

## **CT EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (TEAM EVENTS)**

### **CT 1 Introduction**

- CT 1.1 The European Championships (Team Events) shall be played over a period of 2 years and be concluded with the final stage (24 men's teams and 24 women's teams) in odd numbered years.
- CT 1.2 The Championships shall commence in the preceding year with stages 1 and 2.
- CT 1.3 The Championships shall include men's team and women's team events.

### **CT 2 Entries**

- CT 2.1 Each member Association whose subscriptions are not in arrears may enter 1 team in the Men's and/or 1 team in the Women's event.
- CT 2.2 The closing date of entries for stage 1 shall be specified by the Executive Board.

### **CT 3 Eligibility**

All players shall be eligible to represent their Associations in accordance with the provisions of article B.10.

### **CT 4 Stages 1 and 2**

#### **CT 4.1 Organisation**

Stages 1 and 2 shall be played over a period up to 18 months and shall be conducted by the Secretary General who shall have the right to change the dates of matches whenever needed. On the basis of a duly motivated request from a member Association the Executive Board has the authority to change the venue of matches to a location situated on the territory of another member Association.

#### **CT 4.2 Rights and Obligations**

- CT 4.2.1 The ETTU holds the following rights for every team match within stages 1 and 2 of the European Championships (Team Events):
  - CT 4.2.1.1 The International TV rights.
  - CT 4.2.1.2 The non-exclusive rights for Internet TV and Internet Live Streaming.
  - CT 4.2.1.3 The rights for Data and Scoring.
  - CT 4.2.1.4 Whenever requested by the ETTU, each Association participating in stages 1 and 2 has to provide necessary conditions and staff for electronic transmission of each home match by a live scoring system (LSS) made available by the ETTU. All relevant technical details are stated in the Directives.
  - CT 4.2.1.5 The exclusive right to appoint a title sponsor – plus providing advertising exposure to the title sponsor at every match.
    - Participating Associations have to ensure that there will be no conflict of interest between their own sponsors and the title sponsor. If these sponsors belong to the same product area, the name or logo of the home Association's sponsor must not be exposed on the court surrounds at any stage 1 and 2 matches.
    - The home Association must always, in any publication under their responsibility regarding stages 1 and 2, use the correct denomination of the

title sponsor. An Association failing to do this shall be fined by the Executive Board and shall be made liable for the payment of all undisputed damages claimed by the title sponsor.

CT 4.2.1.6 The right to appoint an official ball sponsor and supplier.

The Secretary General shall notify all participating Associations not later than 3 months before the start of stage 1 regarding the scope of such contract. An Association failing to use the adopted ball shall be subject to a penalty imposed by the Executive Board.

CT 4.2.2 Equipment rights (except the adopted ball), domestic TV rights, advertising rights other than those mentioned under 4.2.1 as well as gate receipts belong to the home Association of each match.

#### CT.4.3 **Entry Fees**

The entry fee shall be 1000 € for a team.

#### CT 4.4 **System of Play**

##### CT 4.4.1 Stage 1

CT 4.4.1.1 The winner of the previous European Championships (Team Events) and the host for the final stage of the Championships will not take part in stage 1 and will proceed directly to the final stage of the Championships.

Teams not taking part in stage 1 will not take part in the final stage.

CT 4.4.1.2 There will be Groups A, B and C and the composition of Groups A, B and C will be announced no later than 2 months after the final stage of the previous Championships.

CT 4.4.1.3 There will be 18 teams in Groups A,

\* 7 final stage quarter-finalists of the previous Championships (or 6 teams if the host of the final stage finished among these quarter-finalists but was not the winner),

\* 8 final stage group runners-up of the previous Championships (or 7 if the host of the final stage finished among these teams);

\* 3 teams finishing 3rd in the final stage group stage of the previous Championships with the best World Team Ranking at the moment the composition of the Groups A will be announced (or 4 teams if the host of the final stage finished among these teams).

There will be 6 groups each of 3 teams. They will play a double round robin with 2 home matches and 2 away matches. The 6 group winners and 6 group runners up will proceed directly to the final stage of the Championships. The position 3 teams will proceed to stage 2 to compete for the remaining places in the final stage.

CT 4.4.1.4 All other entered teams that took part in the previous Championships except the last placed teams in the Groups B (of the previous Championships) will play in Groups B. There will be groups with 3 or 4 teams depending on the number of entered teams. The matches will be played with a round robin system during one weekend and one host per group. The detailed playing system for the B groups will be published as soon as the number of entered teams is known.

Depending on the number of groups, 8, 10 or 12 teams from the Groups B will proceed to stage 2 to compete for the remaining 10 places in the final stage (together with the 6 teams from the Groups A). The detailed playing system for and the number of teams from Groups B proceeding to stage 2 will be published as soon as the number of entered teams are known.

CT.4.4.1.5 All other entered teams and the last placed teams in the Groups B (of the previous Championships) will play in Groups C. There will be maximum 4

groups. The matches will be played with a round robin system during one weekend and one host per group. The detailed playing system and the number of teams proceeding to Groups B will be published as soon as the number of entered teams is known.

#### CT 4.4.2 Stage 2

CT 4.4.2.1 6 teams from the Groups A and at least 8 from the Groups B will play in stage 2 for the remaining 10 places (or 11 places if the winner of the previous European Championships (Team Events) shall be the host for the final stage of the Championships) in the final stage.

CT 4.4.2.2 There will be groups with 3 or 4 teams. The matches will be played with a round robin system during one weekend and one host per group for the remaining 10 places in the final stage. The detailed playing system for stage 2 will be published as soon as the number of entered teams is known.

#### CT 4.5 Home Matches

CT 4.5.1 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 tables, nets and balls which will be used in the match concerned.

CT 4.5.2 A home Association which fails to notify the Secretary General of the venue of the match 6 weeks before the scheduled date may be subject to a fine of 250 €.

#### CT 4.6 Match Procedure

CT 4.6.1 A team shall consist of maximum 4 players.

CT 4.6.2 Each team shall appoint a playing or non-playing captain or a responsible deputy, who shall be present throughout a match.

CT 4.6.3 A match shall consist of up to 5 singles and shall be played on 1 table.

CT 4.6.4 In all matches (except those played in a round robin tournament, where the captains shall decide by lot the right to choose A1, A2, A3 or B1, B2, B3) 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.

CT 4.6.5 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 an interval of not more than 15 minutes after the second match.

CT 4.6.6 A team may begin, continue and complete a team match only with a full complement of players, except that the Referee may, at his discretion, allow a team to play with one player absent or an individual match to be omitted from the sequence where he is satisfied that the absence is due to accident, illness, injury or other circumstances outside the control of the player or the Association concerned, including disqualification by the Referee in accordance with his authority.

CT 4.6.7 If a team fails to play a team match the other team shall be considered to have won the match 3-0, with a games score of 9-0 and a point score of 99-0.

CT.4.6.8 Teams shall gain 2 match points for a win, 1 for a loss in a played match and 0 for a loss in an unplayed or unfinished match.

CT 4.6.9 A team which fails to fulfil or complete a fixture may be fined up to 3,000 € by the Executive Board.

CT 4.7 **Dress and Colours**

CT 4.7.1 For home matches the home Association shall notify the visiting Association of the colours of its playing clothing no later than 14 days before the date of the match 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.

CT 4.7.2 Where opposing teams have a similar shirt and cannot agree which of them will change, the decision shall be made by the umpire by lot.

CT 4.8 **Referees and Umpires**

CT 4.8.1 The Secretary General, after consulting the Umpires and Referees Committee, shall arrange for a neutral International Umpire to fulfil the duties of the Referee. The home Association shall provide umpires to perform the duties of umpire and assistant umpire.

CT 4.8.2 The neutral International Umpire appointed by the ETTU shall receive from the home Association a daily allowance in accordance with ITTF Directives for Match Officials; the travel expenses shall be reimbursed by the home Association. ETTU shall reimburse the home Association 50% of the neutral International Umpire's travel expenses.

CT 4.8.3 For the group matches in stage 2, arranged as a round robin group tournament, the Secretary General shall, after consulting the Umpires and Referees Committee, arrange for a neutral International Umpire to fulfil the duties of the Referee and shall in addition appoint 2 neutral International Umpires. The home Association shall provide additional umpires. The 3 neutral International Umpires appointed by the ETTU shall receive from the home Association a daily allowance in accordance with ITTF Directives for Match Officials; the travel expenses shall be reimbursed by the home Association. ETTU shall reimburse the home Association 50% of the neutral International Umpire's travel expenses.

CT 4.8.4 Immediately after a match the Referee shall complete an official report form and send it to the Secretary General by email.

CT 4.9 **Results**

CT 4.9.1 Immediately after a match the home Association shall send a copy of the results sheet by email to the ETTU Secretariat as well as to the ETTU Press Officer.

CT 4.9.2 An Association failing to report results as specified shall be liable to a fine of 250 €.

CT 4.10 **Playing Conditions**

CT 4.10.1 The playing space shall not be less than 14m long, 7m wide and 5m high.

CT 4.10.2 The minimum temperature in the hall shall not be less than 18°C.

CT 4.10.3 The light intensity at the table shall be at least 800 LUX.

CT 4.10.4 All matches shall be played on an ITTF approved floor.

CT 4.11 **Protests and Appeals**

CT 4.11.1 An Association wishing to protest about any aspect of a match shall deposit its protest before the match or immediately after the irregularity occurred to the Referee of the match, who must confirm the receipt of the protest. The protesting Association has to send the protest immediately after the match by email to the ETTU Secretariat. A protest not sent latest the day after the

match will not be accepted. The Board of Justice shall decide on the protest within 8 days.

CT 4.11.2 At the time of making a protest an Association shall send to the ETTU bank account a fee of 1,000 €, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

CT 4.11.3 Any appeal against a decision on the protest shall similarly be made within 8 days of notification of the decision and must be addressed to the ETTU Secretariat. The Board of Appeal shall decide on the appeal within 8 days.

CT 4.11.4 At the time of making an appeal an Association shall send to the ETTU bank account a fee of 1.000 €, which will be refunded if the protest or appeal is upheld.

## **CT 4.12 Hospitality and Transport**

CT 4.12.1 The home Association shall, to the best of their abilities, assist the visiting Association to arrange hospitality close to the venue of the match.

CT 4.12.2 The visiting Association shall pay for its hospitality except that the home Association shall provide and pay for lunch and dinner on the date of the match.

CT 4.12.3 The ETTU appointed Referee shall receive free hospitality for 1 or 2 days, depending on the possible travel arrangements.

CT 4.12.4 The visiting Association shall pay its own travel expenses, in case of travelling by air or rail to the nearest international airport or international railway station to the venue. Return transport between airport or railway station and the venue is the responsibility of the home Association. Local transport to and from the venue of the match is also the responsibility of the home Association.

CT 4.12.5. For stage 1 groups B and groups C and stage 2 groups visiting Associations shall pay for their hospitality except that the host Association shall provide and pay for lunch and dinner on the dates of the matches. The visiting Associations shall pay their own travel expenses, in case of travelling by air or rail to the nearest international airport or international railway station to the venue. Return transport between airport or railway station and the venue is the responsibility of the home Association. Local transport to and from the venue of the match is also the responsibility of the host Association. The detailed hospitality arrangements shall be published by the Secretary General.

## **CT 5 Final Stage**

### **CT 5.1 Organisation**

The final stage shall be organised by one member Association appointed by the ETTU Executive Board.

### **CT 5.2 Application Procedure and Decision**

CT 5.2.1 Any Association wishing to organise the final stage of the Championships shall send a written application to the Secretary General.

CT 5.2.2 The following conditions have to be acknowledged:  
The closing date for applications shall be specified by the Executive Board and notified to all Associations.

Applications must be in line with the relevant Regulations and Directives.

All details of organisation must be included in the presentation of the venue to the Executive Board, on the basis of the directives for presentations.

CT 5.2.3 The Regulations and the Directives and the directives for presentations can be obtained from the Secretary General, who will also set the date for the presentations.

CT 5.2.4 The Executive Board shall appoint the organising Association, after the evaluation of the presentations held by the applicants.

CT 5.2.5 The final stage shall be organised according to the provisions of a contract between ETTU and the organising Association to be signed no later than 8 months before the start of the event. The organising Association shall be responsible for conducting the Championships in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis, the ITTF Regulations for International Competitions and the relevant ETTU Regulations and Directives.

**CT 5.3 Date and Duration**

CT 5.3.1 The final stage of the Championships shall be held between 14th September and 31st October over a period of 6 days.

CT 5.3.2 The ETTU Competition Manager shall prepare a playing schedule for the organising Association and submit it to the Chair of the Technical Committee and to the Secretary General for approval.

**CT 5.4. Rights and Obligations**

CT 5.4.1 All international TV, Internet, equipment, advertising and marketing rights are vested in the ETTU. The exact distribution of responsibilities in these matters shall be stated in the Directives and finally laid down in the contract between ETTU and the organising Association.

CT 5.4.2 All gate receipts belong to the organising Association.

**CT 5.5 Entry**

CT 5.5.1 The final stage shall be open for entry to 24 teams for men's and women's event: the host of the final stage, the winner of the previous European Championships (Team Events) and 22 teams which have proceeded through stage 1 and stage 2 to the final stage.

CT 5.5.2 If a team will not be able to participate the Executive Board shall have the right to fill the vacant place in the final stage as necessary.

CT 5.5.3 Each Association shall be entitled to enter up to 5 players in a men's team and up to 5 players in a women's team.

**CT 5.6 Entry Forms**

CT.5.6.1 The prospectus shall be agreed by the organising Association with the Secretary General.

CT 5.6.2 Associations have to enter all their participants to the final stage through the online entry system determined by the ETTU.

The online entry system will include a statement, to be agreed by an official of the nominating Association on behalf of its players and captains, that they understand and accept the conditions of the final stage, that they are prepared to compete against all other teams participating and that they are insured fully against illness and injury for the duration of the final stage.

**CT 5.7 Modification**

CT 5.7.1 Associations are allowed to modify their online entries (no additional entries are allowed) only up to the relating deadline announced in the prospectus (principally 5 working days before the start of the final stage). In case of late non-availability of any player after the relating deadline the Secretary General may allow up to the first jury meeting Associations to replace a non-available player by another player. For such replacement the Association shall pay to the ETTU an administration fee of 100 € per replacement.

**CT 5.8 Entry Fees and Levies**

CT 5.8.1 There shall be a levy of 20,000 € payable to the ETTU on the organising Association for the final stage and an entry fee of 2,000 € per team.

CT 5.8.2 The relevant entry fees from the participating teams must be paid to the ETTU bank account at the time of the submission of entries. Otherwise, the entries will not be accepted. Teams that fail to arrive at the final stage without notification in writing to the organising Association and the ETTU will be fined by the Executive Board with an amount of up to 5,000 € and entry into the next European Championships will only be accepted if payment for entry fees and hospitality charges are made in full to the organisers at the same time as the entry form.

CT 5.8.3 The entry fees as well as other pre-payment will not be refunded if an entered Association fails to arrive at the final stage of the Championships.

**CT 5.9 Hospitality**

CT 5.9.1 All Associations shall cover 100% of their own hospitality costs for their participants, including players and coaches.

CT 5.9.2 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality from the evening before the ETTU Congress until the morning after the ETTU Congress for 1 delegate from each Association attending the ETTU Congress during the Championships. A delegate, nominated by an Association to attend the ETTU Congress and receiving free hospitality, not attending the ETTU Congress shall be required to reimburse the organising Association.

CT 5.9.3 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality from the evening before the final stage begins until the morning after they end for the

- Executive Board members,
- ETTU Sub-Committee Chairs,
- Club Competitions Official,
- Press and Medical Officials or their deputies,
- Competition Manager,
- Honorary Members,
- 6 ETTU staff members and
- all invited foreign umpires.

CT 5.9.4 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality for all referees from the evening two days before the Championships begin until the morning after they end, plus the travel expenses.

CT 5.9.5 The costs of hospitality for persons not entitled to free hospitality, shall be agreed at least 6 months in advance by the Executive Board, and shall be subject to a contract between ETTU and the organising Association.

CT 5.9.6 The participating Associations have to use the accommodation provided by the organising Association. The hospitality costs include: accommodation in a high level hotel (checked by ETTU), all meals of a high quality, the return transportation from the nearest international airport/railway station to the hotel and venue, the shuttle bus transportation during the competition hall/hotel, the accreditation to the competition with guaranteed seats for the final matches.

CT 5.9.7 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality and reimburse the travel costs for the ETTU Competition Manager when the facilities and proposed playing conditions of the Championships are inspected and when the draw is conducted.

**CT 5.10 Cancellation fees**

CT 5.10.1 An Association cancelling a person of their announced delegation after the deadline of the final entries up to 10 days before the Championships starts shall pay a cancellation fee of 100 € per person to the organising Association.

CT 5.10.2 An Association cancelling a person of their announced delegation during the last 10 days before the Championships or arriving with less persons than announced, has to pay 100 % of the hospitality costs for every person and for the whole period this person was initially nominated.

**CT 5.11 System of Play**

CT 5.11.1 The 24 teams are entitled to play for the title of European Team Champion.

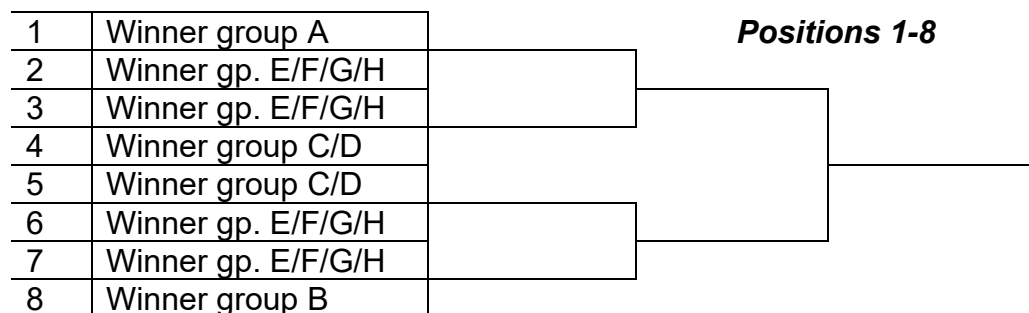
CT 5.11.2 There will be 8 groups of 3 teams each. The seeding list will be provided by the Ranking Committee. The draw will be conducted by placing the top 8 teams as No. 1 in groups A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H respectively, followed by drawing the remaining teams 4 by 4 for the No. 2 and No. 3 positions into the 8 groups.

Each group shall play a complete round robin (2 matches per team).

Teams finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions in the groups have completed their matches.

CT 5.11.3 Group winners proceed to the quarter-finals. From the quarter-finals the knockout system will be used.

The winner of group A goes to position 1, the winner of group B goes to position 8, the winners of group C and D shall be drawn between positions 4 and 5. The winners of groups E, F, G and H shall be drawn by lot into the remaining places.



CT 5.11.4 The draw for the quarter-finals will be conducted by the Referee in close cooperation with the ETTU Competition Manager and the Chairs of the Technical and Ranking Committees.

CT 5.11.5 The winner of the knockout beginning with the quarter-final is the European Champion.

**CT 5.12 Match Procedure**

CT 5.12.1 A men's or women's team shall consist of maximum 4 players.

CT 5.12.2 Each team shall appoint a playing or non-playing captain or a responsible deputy, who shall be present throughout a match.

CT 5.12.3 A match shall consist of up to 5 singles and shall be played on 1 table.

CT 5.12.4 One team is considered to be composed of the players A1, A2, A3, and the other team is considered to be composed of 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.

CT 5.12.5 Before the match the captains shall decide by lot the right to choose A1-A2-A3 or B1-B2-B3 and shall nominate their players to the referee or his representative, assigning a letter to each player. After the second single in a team match, player N°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 singles match.

**CT 5.13 Default**

CT 5.13.1 An Association whose team is entered in the draw but which fails to compete in the event without adequate justification may be subject to disciplinary action by the ETTU Executive Board.

CT 5.13.2 A team may begin, continue and complete a team match only with a full complement of players, except that the Referee may, at his discretion, allow a team to play with one player absent or an individual match to be omitted from the sequence where he is satisfied that the absence is due to accident, illness, injury or other circumstances outside the control of the player or the Association concerned, including disqualification by the Referee in accordance with his authority.

CT 5.13.3 An Association whose team begins to play in the final stage but which fails to complete its schedule of matches shall be liable to forfeit its entitlement to hospitality for its representatives at the final stage; appeal against such forfeit may be made to the Jury, whose decision shall be final.

**CT 5.14 Draw**

CT 5.14.1 The draw for the final stage groups shall take place at least 30 days before the start of the final stage and its outcome shall be published on the day of the draw.

CT 5.14.2 Representatives of Associations participating shall be entitled to attend the draw, which shall be conducted by the Referee in close cooperation with the ETTU Competition Manager and the Chairs of the Technical and Ranking Committees.

**CT 5.15 Jury**

CT 5.15.1 The Jury shall consist of the Chairs of the Ranking, Umpires and Referees, and Technical Committees or their deputies, a representative of the organising Association, the ETTU Secretary General or a representative of the Executive Board and the Referee or deputy.

CT 5.15.2 The chair of the Jury shall be the Chair of the Technical Committee.

CT 5.15.3 The ETTU Competition Manager may attend the Jury meetings with the right to speak but without the right to vote.

CT 5.15.4 The Jury shall meet on the eve of the final stage and at any other time when necessary.

**CT 5.16 Trophies and Awards**

CT 5.16.1 Trophies for the winners of men's team and women's team events shall be presented.

CT 5.16.2 The organising Association shall provide new trophies, medals and plaques.

CT 5.16.3 Trophies, medals and plaques shall be presented to the members including non-playing captains, of teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 teams).

**CT 5.17      Flags and Anthems**

CT 5.17.1      At award ceremonies the national flags of winners, runners-up and losing semi-finalists of team events shall be raised and the national anthems of the winners shall be played.

**CT 5.18      Referees and Umpires**

CT 5.18.1      Latest 6 months before the event, the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee shall send to the Secretary General for the Executive Board's approval the proposal for appointing a Referee and, latest 4 months before, for one or more Deputy Referees. All these officials shall be International Referees from an ETTU member Association. If available at least one member of the referee team shall be from the organising Association. All referees shall arrive at the venue two days before the start of the event.

CT 5.18.2      All umpires shall be International Umpires. At least 1/3 of the total of umpires needed shall be from foreign ETTU member Associations. Not later than 5 months before the event, the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee, after coordination with the organising Association, will post a call for umpires interested to officiate at the event onto the ETTU website, and will send respective invitations to all member Associations. Together with the organising Association, the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee will set up a list of the appointed number of umpires; such decisions of the ETTU URC are final. No later than three months before the event, the ETTU shall inform the Associations about the selections and post the list onto the ETTU website. For all matches during the final stage the umpires shall be from Associations other than those of the players in the match.

CT 5.18.3      All invited foreign match officials shall receive from the organising Association a daily allowance in accordance with ITTF Directives for Match Officials.

**CT 5.19      Programme**

CT 5.19.1      The official programme shall specify that the final stage of the Championships are held under the auspices of the ETTU and shall include, on an early page, the names of all Executive Board members together with the competition time schedule and competition information.

**CT 5.20      Facilities**

CT 5.20.1      The organising Association shall ensure free access to any part of the playing hall for all the players, officials and persons mentioned in CT 5.9.3 and shall provide them with preferential seats throughout the Championships.

CT 5.20.2      During the period of the final stage the organising Association shall make available to the ETTU rooms and facilities for the Congress and committee meetings.

CT 5.20.3      During the final stage an area with seats shall be specifically allocated to team doctors and/or physiotherapists close to the playing area.

CT 5.20.4      The organising Association shall provide first aid care for on-venue illness and injury but will not be liable for costs and expenses relating to medicines, medical care and hospital treatment. Each Association is required to insure fully its players and officials against illness and injury for the duration of the final stage of the championships.

**CT 5.21 Doping Control**

CT 5.21.1 Doping control shall be carried out in accordance with ITTF Anti-Doping rules.

**CT 5.22 Electronic Tournament System**

CT 5.22.1 An ETTU approved electronic tournament system must be used for all European Championships.