



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS QUALIFICATION

DIRECTIVES

CHAMPIONSHIPS QUALIFICATION DIVISION

Qualification period 2016-2017

CHAMPIONSHIPS DIVISION

The European Championships Qualification, hereinafter referred to as “the Event”, shall be organised according to the ETTU Regulations applicable for the Event i.e. Chapter “CA” of the ETTU Handbook.

In addition to these Regulations, the following requirements must be respected and fulfilled.

1. PARTIES INVOLVED

ETTU – European Table Tennis Union (Secretary General (ETTU/SG),
The ETTU Member Associations, participating in the Event,

2. FIXTURES AND PLAYING SCHEDULE

Home Associations shall notify the Secretary General and the visiting Associations of the venues of matches no later than 6 weeks before the dates of matches. Home Associations shall inform at the same time the visiting Association of the brands and colours of floor, tables, nets and balls which will be used in the match concerned.

For the Play-Off matches this information has to be notified by the home Association within the ETTU Secretary General's given deadline.

Matches shall be played according to the agreed ETTU playing schedule and the start time of the match shall be notified by the home Association.

The match may be played on another day during the same week of the ETTU playing schedule if both Associations agree to change the date. Such a change needs to be communicated to the ETTU Secretariat without delay.

The home Association may arrange a men's and a women's match at a playing hall with the same start time.

3. SYSTEM OF PLAY

The Championships Qualification Division shall be composed of 30 teams.

Teams shall be drawn into 10 groups of 3 teams according to the final positions at the preceding European Championships (Team events). There shall be 3 draw pots, each containing 10 teams: pot A 1 to 10, pot B 11 to 20, pot C 21 to 29 and 33 (Standard Division winner). The order of substitutes according to the final positions shall be 30, 31, 32, 34, 35 etc.

In each group teams will play each other in 2 matches (home and away) in order to determine a final ranking order for each group.

The order of play will be as follows: 1-3, 2-1, 3-2, 3-1, 1-2, 2-3.

10 group winners will qualify for the Championships Division.

10 group 3rds will qualify for the Challenge Division.

10 group 2nds will be drawn into 5 play-off matches (playing each other home and away). 5 play-off winners will qualify for the Championships Division. 5 play-off losers will qualify for the Challenge Division.

4. SPORT FACILITIES

There shall be a playing hall, with a seating capacity of minimum 500 persons and which is large enough to accommodate 1 playing court (table), or 2 playing courts if men's and women's matches are played together, in a playing area of at least 18m x 9m and 5m high.

It is recommended the playing court set-up shall be:

36 A-boards (12 on each long side, 6 on each short side) + 4 corner boards

The home Association has to put on disposal to their visiting Association a bench or chairs behind the playing court for 6 persons. Neither team can have more than 6 persons present.

The lighting level shall be at least 1000 LUX over the table. The lighting sources have to be fixed at least 5 m above the floor, vertically above the playing area.

Daylight coming in through windows or other openings or apertures has to be covered.

All matches shall be played on an ITTF approved floor.

Floor advertisements shall comply with ITTF Regulations for International Competitions.

The temperature in all playing areas shall be no less than 18 degrees Celsius.

There shall be changing rooms (at least 3, 1 for each of the teams and 1 for the referee/umpires) of good standard, with enough showers and toilets and preferably with lockers for clothing.

A suitable speaker service shall be provided in the playing hall, during the whole duration of the match.

5. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Equipment rights belong to the home Association of each match.

The home Association must use only playing equipment provided by one or more ETTU Suppliers Pool member companies.

For 2016-17 ECQ matches, ETTU will not appoint an official ball sponsor and supplier and therefore this right shall belong to the home Association of each match.

The ETTU holds the following rights for every team match within the European Championships Qualification:

- The International TV rights.
- The non-exclusive rights for Internet TV and Internet Live Streaming.
- The rights for Data and Scoring.

As requested by the ETTU, each Association participating in the Qualification has to provide necessary conditions and staff for electronic transmission of each home match by a "live-ticker" system (LSS) made available by the ETTU.

Domestic TV rights, advertising rights and gate receipts belong to the home Association of each match.

For 2016-17 ECQ matches, ETTU will not appoint a title sponsor and therefore this right shall belong to the home Association for each match.

6. PRACTICE

Practice (at least 2 hours) shall be arranged for the visiting team the evening before the match is to be played as well as during the day of the match under the same conditions as for the home team.

7. MATCH PROCEDURE

A team shall consist of maximum 4 players.

A match shall consist of up to 5 singles and shall be played on 1 table.

In all matches the home team shall be A1, A2, A3 and the visiting team B1, B2, B3. After the second singles in a team match, player N° 4 may replace player A1 or player A2 (home team) or player B1 or B2 (away team). Such a substitution of a player must be announced by the respective team captain to the Referee at the latest before the start of the third singles match.

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

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 intervals.

8. DRESS/COLOURS

The home Association shall notify the visiting Association, no later than 14 days before the date of the match, of its playing colours and the visiting team shall wear different colours. If the home Association fails to do so and the colours are not sufficiently different, the home Association shall change.

9. REFEREES AND UMPIRES

The ETTU Secretary General, in coordination with the Umpires and Referees Committee, shall arrange for a neutral International Umpire to fulfil the duties of the Referee. The home Association shall provide 2 International Umpires to perform the duties of umpire and assistant umpire.

The visiting International Umpire appointed by the ETTU shall receive from the home Association a daily allowance (2016: US\$25) in accordance with ITTF Directives for Match Officials; the travel expenses, agreed in advance by ETTU, (by economy class train or plane, or by car at 30 eurocents per km, and visa costs) shall be reimbursed by the home Association either by bank transfer before the match or latest in cash upon arrival. ETTU shall reimburse the home Association 50% of the neutral International Umpire's travel expenses.

Immediately after a match the Referee shall complete an official report form and send it to the Secretary General by email.

10. HOSPITALITY / ACCOMMODATION / TRANSPORTATION

The home Association shall propose to the visiting Association a hotel of good standard (minimum 3 stars) and inform them about the room rates and the hotel's website link without delay. If the visiting Association does not agree on the proposal, the visiting Association is free to choose another hotel. Booking and payment of the hotel is the obligation of the visiting Association. The transport from and to the local airport or from and to the railway station (home Association to decide if transport from and to the airport or from and to the railway station) to the hotel and to the playing hall and back must be provided free of charge by the home Association. If the visiting Association chooses another hotel than the one proposed by the home Association, transportation must be only taken over by the home Association if the distance to the playing hall is not more than 10 km further away than the proposed hotel from the playing hall.

Lunch and dinner must be provided free of charge by the home Association on the day when a match is played.

Meal times shall be flexible and co-ordinated with the duration of the match in order to allow the players to have a meal after the match.

The maximum number of persons of the visiting Association entitled for free transportation and meals as written above shall be 6 persons.

11. RESULTS

Immediately after a match the home Association shall send a copy of the results sheet by email to the ETTU Secretariat (ettu@pt.lu) as well as to the ETTU Press Officer (press@ettu.org).

12. TV AND IPTV RIGHTS

The ETTU holds the following rights for every team match within the European Championships Qualification:

- The International TV rights.
- The non-exclusive rights for Internet TV and Internet Live Streaming.*
- The rights for Data and Scoring.

The home Association has, at its own charge:

- to make an appropriate connectivity available to ensure the event's live and/or delayed transmissions, accomplishing all the IPTV Service Provider's technical requests (see Annex);
- to supply the IPTV Service Provider's staff with the accreditations required for getting access to all necessary locations;
- to make available to ETTU and to the IPTV Service Provider adequate spaces and working areas.

*The home Association has the right for internet live streaming but has to guarantee a geo-block of the streaming on its national territory and has to provide ETTU's IPTV partner free of charge with the uplink signal.

13. PRESS AND MEDIA

All the Associations taking part in the event are kindly invited to cooperate with the ETTU Press Officer (press@ettu.org) and provide with all information concerning their national teams, their home matches, photographs and any other useful information.

Media persons shall be provided with all necessary services, including special seats near the playing court and direct access to internet.

It is recommended the home Association to issue a programme leaflet for every home match. This programme leaflet shall also be in English and include the ETTU and ITTF-Europe logos.

14. VIP CARE

There shall be a special VIP-room, where drinks and snacks are served to honorary guests, sponsors, suppliers and officials, free of charge.

If requested, the home Association shall provide ETTU with 5 VIP entry tickets free of charge.

15. FLAGS

The following flags shall be hoisted in the playing hall

- the flag of the home Association
- the flag of the visiting Association
- the flag of the nominated Referee

16. PENALTIES

Associations may be fined for any contravention to the provision of these directives.
