

## **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**)

The European Table Tennis Union a.s.b.l. (ETTU) and the sportsman media group GmbH (tsmg) have an established and long-term cooperation during the recent years. This extensive cooperation aims to enhance the media coverage and worldwide exposure of Europe's top table tennis club competition. Thereof, tsmg is the official marketing partner of the ETTU. Additionally, tsmg has been granted all media and marketing rights of the TTCL Men on a worldwide basis and extensive internet broadband streaming rights for the ETCM competition matches.

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 leagues, and having been entered by their Association.

Clubs with any debts stemming from ETTU club competitions (ECCM) will be unable to participate until these debts are settled.

Clubs wishing to participate in the ECCM will only be accepted if the entry fees are transferred to the ETTU bank account 7 workdays prior the Drawing of Lots for the 1<sup>st</sup> stage.

J.1.3 The competition shall be conducted by the ETTU Secretary General, whose authority shall include changing dates and venues of matches whenever needed.

J.1.4 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 last available World Ranking List at the final date for entries, but only one (1) "foreign player" (non-European) player 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 (e.g. respective and valid TTCL Men Licensing

Regulations), the next highest ranked club of the seeding list will fill the vacant position, unless the national Association of that club reached already the maximum (4) available places in the TTCL.

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 In case the TTCL Management Board finds it necessary to arrange a meeting with all TTCL participating clubs, every club engaged in the TTCL has to participate with one official representative.

## 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 **ENTRIES**

J.3.1 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 number and email address (must be fluent in English), address of the playing hall, type of the floor for the home matches, colour of the shirts, equipment<sup>1</sup> (tables, nets, balls), names of minimum six (6) and maximum eight (8) eligible players.

The entry forms shall in addition be sent by email together with the signed regulations to the ETTU Secretariat.

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 three 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.3.2 A club wishing to enter the TTCL must confirm that the requirements of the TTCL Men Licensing Regulations can and will be fulfilled.

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<sup>1</sup> In case ETTU makes use of its right to decide on the official TTCL-Equipment (c.f. respective and valid TTCL Men Directives), the information about the equipment (tables, nets, balls) used must only be submitted by the clubs participating in the ETCM.

**J.4 FIXTURES**

- J.4.1 The competition shall be held each season according to a schedule published by ETTU.
- J.4.2 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 THE DRAW**

- J.5.1 The draw shall be made in public by the ETTU on a date and at a place to be published in advance on the official ETTU website. Only clubs which have complied with regulation J.1 and J.6 will be included in the draw. All clubs entered and all Member Associations will be notified of the result of the draw.

**J.6 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS (TTCL and ETCM)**

- J.6.1 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.6.2 Only 1 “foreign player” is entitled to participate in a team match. In case 1 “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.6.3 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.6.4 A player shall compete only for one club, participating in ETTU club competitions, in the period starting the day before the first round of the competition until the day after the last match in the competition.  
The responsibility for player participation in competitions other than the ETTU club competitions remains with the national Associations and the clubs themselves.
- J.6.5 The 3 highest ranked players per club must have participated in at least 50% of the group matches to be allowed to continue playing in the final stages i.e. the quarter-final, semi-final and final matches. If 1 or more of these players are reserve players and present in the playing hall of a match, they 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. Regulation J.6.5 applies only for the TTCL.

## J.7 ECCM PENALTY CATALOGUE

- J.7.1 A club violating the ITTF Laws, the ETTU Constitution, the ETTU Regulations, the ETTU Directives or the TTCL Licensing Regulations may be disqualified from the competition and will be financially fined.  
A team which has refused to continue the match until its end, played with an incomplete team or failed to play the match at all may be fined up to ten thousand (10,000) €.  
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 will be financially fined and a ban can be imposed on the players, coaches or officials for the following match(es).
- J.7.2 In case of infringement of Regulation J.6.4, the club may be disqualified from all competitions under the jurisdiction of the ETTU, and may be fined up to five thousand (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.7.3 A TTCL club failing to inform tsmg about the interest of any other party in exploiting TTCL media rights may be fined up to ten thousand (10,000) €. A TTCL club selling TTCL media rights on its own account to any third party may be fined up to fifteen thousand (15,000) €.
- J.7.4 All withdrawals after the exit possibility may be fined up to five thousand (5.000) €.
- J.7.5 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 (illness/injury), be fined up to five thousand (5,000) € and may be banned from competing in the ECCM in the following season(s).
- J.7.6 A TTCL club failing to observe the Regulations and Directives concerning Media and Marketing (e.g. Official Court Layout, Promotional Activities, Photograph-Upload, Video Player Integration, Official Match Protocol, Print/Online Materials, Post-Event-Report, Ticker (Live Score System)) may be fined up to five thousand (5.000) € for each disregard.
- J.7.7 A club failing to observe the Regulations and Directives concerning advertisement within the playing area may be fined up to five thousand (5,000) € for each disregard.
- J.7.8 A club whose players fail to observe the Regulations and Directives concerning advertisements on players' clothing may be fined up to five thousand (5,000) €.
- J.7.9 A club failing to use the correct denomination of the official sponsor(s) may be fined up to two thousand (2.000) € on each occasion.
- J.7.10 A club failing to fulfil the obligations regarding the TV production will be fined up to fifteen thousand (15.000) €.
- J.7.11 A club failing to fulfil the obligations regarding the production of live streaming (e.g. sufficient and stable internet connection, camera/working position etc.) may be fined up to five thousand (5.000) €.

- J.7.12 A club failing to use the official TTCL Equipment (only in case of an official TTCL equipment sponsor) may be fined up to seven thousand (7.000) €.
- J.7.13 A club having a lower light intensity than laid down in the Regulations and Directives may be fined up to one thousand (1.000) €.
- J.7.14 A TTCL club failing to have A-boards at a home match may be fined up to three thousand (3.000) €.
- J.7.15 A club not fulfilling the duties to offer appropriate meals or transportation may be fined up to two thousand (2,000) €.
- J.7.16 A club failing to send an invitation to the visiting club or with delay may be fined up to five hundred (500) €.
- J.7.17 A TTCL club failing to provide ETTU's production partner with the fixtures of the match in due time may be fined up to five hundred (500) €.
- J.7.18 A club failing to send the results of a match as specified (to the four addresses), failing to make a prompt and satisfactory financial settlement with an opposing club, using wrong equipment may be subject to a fine of five hundred (500) € on the first occasion; on a second occasion this fine may be increased to one thousand (1,000) € and on all further occasions to two thousand (2,000) €.
- J.7.19 A club failing to answer to ETTU requests (or from its partners) in due time (within 48 hours) may be fined up to two hundred (200) €.
- J.7.20 A club failing to have one official club representative present in the meeting convened by ETTU may be fined up to two thousand (2,000) €.
- J.7.21 A TTCL club failing to fulfil the standards for Competition Halls and Playing Conditions as stipulated in the valid TTCL Men Directives and/or as stipulated in the ETCM Directives may be fined up to five thousand (5,000) €.
- J.7.22 All penalties mentioned in this chapter shall be imposed by the ETTU Club Competition Official.
- J.7.23 Further contraventions, not specified above, to the Regulations and Directives may also be fined by the ETTU Club Competition Official.

**J.8 JURISDICTION**

- J.8.1 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.8.2 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.8.3 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.8.4 The costs of the procedure of the ETTU Board of Justice shall include the actual expenses and the protest fee of one thousand (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.8.5 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.8.6 Any appeal against the decision of the ETTU Board of Justice shall be made to the ETTU Board of Appeal, within 3 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.8.7 The costs of the procedure of the ETTU Board of Appeal shall include the actual expenses and the appeal fee of one thousand (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.8.8 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.8.9 At the time of making a protest, the protesting club shall pay to the ETTU bank account a fee of one thousand (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.8.10 At the time of making an appeal, the appealing club shall send to the ETTU bank account a fee of one thousand (1.000) € per case, which will be refunded if the appeal is not upheld or if the contested sentence is cancelled.
- J.8.11 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.

These official Regulations (of which the Directives are an official part) are produced to govern the running of the ETTU European Club Competition - Men. All clubs participating in the ECCM must respect and support these Regulations. Any infringement or disregard for the contents of any part of any chapter of these official Regulations and Directives will be sanctioned according to the ETTU ECCM Penalty Catalogue.

By signing below, the club and the National Association of the club signal that they have read, accepted and agreed the official Regulations and Directives for the European Club Competition – Men (i.e. respective valid TTCL Men Directives and respective valid ETCM Directives):

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Club representative

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Representative  
National Association