The Table Tennis Champions League, hereinafter referred to as “the Event”, shall be organised according to the ETTU Regulations applicable for the Event, i.e. Chapter “J” of the ETTU Handbook.

The following directives provide a supplementary framework to the European Club Competitions Men (ECCM) regulations “J” and must be followed by all participating Table Tennis Champions League (TTCL) Clubs.
A club failing to do this shall be fined by the Club Competition Official and eventually made liable for the payment of all documented and undisputed damages claimed by ETTU, Sportradar or the sponsor(s).
The directives may be reviewed and amended in line with the decisions of the TTCL Management Board and the ETTU Executive Board to reflect updates to the general organisation and planning of the Table Tennis Champions League.

1. **PARTIES INVOLVED**

- ETTU – European Table Tennis Union (Secretary General (ETTU/SG)).
- The Clubs participating in the Event.
- The Club Competition Official.
- Sportradar – ETTU’s Official TTCL Marketing Partner.
- The TTCL Management Board – having the authority to give dispensation to the clubs for variations in the directives. Dispensation shall be given with the majority of the votes in close co-operation with the Club Competition Official.

The TTCL Management Board is composed by 2 club representatives (elected by the participating TTCLM clubs annually), 2 representatives of the ETTU (confirmed by the ETTU Executive Board) and 2 representatives of Sportradar.

2. **QUALIFICATION AND REGISTRATION**

2.1 The Table Tennis Champions League - Men shall be open for the clubs according to the European Club Competition seeding list based on the results of the clubs from the last 3 European Club Competitions’ seasons.

Result points allocation: from the 2017-2018 season 20%, 2018-2019 season 30% and 2019-2020 season 50%. Points for the clubs having reached the Semi-Finals in the 2019-2020 season (and not played due cancellation) received average sum of points for the Winner, Runner-up and Semi-Finalist.

**Points allocation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CL winner</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL runner up</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL SF</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL QF</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe Cup winner</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe Cup runner up</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe Cup SF</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe Cup QF</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL Group 4th</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe Cup R4</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In case of equality in total points for clubs in important positions at the seeding, the most recent result will decide, if equal the result in the previous season, if still equal the result in the season before that. If still equal, a draw by lot will be done.

Limitation of teams per national Association for TTCL is 3.

In case of 2 clubs qualified for the TTCL with the same management, ETTU can move the lowest ranked of the 2 clubs to the Europe Cup and the vacant position in TTCL may be filled by the next highest ranked club of the seeding, unless the national Association of that club reached already the maximum (3) available places in the TTCL.

### 2.2 Wild cards

For up to 2 clubs may be given by ETTU / management board for clubs wishing to join the Champions League but not ranked high enough to reach a Champions League position by seeding.

Clubs asking for wild cards shall meet the following criteria in order to be accepted:
- show evidence of their playing venue to meet all directive criteria
- show evidence (preferably contract) of their top 3 players who will play ECC
- agree to pay a “buy in” of 10.000 € in addition to the entry fee, in case of “new clubs”.

Wild cards in Champions Leagues can only be given if the demanding club’s national Association’s quota (3) has not been achieved (clubs seeded 1-14 or 15).

These clubs will be seeded number 16 (in case of 1) or numbers 15 and 16 (in case of 2).

### 2.3 In a first phase

Clubs are asked to fill in a preliminary entry form (deadline 29th May 2020). The preliminary entry registration is not mandatory.

In a second phase, clubs can register their club (deadline 30th June 2020). As the seeding is made by club ranking and no more by their players’ ranking, the players are registered at a later stage (phase 3 – provisional deadline 3rd September 2020).

### 2.4 A club wishing to enter the TTCL - Men shall enter on or before the deadline via its national association by entering all requested data i.e. the name of the club, name of the responsible authorised club representative with its phone number and e-mail address (second phase).

Clubs shall then inform ETTU on or before the deadline (phase 3) their address of the playing hall, type of the floor for the home matches, colour of the shirts, equipment (tables, nets, balls*), names of minimum six (6) and maximum ten (10) players and any other information requested.

The entry forms and information shall be sent by email to the ETTU Secretariat.

### 2.5 The Clubs concerned shall pay to the ETTU bank account the following entry fee within 7 days upon reception of the final seeding list and invoice:

- 2,000 € for clubs seeded 1-8
- 1,200 € for clubs seeded 9-16

### 2.6 Clubs with any debts stemming from ETTU Club competitions (ECCM) will be unable to participate.
Clubs wishing to participate in the ECCM will only be accepted if the entry fees are transferred to the ETTU bank account according to article 2.5.

2.7 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 will fill the vacant position, unless the national Association of that club reached already the maximum (3) available places in the TTCL.

2.8 In case a qualified club does not participate in the TTCL, this club is not allowed to participate in the Europe Cup nor in the Europe Trophy neither.

2.9 After release of the seeding list, clubs have a 24 hours exit possibility. The clubs and the national 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) €.

2.10 After the final registration deadline for club entries, the clubs and their National Associations will receive the final seeding list with the entered clubs.

2.11 After the final registration deadline for clubs’ players, the clubs and their National Associations will receive a list with all entered players of the clubs and the clubs and National Associations have 24 hours to inform ETTU in case of any irregularity or mistake. If nothing is notified after this deadline, the players’ list shall be final and no additional player can be accepted.

2.12 Every club engaged in the TTCL has to participate with one official representative in a meeting and throughout the entire meeting, if convened by ETTU. For the 2020-2021 season a video conference may be arranged. A club failing to participate with one official representative throughout the entire meeting will be fined according to regulation J.4.19 with 1.000 Euros.

2.13 All matches shall be played at a venue located within 5 hours from CET.

2.14 The clubs and the national Associations of the clubs shall be responsible for its clubs and players with respect to entry fee, discipline, nominations, eligibility and in compliance with the ETTU regulations and directives.

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

2.16 All clubs wishing to participate in the TTCL must accept and provide the requirements.

*in case of an official ball sponsor, the official ball sponsor’s balls shall be used

3 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Only nominated players are entitled to represent their club. After deadline for player registration, no additional player can be accepted for a club. A club shall nominate via its national Association 6 – 10 players.

3.2 A club can register up to 2 non-European* players. In a team match up to 1 non-European* player is entitled to play but the second non-European* player, if given, can be only nominated as “reserve player” for replacing the other non-European* player.

3.3 To define player nationality, ETTU will use the nationality as provided by the players’ passports.

3.4 In case a player starts the competition as a non-European* player and her nationality changes during the playing season he shall nonetheless continue to be considered as a non-European* player up to the end of the current playing season.

3.5 After the entry deadline the ETTU Secretariat will send to the participating clubs and to their national Associations a list of the players nominated by each club.

3.6 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. That means a player may be registered for more than 1 club, in 1 or more Associations, participating in ETTU Club Competitions but the player shall only be registered for ETTU Club Competitions with 1 club.

The responsibility for player participation in competitions other than the ETTU Club Competitions remains with the national Associations and the clubs themselves.

3.7 A player having signed with a club to play ECCM and refuses to play for that club in ECCM can be suspended for the following ECCM season(s) by ETTU.

3.8 In order to be eligible for the KO rounds (Champions League and Europe Cup), players from Champions League group clubs need 50% participation in the group stage. No exception can be made. As presence count only if the player is confirmed on the official score sheet by the Referee. On that score sheet all players present in the playing venue before the match starts can be added. 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.

* A non-European player is a player with a nationality outside ETTU member Associations’ countries.

4 THE DRAW

4.1 The draw shall be made in public by the ETTU on a date and a place to be published in advance on the official ETTU web site.

4.2 The draw will be made according to the final seeding list. 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 teams seeded 5-8 shall then be drawn 4 by 4 between the 4 groups on position 2.

Clubs from a same Association shall, as far as possible, be drawn into different groups. The teams seeded 9-16 will play a 1st stage Champions League home and away match. Each club seeded 9-12 will be freely drawn against 1 club seeded 13-16 (no separation by National Association). The losers are relegated to the Europe Cup group round 2. The winners will be drawn 4 by 4 between the 4 groups on position 3 of the Champions League groups. This draw will be made after completion of the stage 1 matches. The draw for the final rounds will be made after the group rounds. The 4 group winners proceed to the semi-finals. The winners of group A and D will be drawn against the winners of group B and C.

5 PLAYING FORMAT

5.1 The TTCLM will be played in three stages.

5.2 In the 1st stage, the teams seeded 9-12 will each play 1 home and 1 away match round against the teams seeded 13-16. The lower ranked teams (13-16) have home right for the first leg. The 4 losers are relegated to the Europe Cup group round 2. The 4 winners will continue in the TTCLM group stage (2nd stage).

5.3 In the 2nd stage, the teams will be divided into 4 groups of 3 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. The order of play in the group stage will be as follows: R1  1-3
5.4 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.

5.5 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.

5.6 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 5.5.

5.7 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.

5.8 In the 3rd stage the 4 group winners will play in a single knock-out competition, with semi-finals and a final, to determine the winner of the competition. The home right for the first leg of the semi-final and final matches will be given to the lower ranked team of the seeding list. After the group matches of the TTCLM, the four teams ranked on position 2 in the four groups shall continue to compete in the Europe Cup (quarter-finals). Clubs which continue to compete in the Europe Cup shall comply also with the Europe Cup directives.

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

5.10 In the first and in the third stage of the competition, the knock-out competition method consists of 2 clubs playing each other where the loser is immediately eliminated from winning the TTCLM and the winner qualifies to the next round. The 2 clubs play 1 two-legged match - also called "Home and Away" match. In a "Home and Away" match, the winner is the club with more allocated points than the other one.

Allocation of points is as follows:
  a. 3 points for the winner of a 3:0 or 3:1 match,
  b. 2 points for the winner of a 3:2 match,
  c. 1 point for the loser of a 2:3 match,
  d. 0 points for the loser of a 0:3 or 1:3 match

In a "Home and Away" match, there is a tie between the 2 clubs when each club has the same number of allocated points. In case of a tie, the Golden Match procedure is used. The Golden Match will be started 10 minutes after the away match (2nd leg) is over.
The Golden Match consists of 3 games (sets) best of 3. The club winning 2 games (sets) is the winner.

The team captains chose for the Golden Match each 3 players who are according to the directives eligible to play and chose for each player the position 1, 2 and 3. The team captains have to provide their line up for the Golden Match to the Referee within 3 minutes after the regular away match (2nd leg) is over.

The order of play in a Golden Match shall be A1 v B1, A2 v B2, A3 v B3. The Golden Match is over once one club has won 2 games (sets).

SPECIAL NOTE:

At regular team matches, the match shall end when a team has won 3 singles even if the "winning club" is already decided before. Walk overs without proof of injury or illness by a medical doctor present at the match will be penalised. Apart from a financial fine, the club whose player(s) made walk over(s) without acceptance of a medical doctor will get 0 points for that team match.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULTS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leg 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6. PLAYING SYSTEM

6.1 The playing system shall be the Swaythling Cup system (best of 5 singles) and in each individual match, the 5th game (set) shall start at 0:0 and play until the first player reaches 6 points (sudden death point at 5:5). In the 5th game (set) each player shall serve only once in a row and there will be no change of ends in the 5th game (set).

In a match, there will be breaks after each second game (set) only which means no break after game (set) 1 and 3.

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

It is recommended that a team always arrives at a match with at least 4 eligible players to reduce the risk of walk overs in case player(s) get ill/injured shortly before the match start. When walk overs could have been avoided by the participation of the club’s reserve
player, the club may be fined by the Club Competition Official. This recommendation is based on a requirement for fair play towards the TTCL, the opponent club, spectators, media and the Table Tennis sport.

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

6.4 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.

6.5 Intervals between individual matches shall not exceed 1 minute except for the interval after the second individual match, where a 15 minutes break is accepted. For televised matches or for any other marketing reasons, there shall be no delays. The umpire calls the players in immediately after each interval. If a player is not ready to play within 2 minutes after the umpire called in, this player loses his individual match by Walk-Over (W.O.).

After each interval, the players of the next individual match have 2 minutes time for practice. This will be controlled by the umpire. If a player is not ready to start the match immediately after the end of the countdown, she will receive first a warning from the umpire.

Further sanctions will be made in accordance with the respective ITTF regulations.

At each time-out and between each second game (maximum 1 minute), the umpire shall place the Time-Out-Clock on the table in the main camera direction (if available).

Up to 10 seconds after the previous rally finished, except for towelling after every 6 points from the start of each game, the serving player has to start the next rally. For long rallies (umpire decision) maximum 25 seconds are allowed.

6.6 MULTI BALLS AND BALL BOYS AND GIRLS (BBGs)

The host club has to put on disposal before the match starts 40 balls and the 2 team captains shall choose 20 balls (10 balls each).

In each match 20 balls shall be kept by the umpire who will provide after each point a new ball to the serving player, in case the ball used from the previous rally is not in imminent reach of 1 of the 2 players. Balls remaining in the Field of Play (FoP) will be collected after each rally by ball boys/girls (BBGs) organised by the home club. 2 BBGs shall sit behind the corner board (1 on each long side, places marked “x” on below diagram). BBGs watch the playing field and collect the balls from the floor, and then run back to their zones. BBGs collecting balls should only move in designated areas (marked “→” on below diagram). BBGs have to return the balls to the umpire after each game, during time outs and when the umpire runs out of balls.

Delivery of the balls to the umpire may occur at any time after a distinct signal from the umpire to the BBGs.

Balls leaving the FoP will not be collected during a game.

BBGs move only according to “→” on below diagram to hand over the balls to the umpire. BBGs shall be dressed in sportswear, preferably similar clothing.

There is no age limit for BBGs, however BBGs shall be mentally and physically able to be fully concentrated and collect balls quickly.

BBGs shall behave and act neutral.

Before the service, players receive the balls from the umpire.

After the rally, players do not collect the balls from the FoP, they continue the game,
unless the rally ends in imminent reach of 1 of the 2 players, players can reuse that ball for the next rally.

There shall be 1 chair in each of the x marked boxes so that BBGs do not disrupt the matches.

The clubs are recommended to make a training session with the BBGs.

Playing field with designated zones for BBGs.

Example show court with BBGs zones

6.7 The match protocol must be strictly followed for all matches. All televised matches must additionally follow the respective running-order.

7. FIXTURES

7.1 The final TTCL calendar for each season will be determined by the ETTU and published on the ETTU website. The matches will mainly be played during the week between Wednesdays and Fridays, exceptions are possible.

The actual playing season shall be from the day before the first round of the competition until the day after the second final match.

7.2 During the Drawing of Lots for the stages the ETTU (in cooperation with Sportradar) will define timeslots (fixed match days and starting times) for every round.
All matches must be played at these pre-defined timeslots.

7.3 After the Drawing of Lots ETTU and Sportradar will decide on the final schedule in due time.

7.4 The clubs (or National Associations) can apply to change the allocated timeslots of their matches. This request must be submitted via e-mail to the ETTU and Sportradar within 24 hours after receiving the final allocation of timeslots per e-mail. The final decision about these requests will be taken by ETTU and Sportradar.

7.5 For the matches, the home club shall send the visiting club a written invitation including information about the training sessions and the “daily schedule/programme”, to arrive latest 7 days after the draw or within the time as communicated by email after the draw, giving details of the location, accommodation possibilities, and shall send a copy of this invitation to the ETTU Secretariat by e-mail. Clubs failing to respect this provision are subject to a fine as defined in the penalty catalogue.

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.

7.6 TTCLM provisional playing dates:
Stage 1 leg 1: 07-09.10.2020 (teams seeded 9-16)
Stage 1 leg 2: 21-23.10.2020 (teams seeded 9-16)
Group round 1: 19-20.11.2020 (1v3)
Group round 2: 25-27.11.2020 (2v1)
Group round 3: 02-04.12.2020 (3v2)
Group round 4: 16-18.12.2020 (3v1)
Group round 5: 13-15.01.2021 (1v2)
Group round 6: 20-22.01.2021 (2v3)
Semi final 1: 17-19.02.2021
Semi final 2: 24-26.02.2021
Final 1: 17-19.03.2021
Final 2: 24-26.03.2021

8. COMPETITION HALLS, EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS
8.1. There shall be a playing hall, with preferably a seating capacity of minimum 500 persons. Every club participating in the TTCL has to set up a main court at its own expense which is large enough to accommodate one (1) playing court (table), in a playing area of 16,8 x 8,4 m and at least 5 m high.

8.2 The home club has to put on disposal to their guest club a bench or chairs behind the playing court for 8 persons. Neither the home club nor the guest club can have more than 8 persons there.

8.3 All matches in the TTCL shall be played on ITTF approved floor mats except for the stage 1 matches where the use of ITTF approved floor mats is not mandatory but recommended.

8.4 The light intensity for non-televised matches shall not be less than 800 LUX over the table.

8.5 For all televised matches, the light intensity over the table and at the (super) slow-motion camera must be at least 1000 LUX.

8.6 The minimum temperature in the playing area shall not be less than 18° C.

8.7 For all competition matches starting with the second stage (group round matches) only A-
boards or B-boards (surrounds) must be used. LED panels are allowed provided they comply with the ITTF regulation.

8.8 The colour of the table shall be blue (starting with the second stage - group round matches).

8.9 Background shall be kept dark.

8.10 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.

8.11 The participating clubs and their National Association shall make sure that the competition is always recognisable as an ETTU event.

8.12 The organisers must make sure that the competition hall looks well-attended (unless COVID or other force majeure restriction). The spectators should be placed in the camera angle. Hence, first of all the seats in the camera perspective should be filled with supporters. Additionally, in some cases it might be beneficial to rotate the court and the camera position through 90° so that the main stand for spectators is in the camera angle. If this is not possible, additional seats should be positioned behind the bench and around the court (Figure 1 and 2 act as negative examples).

![Figure 1](image1.jpg)

8.13 Each club shall notify ETTU the brands of the table, net assembly and ball*, together with
the colour of the playing clothing.

8.14 The home club shall notify the visiting team of the colours of its playing clothing and the visiting team shall wear different colours.

8.15 The TTCLM opts out from ITTF Regulations for International Competitions for advertisements on players’ clothing to allow more space on clothing for advertisement. Opting out is only for the sizes and total number of advertisements.

8.16 Each club participating in the TTCL must have an ITTF flatness and thickness device and shall provide it for the Referee at least 60 minutes before the match starts.

8.17 Each club participating in the TTCL must have a Time-Out-Clock and shall provide it for the Referee at least 60 minutes before the match starts.

8.18 There shall be sufficient 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.

8.19 A suitable speaker service must be provided in the playing hall, during the whole duration of the match. The speaker must follow the instructions of the official match protocol.

8.20 Teams must face the main camera during the presentation.

8.21 Home clubs must guarantee their guest clubs at least 10% of the seating capacity for spectators and upon request provide in advance information on purchasing prize.

*in case of an official ball sponsor, the official ball sponsor’s balls shall be used

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

10. RESULTS
Immediately after a match the Referee shall send by e-mail to result@ettu.org a copy of the results sheet. The home club shall provide the Referee with internet access. Upon completion of the match, the ETTU Scorer App (“iScout”) will automatically update the website.

11. ACCOMMODATION / HOSPITALITY / TRANSPORTATION / MEALS / VISAS
11.1 The home club shall propose to the away club a hotel of good standard (minimum 3 stars), 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 visiting club delegation arrives / departs at more than 2 separate times then the visiting club shall be responsible for the additional transport. If the away team choses 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 5 km further away than the proposed hotel from the playing hall.
A meal for the visiting team after the match must be provided free of charge by the home team.
Meal times shall be flexible and co-ordinated with the duration of the match in order to
allow the players to have a meal still after the match. The maximum number of persons of the visiting club entitled for free transportation and meals as written above shall be 6 persons. For the matches, the host club shall provide free hospitality for one (1) day and night for 2 ETTU and 2 Sportradar representatives if requested. The home club shall provide one main contact for organisational matters to the visiting club in order to arrange everything smoothly. This “team manager” shall be fluently speaking English.

For the Semi-Finals & Finals:
The home team shall prepare an agenda for the visiting team including transport from the airport / station which shall be sent within one week after reception of the arrival time / date of the visiting team to all parties involved.

Referees have to inform the home club in time about their accommodation needs. The home club has to book and take over the costs and has to arrange for their travel from and to the local airport or from and to the railway station to the hotel or to the playing hall and back, free of charge, and provide with a meal after the match, free of charge.

The home club has to send to their guest club without delay* an invitation letter including all needed details so that the delegation of the guest club is able to receive their visas (if needed) in due time. The costs for sending these invitations is at the home club’s expense unless the guest club requests sending a letter by postal mail to a country outside Europe, than the guest club has to reimburse the home club the costs for the sending.

**Referees and Umpires**

12.1 For all matches other than the 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 preferably be an International Umpire and shall fulfil the duties of the Referee.

12.2 For the 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 fulfil the duties of the Referee. The Association of the home club shall provide International or National Umpires to perform the duties of assistant umpires. If foreign International Umpires are not available for a match, the ETTU URC may nominate an umpire team from the same Association as the home club. One of the foreign umpires shall preferably be an International Referee or International Umpire – Blue Badge and for the finals, both umpires shall preferably be International Referee or International Umpire – Blue Badge.

12.3 In emergency cases, other umpires present at the match may replace the missing nominated umpires, one of them taking over the duty as Referee.

12.4 The umpires appointed by the ETTU shall receive free hospitality (every umpire is entitled for a single room), a daily allowance of 30 euros per umpire and per day where a match is played and shall also get their travel expenses reimbursed by the home club (by economy class train or plane, or by car at 30 eurocents per km plus eventual “vignette” costs, and visa costs) shall be reimbursed by the home club either by bank transfer before the match or latest in cash upon arrival.
The nominated umpires have to arrange their travel to and from the playing hall as soon as their nomination is received and to inform the home club without delay and also to inform about eventual accommodation needs. The nominated umpires shall use the most economic transport (car, train or flight).

12.5 The umpires are encouraged to monitor the implementation of the obligations mentioned in the respective Regulations and Directives (e.g. Marketing and Sponsoring Obligations, Match Protocol) via checklist.

12.6 The appointed Referee has the following responsibilities:
- conduct the match
- avoid early and late match start (punctual start)
- collect the team line up from both team captains latest 40 minutes before the first match starts
- send the team line up (match order of play/pairings) latest 30 minutes before the first match starts to following mail addresses:
  - av-mcr@sportradar.com
  - fixtures@sportradar.com
  - events@sportradar.com
  - Program-Management@sportradar.com
  - av-proco@sportradar.com

If, for any reason that information cannot be provided in time, the Referee is requested to send it as soon as possible and inform the mail addresses above about the reason for the delay and the (approximate) time of provision.

In case of any changes on short notice (such as injuries, breaks, delays, etc.) the Referee also has to send a mail with any known information as soon as possible to the above mentioned mail addresses.
The Referee shall send immediately after the match the signed score sheet to result@ettu.org and within 72 hours after the match the Referees report to result@ettu.org.

13. GENERAL COMMUNICATION
To guarantee a smooth running of the European Club Competitions Men, all participating clubs in European Club Competitions must reply to all organisational and communication requests from ETTU or Sportradar latest within 48 hours. Every club must appoint one contact person who is fluent in English.

14. MEDIA AND MARKETING
14.1 The ETTU holds the following rights for every team match within the ECCM:
14.1.1
- any kind of Television transmission
- Internet Broadband Streaming
- IPTV and Data & Scoring Rights (live, delayed and excerpts)
- Mobile devices rights 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.
14.1.2 Sportradar has been granted all media and marketing rights of the TTCL on a worldwide basis from the ETTU. Thus, only Sportradar has the right to sell, market and/or exploit any media, marketing or sponsorship rights (already existing or invented or created in future) in relation to all TTCL competition matches. Consequently, all parties (e.g. broadcasters, internet platforms, media companies, participating clubs etc.) being interested in exploiting media rights of TTCL competition matches must get in touch (minimum three weeks prior to match start / the deadline for interested (local) TV Broadcaster is minimum 10 days) with ETTU and/or Sportradar. Without written permission from ETTU and/or Sportradar, no party has the right to exploit any of above mentioned media rights in any existing or future developed exploitation ways. Additionally, Sportradar has the right to appoint a title or other sponsor – to be communicated at any time – plus the right to provide advertising exposure to the title or other sponsor at every TTCL match. The implementation of the official sponsor(s) can be realised to the start of the group stage or the start of the knock-out stage.

14.2 TTCL – EQUIPMENT
The ETTU has the right to decide on the official TTCL Equipment to be used in all TTCL competition matches.

14.3 CLUBS - ORGANISERS
The clubs are responsible to organise and host all of their home matches. Thus, the home club is the “organiser” of all of its home matches. All organisers must do their utmost to make sure that only pre-announced\(^1\) companies are producing the matches for TV channels, online platforms etc. Unauthorised streams (e.g. from TV broadcasters, production companies, spectators using their mobile phones, etc.) as well as unauthorised tickering must be stopped by the organisers (pre-announced production teams are also allowed to stop unauthorised streaming and tickering). Organisers must also inform their supporters about this fact.

14.4 MARKETING AND SPONSORING OBLIGATIONS
Every club participating in the TTCL must follow the Marketing and Sponsoring Obligations. The appointed Referee for each match acts as an ETTU supervisor and is encouraged to monitor those obligations via a checklist provided by ETTU.

14.4.1 MARKETING AND SPONSORING RIGHTS
For all matches except the semi-final and final matches, the ETTU reserves the following 7 [seven] positions around/within the court: n° 3, 4, 38, 39 (50%), 40 (50%), 42, 44

For the semi-final and final matches, the ETTU reserves the following 9 [nine] positions around/within the court: n° 3, 4, 21, 22, 38, 39 (50%), 40 (50%), 42, 44

Official Court Layout:

\(^{1}\)Pre-announced companies: LAOLA1.tv / ETTU.tv production teams and other interested media companies which have the written permission from Sportradar to broadcast the match.
3+4 (A-boards)
38 (Floor sticker)
39 + 40 (50%) (Umpire desks)
42 (Floor sticker)
44 (Towel box)

Semifinal and final:
3+4 (A-boards)
21 + 22 (A-boards)
38 (Floor sticker)
39 + 40 (50%) (Umpire desks)
42 (Floor Sticker)
44 (Towel box)

Figure 3

The competition A-boards or B-boards displaying the TTCL sponsor(s) will be produced and paid for by the respective sponsor(s).

Further, the sponsor(s) will receive the right to brand the table and net (43) for all matches in close coordination with TTCL management board and the participating clubs.

The above stated sponsorship presence is a minimum requirement to display a naming right sponsor appropriately and worthy of the status of the sponsor. The clubs agree that, if a naming right sponsor urges the TTCL to increase the sponsor’s visibility at all matches, they are willing to cooperate to the maximum.

The remaining advertising positions may be used by the organiser and shall also be produced by the organiser.

It is not allowed to install a second row of advertising that is more dominant than the first row (A-boards or B-boards) (c.f. Fig. 4 – acts as an example for illustration). Any permanent and non-permanent advertisement in the competition hall should not outperform the visibility of the official TTCL sponsor(s).
Figure 4

The official court layout will be made available for downloading from the Media Shuttle Portal.

14.4.2 PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE MATCH

It is recommended to issue a programme leaflet by the organising club for every home match. This programme leaflet shall include the TTCL, ETTU and sponsor(s) logo(s).

Local press needs to be invited to the game and get free access to all relevant areas of the competition hall. A convenient number of seats have to be arranged for the journalists along the court. These seats have to be equipped with tables and power sockets.

The TTCL-Social Media Concept needs to be implemented.

The organisers must make sure that the stadium announcers follow the official match protocol and include the pre-defined announcements in the club’s entertainment protocol.

The organisers must make sure that jingles or audio spots before, after and between the matches (maximum 15 seconds) of the official TTCL sponsor(s) can be included in the event program.

All interviews must be held in front of a press backdrop where the logos of the official sponsor(s) of the TTCL must be displayed.

The official sponsor(s) of the TTCL shall be entitled to carry out promotional activities within the premises of the competition hall (Promotion-/sampling-activities in the breaks, in the arena circle, if needed with booth, e.g. inflatables in front of the main entry etc.). The organisers shall put areas at disposal, free of charge, for stands and advertising banners etc. of the TTCL sponsor(s). Moreover, the club will provide the official sponsor(s) VIP tickets (total of 8) free of charge if requested.

In case the title sponsor plans promotional activities in relation to the competition, the clubs should cooperate with and support the official title sponsor (e.g. signing sessions, training sessions with TTCL players etc.).

The home club shall write a press release/article about the match in the local language that should be distributed to all relevant national, regional and local media.
Each club is obliged to upload 5 photographs taken from every home match with cleared\(^2\) rights to the Media Shuttle Portal. Each Club grants to Sportradar/ETTU free of charge the unrestricted worldwide exploitation rights concerning the respective uploaded photos.

### 14.4.3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Participating clubs shall upload the following photographs to the Media Shuttle Portal\(^3\) latest 5 weeks before the competition starts:

- **Upload Team Photograph**

  An up-to-date team photograph is mandatory. The team photograph must be 4000 x 2500 pixels in size and the resolution must be a minimum of 300dpi. Those in the photo should be dressed appropriately and wearing their official match uniform.

- **Upload Photographs of each registered player**

  The individual player photograph must be 1800 x 2800 pixels in size and the resolution must be a minimum of 300dpi. The player in the photo must be dressed appropriately and wearing the official club’s uniform. Individual photos must have a light background of only one colour. If possible, all individual player photographs should have the same setting (background, clothing etc…).

- **Upload Club logo**

  The club logo shall be square, png, min. 200x200px

  The photographs shall be named in the following way: name of the club – player name etc

  The photographs will be displayed on the ETTU website and can also be used for promotional reasons (e.g. from Sportradar and the respective sponsor(s)).

### 14.4.4 TTCL CLUBS WEBSITES

14.4.4.1 Every club shall ensure its website is regularly updated, has sufficient information about the club, its players and achievements (also the current position in the national league) and preferably have these informations in English available in case their website’s language is different.

14.4.4.2 Every club must integrate the OTT Partner Player video player on its club website.

### 14.4.5 OFFICIAL MATCH PROTOCOL

The organisers are responsible for the preparation and smooth running of all home

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\(^2\)Each Club shall be responsible and liable for the clearing of rights of third parties including, but not limited to copyrights and personal rights, and shall indemnify and keep indemnified Sportradar /ETTU and its officers, employees and agents against any liability, loss damage, costs or expenses arising therefrom upon first request.  

\(^3\)https://ttclm.mediashuttle.com/.
matches. They are also responsible for the application of the Official Match Protocol.

Each participating club is responsible for delivering all elements of this Official Match Protocol (under the supervision of the ETTU). It will be made available via the Media Shuttle Portal.
The players must give a short statement/interview about the match if requested by the press or media (local or from ETTU.TV/LAOLA1.tv).

14.4.6 **PLAYING CLOTHING**
The home club shall notify the visiting team of the colours of its playing clothing and the visiting team shall wear different colours.
The TTCLM opts out from ITTF Regulations for International Competitions for advertisements on players’ clothing to allow more space on clothing for advertisement. Opting out is only for the sizes and total number of advertisements. Furthermore, if a sponsor is found for the respective season, the player’s shirt must display the advertisement of the official sponsor.
The advertisement must be displayed at the back of the shirt:

![Figure 5](image)
Either the right or the left implementation (c.f. Fig. 5) is acceptable.
The rest of the shirt can be freely displayed by the club.

14.4.7 **PRINT/ONLINE MATERIALS**
All printed and online materials/documents produced by the clubs (e.g. brochure, magazine, poster, ticket, press release, social media, etc.) must display:
- The correct competition name: “Table Tennis Champions League Men⁴, abbreviation: TTCL
- The ETTU logo
- The competition logo
- The logo of the title sponsor of the TTCL
Additionally, all clubs must always, in any publication under their responsibility

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⁴If a title sponsor is found, the official competition name can be changed.
regarding the TTCL, use the correct denomination of the title sponsor. All logos will be made available for uploading on the Media Shuttle Portal.

15. GENERAL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

15.1 Every club has to make possible TV/online streaming service provided by the IT company of ETTU ("ETTU.TV), according to the following technical requirements:

a) Internet connection with a minimum dedicated UPLOAD bandwidth of three megabit/sec
b) Installation and access to the dedicated internet connection at the main working position
c) Provision of a router with at least four ethernet ports - DHCP configuration
   i) TCP-Port 80, 443, 1935 and 49221 (incoming/outgoing)
   ii) UDP-Port 2077, 2088 and 49221 (incoming/outgoing)
d) Director’s workplace for 3 persons inside the main hall or very close to it
e) Distance TT cameras to director’s workplace: max 40m
f) Distance director’s workplace to access the router: max 5 m
g) Provision of the necessary facilities and staff for the electronic transmission of each home match by the “ETTU Scorer App ("iScout), made available by the ETTU/Sportradar.

The scoring of all matches will be done using the ETTU Scorer App ("iScout). Prior to the start of the first round of the competition, each club must nominate minimum 1 official to train in the use of the App.

Sportradar will provide an online session to introduce and demonstrate the use of the App. This will be open to all nominated ETTU Scorer officials which need to be at least 18 years old. Following this session, officials will be required to complete their training using the Sportradar systems and ultimately score a training match in order to ensure the correct skill level is achieved. If the ETTU scorer official does not pass training in the first instance, it is possible to train further and submit another training match.

In order to train, the nominated official must have access to an android phone (the app is not compatible with iPhone) and a computer.

One dedicated ETTU scorer official will be required per match (it is not possible to have two persons for one match!).

Each club will be assigned one android device to be used during competitions by ETTU and Sportradar. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure this device is available to the ETTU Scorer official two hours before the start of the match. It is also the responsibility of the club to ensure that a wifi internet connection (minimum 3MB upload) is available for use by the scorer.

Each club must ensure that a suitable position close to the table is assigned to the ETTU Scorer official, with a good view of both the table and the scoreboard.
16. PRODUCTION SET-UP ONLINE STREAMING PRODUCTION

16.1 A main working position in the area of the main competition table must be provided near the main camera. The main working position:

a) Is located in a way that the cabling distance to the main camera (see Fig. 6) does not exceed a distance of 40 meters
b) Has to have a clear view onto the playing field, the umpire and the scoreboard
c) Has access to the dedicated internet connection with a minimum UPLOAD bandwidth of three megabit/sec
d) Has the following minimum size: 4m x 1m (incl. provision of standard power sockets (230 V) and tables and chairs)

The following example (Fig. 6) underlines how it should look. Slight changes that do not interfere with the working process are acceptable (requirements stated in 10.1 must be fulfilled).

![Figure 6](image)

16.2 The organisers must make sure that the ETTU production team can position the main camera in the following way:

![Figure 7](image)
Figure 7 acts as an example. It is mandatory that the camera is positioned in a way that the backside of the table is visible. The production team is allowed to change/modify the camera position that was provided by the club.

In case the club cannot position the camera in the right height, clubs should use scaffolding.

Correct:

![Figure 8](image)

Incorrect:

![Figure 9](image)

16.3 The club must ensure that the production team has still access to the internet at least 60 minutes after the match (in case the production team needs some more time than 60 minutes to finish their task, they have the right to terminate their work in an appropriate timeframe).

17. **TV PRODUCTION**

17.1 Clubs participating in the TTCL semi-final and final matches must provide an international high quality TV signal with the official English match graphics (incl. uplink to satellite) of its home matches. For the avoidance of doubt, ETTU/Sportradar must have access to the TV signal via satellite free of any charges (e.g. no uplink costs or access fees) and will exploit the TV signal in its free discretion.

17.2 The cameras have to be positioned as illustrated in Fig 10.
Camera 1: most used camera which shall provide the main wide shot of the game. The camera shall be located on a scaffold (5m high) and positioned in the centre behind the table.
Camera 2: mainly used for (super) slow-motion replays but could also give an alternative to cover the table from a different angle from behind.
Camera 3 & 4: positioned on tripods on the floor to create close-ups of each player. (Camera 3 is optional).
Camera 5: hand-held camera which shall be used to cover everything which is not covered such as crowd, coaches, referees etc.

17.3 The TV signal must carry international sound with the following fixed audio configuration:
Audio1: international sound stereo left
Audio2: international sound stereo right
Audio3: Guest commentary mix or English commentary mix (upon request)
Audio4: Host Broadcaster’s live commentary
For the avoidance of doubt, the English commentary takes priority over the guest commentary.

17.4 Upon request of ETTU or Sportradar, each club is obliged to provide a fully equipped commentary position (headset with commentary unit, 1 TV monitor, technical assistance) as well as the English live commentary mix via satellite (see Audio Configuration).

17.5 The format of the signal should be HD 16:9 including the official graphics in 4:3 safe.
17.6 All matches must be produced with the official TTCL graphic kit to generate the live match graphics. All graphics must be clean, bright, clear and in English language. The graphic kit and the instructions how to use it will be provided by Sportradar.
The TV signal distribution will be coordinated on a centralised basis by Sportradar. Each club and its respective production partner is obliged to make the TV signal of its home matches available to Sportradar on an established European Satellite (such as Eutelsat 7B or 10A or ABS3A) free of charge (incl. uplink). All satellite segments will be booked by Sportradar. The appointed production company (by the club) needs to get in contact with Sportradar at least 15 days prior match day to check the technical specifications. The production company guarantees a Eutelsat certified SNG/Uplink and a “BISS-1” encryption for the TV signal.

The official running order must be implemented (no delays acceptable for the announced starting time). It will be provided by Sportradar.

For the onsite production team the organisers have to prepare accreditation badges that guarantee full access to all tournament facilities and areas. If requested, the Organising Club shall provide ETTU and Sportradar with five (5) VIP entry tickets (free of charge) for ETTU representatives, their guests, partners, suppliers, Moreover the ETTU and Sportradar recommend for the semi-finals and finals a ticket price at €15,- for a normal entry ticket.

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

There shall be a winner’s ceremony at the end of the Event (final 2). The winner’s podium (for 14 persons) shall be separated from the spectators and from the press area. The team and player announcement must also be done in English.

After the 2nd final match the winner shall receive the appropriate trophy, the winner and the runner-up shall receive medals by ETTU. Prize Money for TTCL clubs will be determined by ETTU and Sportradar.

The entry fee shall be paid according to Directive 2.

The clubs participating in the TTCL shall provide a list of the team sponsors (to fill in at the “additional information documents” for clubs).

By registering and entering the ETTU Club Competition, each registered and entered person agrees and gives his/her consent to the ETTU Privacy Policy as laid down on the ETTU website (www.ettu.org).

The Clubs may be fined by the ETTU Club Competition Official for any contravention to the provision of these directives in accordance with the Penalty Catalogue.
25. **DEFINITIONS**

*Delay:* Official documents, e.g. invitation letters, hotel proposition, visas etc. as described in the Regulations or the Directives above shall be sent by the home club to the visiting club latest eight weeks* before the match (*exception: for the first (second) match day(s) after the Drawing of Lots, the invitations for the visiting clubs shall be sent latest seven days after the Drawing of Lots. If the respective home club fails to do so and the other party has financial losses because of this, the ETTU Club Competition Official may decide to impose towards the home club a reimbursement of the additional costs occurred to the guest club.

* a non-European player is a player with a nationality outside ETTU member Associations’ countries.

26. **FORCE MAJEURE**

In case of “force majeure”*, the ETTU Executive Board may decide, after consultation with the Management Board, the Club Competition Official, the Secretary General and Sportradar, on any amendment to the general organisation and planning of the European Club Competitions. Such amendment may come into force also during an ECC season.

*Force majeure is extended to the well-being and safety of all involved parties including the need to guarantee the best possible continuation of the ECC.*

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