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 may be financially fined and a ban can be imposed on the player, coach or official for the following match(es).
- J.16.2 In case of infringement of Regulation J.8.4, the club may be disqualified from all competitions under the jurisdiction of the ETTU, and may be fined up to 5,000 €. The team of such a player may lose all matches of the current playing season by 3:0. In case it happened after the quarter-finals are played, the loss of the matches will be only valid for the final stage and not for the group stage.
- J.16.3 A club not fulfilling the duties to offer appropriate lunch and dinner or transportation may be fined up to 2,000 €.
- J.16.4.1 A club failing to observe the Regulations concerning advertisement within the playing area may be fined up to 5,000 €.
- J.16.4.2 A club whose players fail to observe the Regulations concerning advertisements on players' clothing may be fined up to 5,000 €.
- J.16.5 All withdrawals after the exit possibility may be fined up to five thousand (5.000) €.
- J.16.6 A club failing to use the correct denomination of the title sponsor may be fined up to two thousand (2.000) € on each occasion.
- J.16.7 A club failing to fulfil the obligations regarding the TV production may be fined up to ten thousand (10.000) €
- J.16.8 A club failing to fulfil the obligations regarding the production of live streaming may be fined up to five thousand (5.000) €.
- J.16.9 A club nominating a player and qualifying for the TTCL through this player's ranking points, but not letting this player take part in the competition, may, unless for justified reasons, be fined up to 5,000 € and may be banned from competing in the ECCM in the following season(s).
- J.16.10 A club failing to send the results of a match as specified (to the three addresses), failing to make a prompt and satisfactory financial settlement with an opposing club, using wrong equipment, not inviting the opponent team in time or failing to provide the LSS may be subject to a fine of 500 € on the first occasion; on a second occasion this fine may be increased to 1,000 € and on all further occasions to 2,000 €.
- J.16.11 A TTCL club failing to have one official club representative present in the meeting convened by ETTU may be fined up to 2,000 €.
- J.16.12 All the penalties mentioned in this chapter shall be imposed by the ETTU Club Competition 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 days after the date of the match. No protest shall be accepted after this deadline.
- J.17.2 The ETTU 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 ETTU Club Competition Official shall send this protest, together with the relevant details, including reasoning, by e-mail via the ETTU Secretariat to the ETTU Board of Justice within 4 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 ETTU Board of Justice shall include the actual expenses and the protest 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 otherwise the protest is not accepted and the ETTU Club Competitions Official decision remains final.
- J.17.5 Through the intermediary of the ETTU secretariat, the ETTU Board of Justice 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 ETTU Board of Justice shall be made to the ETTU Board of Appeal, within 3 working days of the notification of the decision of the ETTU Board of Justice, which should be communicated via the ETTU Secretariat. The decision of the ETTU Board of Appeal shall be final on ETTU level.
- J.17.7 The costs of the procedure of the ETTU Board of Appeal 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 otherwise the protest is not accepted and the ETTU Board Of Justice decision remains final.
- J.17.8 Through the intermediary of the ETTU secretariat, the ETTU Board of Appeal 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 pay to the ETTU bank account a fee of 1.000 € per case, to be received within 8 days, 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 ETTU Board of Appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sports shall be made within 14 days of the notification of the decision of the ETTU Board of Appeal, which should be communicated to the ETTU Secretariat.
