

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION



ECL Men - DIRECTIVES 2023/2024

v.15.6.2023

The European Champions League Men, 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 European Champions League Men (ECLM) 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 ETTU Executive Board to reflect updates to the general organisation and planning of the European Champions League Men.

1. PARTIES INVOLVED

- ETTU – European Table Tennis Union (Secretary General (ETTUSG)).
- The Clubs participating in the Event.
- The Club Competition Manager.
- The Club Competition Official.
- Sportradar – ETTU’s Official ECLM Marketing Partner.

2. QUALIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

2.1

The European Champions League - Men shall be open for the clubs/teams according to the European Club Competition seeding list based on the results of the clubs from the last 3 European Club Competitions’ seasons, to the Europe Cup winner and to the clubs with accepted wild cards.

Result points allocation: from the 2020-2021 season 20%, 2021-2022 season 30% and 2022-2023 season 50%.

Points allocation

Champions League winner	1000
Champions League runner up	800
Champions League SF	600
Europe Cup winner	500
Champions League QF or CL stage 2 group 2nd	400
Europe Cup runner up	300
Europe Cup SF	250
Europe Cup QF/CL stage 2 Group 3rd	200
Europe Trophy Grand Final winner	190
Europe Trophy Grand Final runner up	180
Champions League stage 2 Group 4th	170
Europe Cup R4	150
Europe Trophy Grand Final third	130
Europe Trophy Grand Final participant	120
Europe Cup R3	100

Europe Trophy Regional winner	90
Europe Trophy Regional runner up	70
Europe Cup R2 (3rd)	60
Europe Trophy Regional stage 2 qualifier	50
Europe Cup R2 (4th)	40
Europe Trophy Regional stage 1 runner up	30
Europe Cup R1 (2nd)	25
Europe Cup R1 (3rd)	20
Europe Trophy Regional stage 1 participant	15
Europe Cup R1 (4th)	10
Europe Cup R1 (5th)	5

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 ECLM is 5.

In case of 2 clubs/teams qualified for the ECLM with the same management, ETTU can move the lowest ranked of the 2 clubs/teams to the Europe Cup and the vacant position in ECLM may be filled by the next highest ranked club/team of the seeding, unless the national Association of that club/team reached already the maximum (5) available places in the ECLM.

The Europe Cup winner from the 2022-2023 season is directly qualified for the Champions League of the 2023-2024 season.

If the Europe Cup winner club's/team's Association has already reached its quota (5) in Champions League then the club of that national Association being seeded 5 shall be moved to the Europe Cup.

The Europe Cup winner from the 2022-2023 season will be positioned as last team in the seeding before the wild cards' teams in case this team is not positioned higher by the European Club Ranking.

Teams seeded 17-24 can participate in the European Champions League but not mandatory i.e. they are not obliged to compete in Champions League group stage 1 and may directly start at Europe Cup group stage 1 or at Europe Trophy (each team seeded 17-24 can decide if start in European Champions League or Europe Cup or Europe Trophy).

If one or more teams seeded 17-24 will not start in the European Champions League but in Europe Cup or Europe Trophy, the next seeded team(s) may take the last positions in the European Champions League but the total number of teams for the European Champions League and Europe Cup together cannot exceed 40.

2.2 **Wild Cards** for up to 2 clubs/teams may be given by ETTU for clubs wishing to join the European Champions League but not ranked high enough to reach a European 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.

Wild Cards in European Champions Leagues can only be given if the demanding club's national Association's quota (5) has not been achieved (clubs seeded 1-22 or 23). These clubs/teams will be seeded number 24 (in case of 1) or numbers 23 and 24 (in case of 2).

In case more than 2 clubs ask via their National Association for a Wild Card and meet all directive criteria, the clubs with the highest total points of their 3 highest ranked players in the most recent World Rankings will have priority.

A European Champions League Wild Card is valid for 2 consecutive seasons.

Deadline for a Wild Card application: **17.07.2023**. The Wild Card application must be made by the clubs National Association at the ETTU online entry system.

2.3. Deadline for clubs' team and players registration: **17.7.2023**.

The clubs' team and players registration must be made via the clubs' National Association at the ETTU online entry system.

Deadline for the additional team information including pictures: **10.8.2023**. The clubs must send the additional information by email to club@ettu.org and ana.ivosevic@ettu.org

2.4 Online Registration System:

Wild Card application and all team and player registration for the ECC Competition must be made via the ETTU online registration system by the club's National Association. ETTU will publish a registration form which the clubs may fill in and submit to their National Association for online registration.

For the players' nominations, each club/team is required to register via their National Association between a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) players. As many players as possible (including reserve players), shall be registered, as no late nominations/registration are accepted past registration deadline.

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:

900€ for teams starting in the European Champions League stage 2

600€ for teams starting in the European Champions League stage 1

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 team does not enter the ECLM or does not fulfil the requirements set up, the next highest ranked club of the seeding may fill the vacant position, unless the national Association of that club reached already the maximum (5) available places in the ECLM.

2.8 In case a qualified team ranked 1-16 does not participate in the ECLM, this team is not allowed to participate in the Europe Cup nor in the Europe Trophy neither.

2.9 After release of the final seeding list, after the team's registration deadline, clubs have a 24 hours exit possibility. The clubs and the national Association of the clubs must 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 deadline for team registration, the clubs and their National Associations will receive the final seeding list with the entered teams.

2.11 After the deadline for players' registration, the clubs and their National Associations will receive a list with all entered players of the teams 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 ECLM has to participate with one official representative in a (online or hybrid) meeting and throughout the entire meeting
There shall be at least one meeting per season.
- 2.13 All matches shall be played at a venue located within 5 hours from CET.
- 2.14 Participating clubs and their national Associations are responsible for any act or failure to act by the club, its players, and officials with regards to finances, behaviour, and fair play.
- 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 ECLM must accept and provide the requirements.

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

3 COMPOSITIONS OF TEAMS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Only nominated players are entitled to represent their club/team. After deadline for player registration, no additional player can be accepted for a club/team.
A club/team shall nominate via their National Association 6 – 12 players.
- 3.2 A club/team can register via their National Association up to 3 non-European* players.
In a team match up to 1 non-European* player is entitled to play but the second/third 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 his 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 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 team, 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 team, in 1 or more Associations, participating in ETTU Club Competitions but the player shall only be registered for ETTU Club Competitions with 1 team.
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 to compete in the semi-finals and final (Final 4) a player shall have at least 2 participations at team matches in the period before i.e. at least participated or having been present in the venue at least at 2 team matches in total. No exception can be made. This eligibility directive also counts for Champions League teams relegated to the Europe Cup.

A player’s presence is only counted if the player is confirmed on the official score sheet or team line up by the Referee or umpire on duty. On that score sheet or team line up all players present in the playing venue before the match starts can be added. Team captains are responsible to check if their players present are written on the score sheet or team line up 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 PLAYING FORMAT

4.1 The teams seeded 9-24* will play a 1st group stage round with 4 groups of 4 teams, in case 1 or more teams seeded 17-24 will not start in Champions League, and not equally replaced by the next seeded team(s) (25-40), the groups composition will be adapted.

The 4 groups will be played by single round-robin during 2-3 days at 1 location for each group or alternatively, more than one group may be hosted at the same location, to be confirmed by ETTU.

The highest seeded teams have priority in hosting their respective group at group stage 1 provided they meet the criteria of hosting.

The 4 group stage 1 2nds, 3rds and 4ths are relegated to the Europe Cup group stage 2.

Additional note: Teams may only relegate 1 time i.e. a team relegated from Champions League to the Europe Cup can no more be relegated afterwards to the Europe Trophy and teams cannot be relegated from Champions League down to Europe Trophy.

4.2 Teams seeded 1-8 and the winners from group stage 1 will play with 4 groups of 3 teams in group stage 2.

Group stage 2 will be played by home and away matches (double round robin).

The 4 group stage 2 runners up are relegated to the Europe Cup quarter finals.

The 4 group stage 2 3rds are eliminated from the ECC.

4.3 The 4 group stage 2 winners continue in the final stage.

The final stage will be composed of semi finals and a final, played in a Final 4 format, at one location confirmed by ETTU.

4.4 The order of play in the group stage 1 will be preferably as follows:

Round 1 4v2, 3v1

Round 2 1v4, 2v3

Round 3 3v4, 1v2

The host shall decide and inform in due time (upon request by ETTU) if they wish to play on 1 or on 2 tables. In case of 1 table, 1v2 shall be the last match played.

The order of play in the group stage 2 will be preferably as follows:

Round 1 1v3

Round 2 2v1

Round 3 3v2

Round 4 3v1

Round 5 2v3

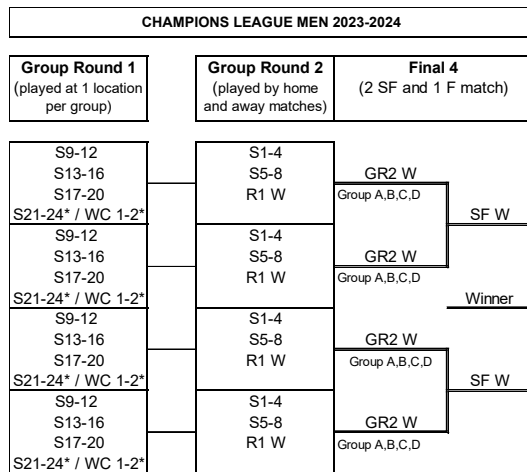
Round 6 1v2

For the 1st group stage matches and for the Final 4 matches the Referee or umpire on duty will make a draw, 60 minutes prior each team match to define which team is team A and which team is team B for each team match. For the 2nd group stage the home team will be always considered as the team A, and the away team as team B.

4.5 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.

- 4.6 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 individual matches, 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.
- 4.7 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 4.5 and 4.6.
- 4.8 If 2 or more teams have gained the same number of match points and have the same ratios of wins to losses in individual matches, games and points, their relative positions shall be decided by lot. The Referee shall do this draw by lot after the end of the team matches with at least the team captains present and inform the ETTU without delay.
- 4.9 The semi finals and final matches will be played as a final stage in a Final 4 format at one location confirmed by ETTU.
- 4.10 Teams relegated from European Champions League to the Europe Cup shall comply also with the Europe Cup directives.

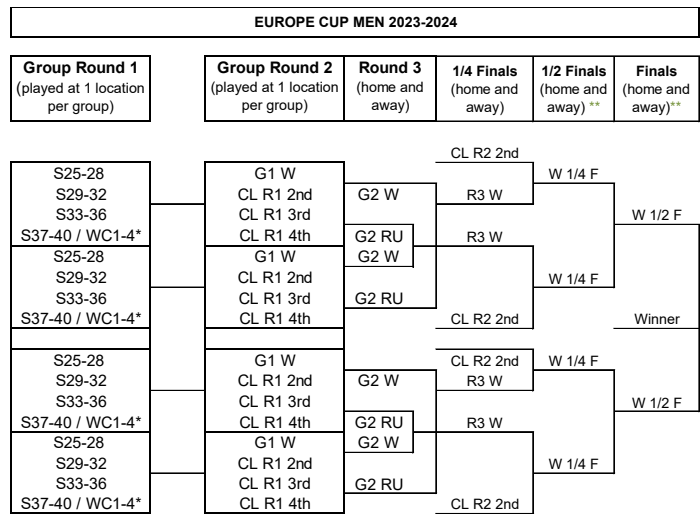


GR1 = 2-3 days competition

GR1 all losers (12) relegate to Europe Cup R2
GR2 runners-up (4) relegate to Europe Cup 1/4 Finals
GR2 3rds are eliminated from ECC

*If 1 or 2 wild cards allocated than these take the positions of the seeded teams 23-24 and initial seeded 23-24 qualify for Europe Cup.

S = SEEDED (TEAM)
R = ROUND
W = WINNER
F = FINAL
WC = WILD CARD



GR1 and GR2 all losers (GR1 2nd-4th and GR2 3rd-4th) except teams already relegated from CL relegate to Europe Trophy

*If 1-4 wild cards allocated than these take the positions of the seeded teams 37-40 and initial seeded 37-40 qualify for Europe Trophy.

**ETTU EB may decide to implement a Final 4 during the competition season, replacing semi finals and finals home and away matches.

S = SEEDED (TEAM)
G = GROUP
R = ROUND
W = WINNER
RU = RUNNER UP
CL = CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
F = FINAL
WC = WILD CARD

5. PLAYING SYSTEM

- 5.1 The playing system shall be the New 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).

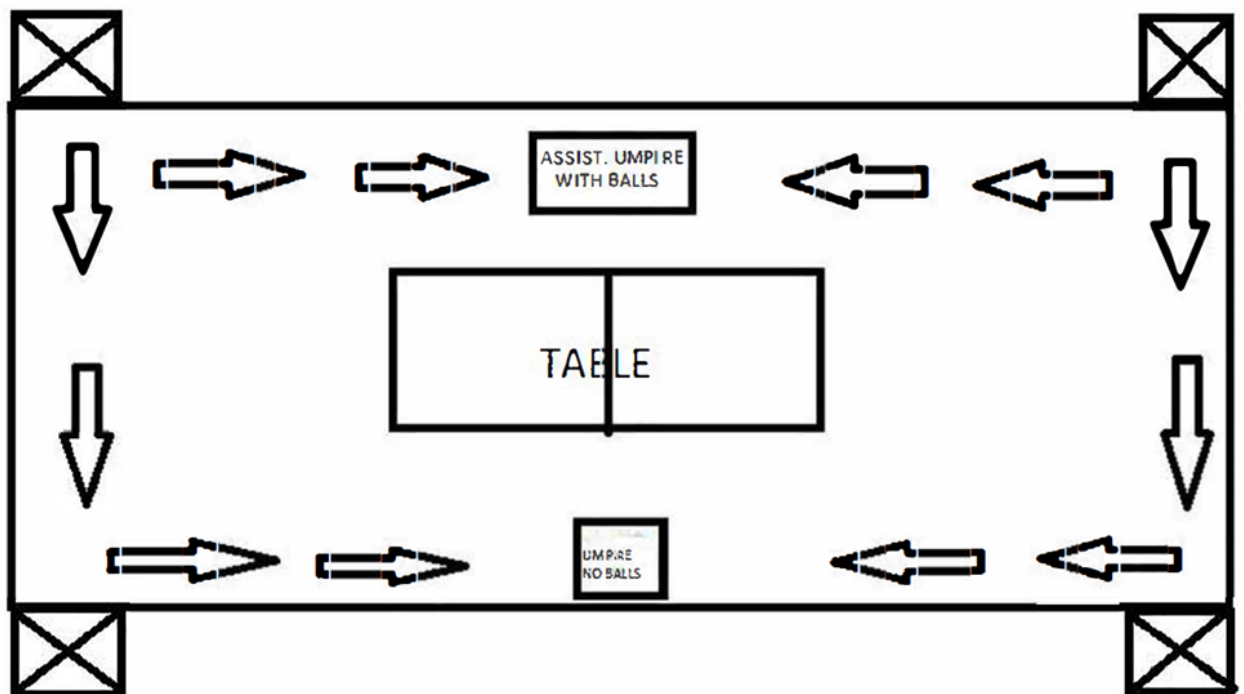
- 5.2 A team shall consist of 3 or 4 players selected from those nominated by the team's club for the event.
It is recommended that a team always arrives at a match with at least 4 eligible players to reduce the risk of walk overs in case player(s) get ill/injured shortly before the match start. When 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 ECLM, the opponent club, spectators, media and the Table Tennis sport.
A team will lose by walk over (WO) in case the team has less than 2 players ready to play.
- 5.3 All individual matches (singles) of a same team match shall be played on the same table.
- 5.4 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.
In the first group stage and in the final stage (Final 4) a draw will be made by the Referee or umpire on duty, for every team match, in order to define which team is A and B.
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.
- 5.5 Intervals between individual matches shall not exceed 1 minute except for the interval after the second individual match, where maximum a 15-minute break is accepted. For the first group stage matches, there shall be no delay, only if written acceptance by ETTU. The home team shall inform the visiting team, ETTU and the Referee 1 week prior the match about the interval planned after the second individual match.
At each time-out and between each game, the umpire shall place the Time-Out-Clock on the table in the main camera direction (if available).
- 5.6 **MULTI BALLS AND BALL BOYS AND GIRLS (BBGs) *mandatory starting from the second group stage***
The host club has to put on disposal before the match starts 40 balls and the 2 team captains shall choose 30 balls (15 balls each).
In each match 30 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 assistant 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.

Up to 10 seconds after the previous rally finished, except for toweling after every 6 points from the start of each game, the serving player has to start the next rally and the receiver has to be ready as well.

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

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

6 THE DRAW

6.1 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.

6.2 The draw will be made according to the final seeding list.

Group stage 1:

The teams seeded 9-24* will play a 1st group stage round with 4 groups of 4 teams, in case 1 or more teams seeded 17-24 will not start in Champions League, and not equally replaced by the next seeded team(s) (25-40), the groups size and, if needed, composition will be adapted.

The 4 top seeds (9-12) shall be drawn in position 1 of each group, the next 4 from the seeding list in position 2 of each group etc. Teams from a same national Association shall, as far as possible, be drawn into different groups.

Teams appointed to host a group round may be drawn first in order to secure that every group has a host.

The highest seeded teams have priority in hosting their respective group at group stage 1 provided they meet the criteria of hosting.

Group stage 2:

The teams seeded 1-8 and the 4 winners from group stage 1 will play a 2nd group stage with 4 groups of 3 teams.

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.

Teams from a same national Association shall, as far as possible, be drawn into different groups.

After completion of the group stage 1, the 4 winners from group stage 1 will be drawn into positions 3 of the group stage 2.

Teams from a same national Association shall, as far as possible, be drawn into different groups.

Final rounds:

The draw for the final rounds will be made after completion of group stage 2.

The winner of group A shall be placed at the top of the first half of the draw (position 1) and the winner of group D at the bottom of the second half of the draw (position 4). The winners of group B and C shall be drawn among positions 2 and 3 (bottom of the first half of the draw and top of the second half of the draw). There will be no separation by Association for the final stage (Final 4).

ETTU will confirm before each draw the draw procedure and has the authority to adapt the procedure and system as necessary.

7. FIXTURES

7.1 The final ECLM calendar for each season will be determined by the ETTU and published on the ETTU website.

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

7.3 In the first group stage, group matches shall be played preferably as follows:
Group with 4 teams:

Round 1 4v2, 3v1

Round 2 1v4, 2v3

Round 3 3v4, 1v2

The host shall decide and inform in due time (upon request by ETTU) if they wish to play on 1 or on 2 tables. In case of 1 table, 1v2 shall be the last match played.

The host shall decide and inform in due time (upon request by ETTU) if they wish to play the group over 2 or over 3 days, as well as the competition dates out from the given 5 days.

Group with 3 teams:

Round 1 (3v1)

Round 2 (2v3)

Round 3 (1v2)

In the second group stage, (home and away) matches shall be played as follows:

Group with 3 teams:

Round 1 1v3

Round 2 2v1

Round 3 3v2

Round 4 3v1

Round 5 2v3

Round 6 1v2

The first 4 rounds in the second group stage are fixed in the calendar always by double rounds per week i.e. between a week from Tuesday to Sunday.

Round 1 shall be played between Tuesday and Thursday and Round 2 between Friday and Sunday.

However, there shall be at least 1 day free between 2 team matches of a same group home and away match, so only in case round 1 is played on the Thursday, round 2 can only be played on the Saturday or Sunday. Exception here is only in case both teams concerned find together a different agreement.

Round 3 and 4 where the host is twice team seeded 3, can freely decide any dates between Tuesday and Sunday for its both home matches.

Round 5 and Round 6 are played in separate weeks.

7.4 The home club shall send the visiting club(s) 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 Club Competition Manager club@ettu.org 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.

- 7.5 ECLM competition dates:
GR1: 20-24.9.2023 (2-3 days competition)
GR2-R1,R2: 10-15.10.2023*
GR2-R3,R4: 17-22.10.2023*
GR2-R5: 1-3.12.2023
GR2-R6: 15-17.12.2023
Final 4: (dates tbc)

* Detail at article 7.3.

The dates are subject to change by ETTU in case of any change at the international TT calendar.

8. COMPETITION HALLS, EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

- 8.1. There shall be a playing hall, with preferably a seating capacity of minimum 300. Every club participating in the ECLM has to set up for its home match(es) the field of play (FoP) at its own expense which is large enough to accommodate one (1) playing court (table), in a playing area of 16,8 x 8,4m and at least 5 m high.
For the first group stage, at least 1 training table (preferably same brand and type as the competition table) shall be available in a separate room annexed to the playing venue or in the same building.
- 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 clubs can have more than 8 persons there.
- 8.3 All matches in the ECLM shall be played on ITTF approved floor mats.
- 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 temperature in the playing area shall be between 18° C and 25° C.
- 8.7 For all competition matches only A-boards or B-boards or LED panels must be used. No use of classic surrounds.
LED panels are allowed provided they comply with the ITTF regulation.
- 8.8 Background shall be kept dark.
- 8.9 The playing conditions must be checked by the Referee. Even in case of disputes about the playing conditions the clubs are obliged to play the match.
- 8.10 The participating clubs shall make sure that the competition is always recognisable as an ETTU event.
- 8.11 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.

- 8.12 Each club shall notify ETTU the brands of the table, net assembly and ball*, together with the colour of the playing clothing (2 sets of shirts).
- 8.13 For the second group stage matches, the home club shall notify the visiting club of the colours of its playing clothing and the visiting team shall wear different colours. For the first group stage and the final stage (Final 4) matches, teams shall bring 2 sets of playing clothing (shirts), with a clear difference in the main colour, to use for the matches. In case 2 teams wish to use a shirt with no clear difference in colour and if there is no agreement between the teams, the Referee or umpire will draw the shirt to be used for each team by lot.
- 8.14 The ECLM 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.
- 8.15 Each club participating in the ECLM must have a Time-Out-Clock and shall provide it for the Referee at least 60 minutes before the match starts.
- 8.16 There shall be sufficient changing rooms (at least 3, 1 for each of the teams and 1 for the referee/umpires) of good standard.
- 8.17 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.
- 8.18 Teams must face the main camera during the presentation.
- 8.19 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 (unless COVID or other force majeure restriction).

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

9. HYGIENIC GUIDELINES

- 9.1 Participants arriving are obliged to follow the host's national and local hygienic guidelines and regulations.
- 9.2 If participants are reported to not comply with the host's national and local hygienic guidelines and regulations, they may be withdrawn from the competition and the respective team may in addition be financially sanctioned by ETTU.

10. PRACTICE

Practice shall be arranged for the visiting teams under the same conditions as for the home team with the same equipment as used during the match.

11. RESULTS

Immediately after a match the Referee shall send by e-mail to result@ettu.org, press@ettu.org and urc@ettu.org a copy of the results sheet. The home club shall provide the Referee with internet access.

12.
12.1

ACCOMMODATION / HOSPITALITY / TRANSPORTATION / MEALS / VISAS

For the team matches with 1 guest club:

The host club shall propose to their guest club, a hotel of good standard (minimum 3 stars), and inform them about the room rates which shall not be higher than the official rate of the hotel, 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, and shall inform about their decision without delay*. 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 (host 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 different times / days where more than 1 transportation is needed, or if the delegation of a visiting team is superior to 5 and therefore more than 1 transportation is needed, then the visiting club shall reimburse the cost to the host for the additional transport(s). The costs of additional transport shall be confirmed by the host to the visiting clubs without delay*. If the away team chooses another hotel than the one proposed by the host team, transportation (including transportation from the hotel to the playing venue and from the playing venue to the hotel) must be only taken over by the home team if the hotel's distance to the playing hall is not more than 5 km further away than the proposed hotel from the playing hall.

The host shall send to their guest club a proposal of meals and the costs, without delay*. Guest clubs shall then inform the host club without delay* with their decision on meals (accepting the offer or arranging for own meals).

For the team matches with more than 1 guest club:

The same directive as laid down for the team matches with 1 club except that the host club shall make a complete hospitality package offer to their guest clubs and shall only guarantee transportation to the guest clubs in case the official package is used.

The Referee and umpires have to inform the host club without delay about their accommodation needs. The host club shall book and take over the costs and shall 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 the umpire team with meals, free of charge.

For the matches, the host club shall provide free hospitality and transportation from and to the playing venue and from and to the airport and railway station for up to 2 days and nights for up to 3 ETTU /partner representatives, if requested. Participating clubs must provide for their respective venue a minimum of three (3) accreditations for operators/employees of Sportradar.

The LOC of the Final 4 shall provide for up to 5 persons per visiting team free accommodation in single rooms. A separate prospectus for the Final 4 will be published by ETTU.

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.

13. REFEREES AND UMPIRES

- 13.1 For all matches other than the semi-final and final matches the National Association of the home club shall propose at least three umpires (five if played on 2 tables) and shall submit to ETTU URC for approval. At least one of these umpires shall preferably be an International Umpire and shall fulfil the duties of the Referee.
- 13.2 In emergency cases, other umpires present at the match may replace the missing nominated umpires, one of them taking over the duty as Referee. The host shall contact ETTU and ETTU must approve the "emergency umpire team".
- 13.3 The appointed umpires shall receive free hospitality (every umpire is entitled for a single room and full board / meals), a daily allowance 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 40 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. For the semifinals and final matches (Final 4) ETTU URC will nominate the umpire team.

Daily allowance:

Referee: 100 euros

Blue Badge: 100 euros

White Badge: 60 euros

National Umpire: 30 euros

The nominated umpires have to arrange their travel to and from the playing hall / airport / railway station as soon as their nomination is received and to inform the home club without delay. The nominated umpires shall use the most economic transport (car, train or flight).

- 13.4 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.

- 13.5 The appointed Referee has the following responsibilities:

- conduct the team 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 the following mail addresses as communicated to the Referee.
 - av-mcr@sportradar.com
 - fixtures@sportradar.com
 - Program-managment@sportradar.com
 - livescouting@sportradar.com
 - Competition-creation@sportradar.com
 - j.villamarin@sportradar.com
 - tabletennis@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 to, press@ettu.org, and within 72 hours after the match(es) the Referees report to urc@ettu.org and to result@ettu.org.

14. 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.

15. MEDIA AND MARKETING

15.1 The ETTU holds the following rights for every team match within the ECCM:

15.1.1

- -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 ECLM 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.

15.1.2

Sportradar has been granted all media and marketing rights of the ECLM 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 ECLM competition matches.

Consequently, all parties (e.g. broadcasters, internet platforms, media companies, participating clubs etc.) being interested in exploiting media rights of ECLM 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 ECLM 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.

15.2 ECLM – EQUIPMENT

The ETTU has the right to decide on the official ECLM Equipment to be used in all ECLM competition matches.

15.3 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-announced¹ 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.

15.4 **MARKETING AND SPONSORING OBLIGATIONS**

Every club participating in the ECLM 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.

15.4.1 **MARKETING AND SPONSORING RIGHTS**

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

Official Court Layout:

Group stage:

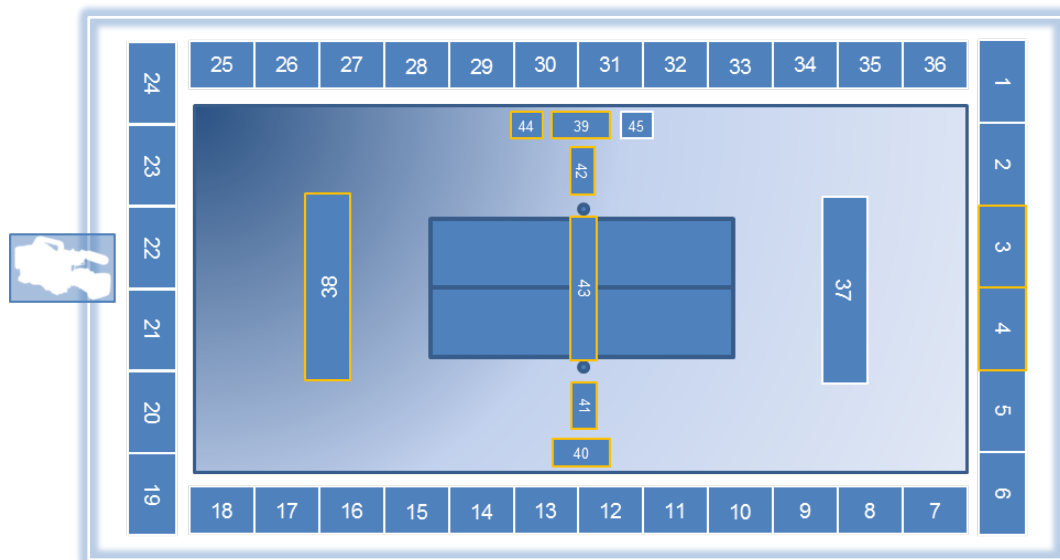
3+4 (A-boards or B-boards or LED-panels)

38 (Floor sticker)

39 + 40 (50%) (Umpire desks)

42 (Floor sticker)

44 (Towel box)



The competition A-boards or B-boards and floor stickers displaying the ECLM sponsor(s) and ETTU logos will be produced and paid by the host.

¹Pre-announced companies: ETTU.tv production teams and other interested media companies which have the written permission from Sportradar to broadcast the match.

In case there is no official ECLM sponsor, each host shall get back the right to use the above reserved boards with the exception of number 4 and floor sticker 41 where the host shall arrange for ETTU logos.

The financial contribution from ETTU to each host in group stage 1 is 500€ as general support which also includes a compensation to the costs for the ETTU logos stickers production.

A guide manual for the backdrop graphic and ETTU logos will be made available for download at www.ettu.org.

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 ECLM 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). Any permanent and non-permanent advertisement in the competition hall should not outperform the visibility of the official ECLM sponsor(s).

The official court layout will be made available.

15.4.2 **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 ECL, 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 ECLM-Social Media Concept needs to be implemented.

The organisers must make sure that the 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 ECLM sponsor(s) can be included in the event program.

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

The official sponsor(s) of the ECLM 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 ECLM 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 ECLM players etc.).

The home club is encouraged to 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/send 5 photographs taken from every home match with cleared² rights. Each Club grants to Sportradar/ETTU free of charge the unrestricted worldwide exploitation rights concerning the respective uploaded photos.

15.4.3 **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Participating clubs shall upload/send the following photographs ³latest 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)).

²Each 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.

15.4.4 **ECLM CLUBS WEBSITES**

- 15.4.4.1 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.
- 15.4.4.2 Every club must integrate the OTT Partner Player video player on its club website, if made available.

15.4.5 **OFFICIAL MATCH PROTOCOL**

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

Additional note: at European Club Competitions, no national anthems shall be displayed nor country flags being hoisted.

The players must give a short statement/interview about the match if requested by the press or media (local or from ETTU.TV).

15.4.6 **PLAYING CLOTHING**

The ECLM 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 1

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.

The use / choice of shirts to use is defined in directive 8.13.

15.4.7 **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: “European Champions League Men⁴,
abbreviation: ECLM
 - The ETTU logo
 - The competition logo
 - The logo of the title sponsor of the ECLM, if any.
- Additionally, all clubs must always, in any publication under their responsibility regarding the ECLM, use the correct denomination of the title sponsor.

16. GENERAL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

16.1 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, made available by the ETTU/Sportradar.

ETTU will confirm the live ticker system and the guideline.

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.

17. PRODUCTION SET-UP ONLINE STREAMING PRODUCTION

17.1 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).

⁴If a title sponsor is found, the official competition name can be changed.

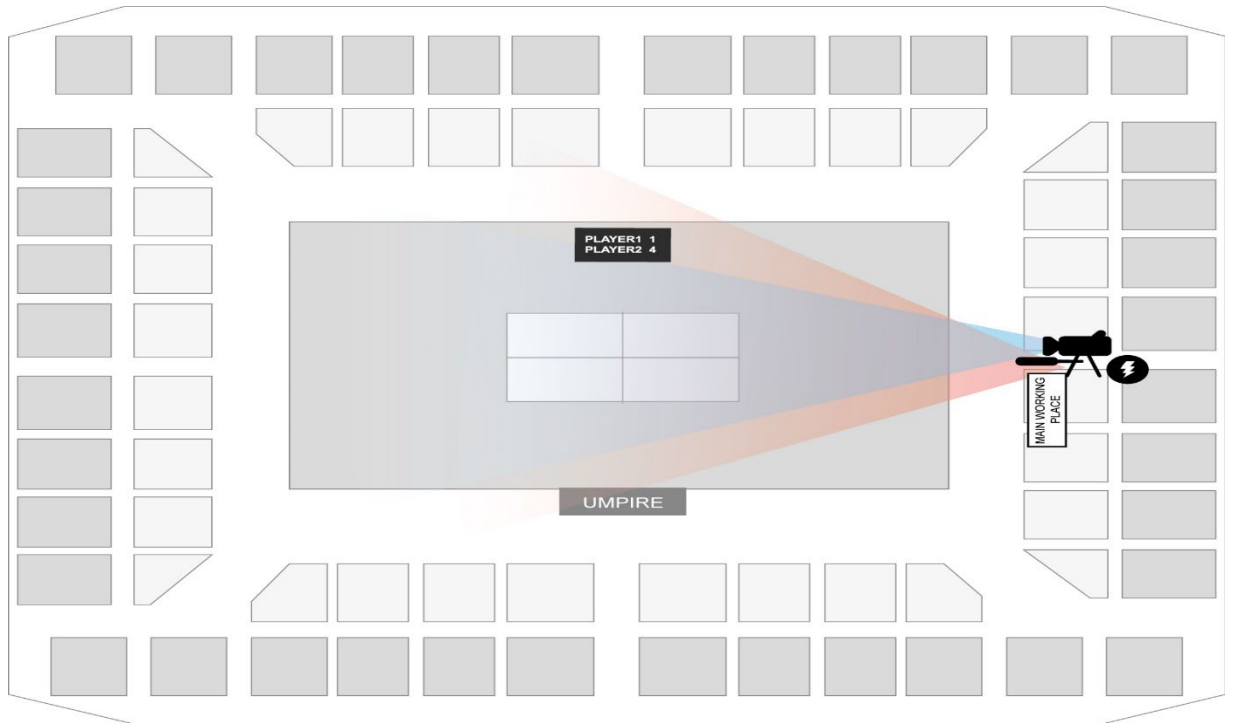


Figure 2

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

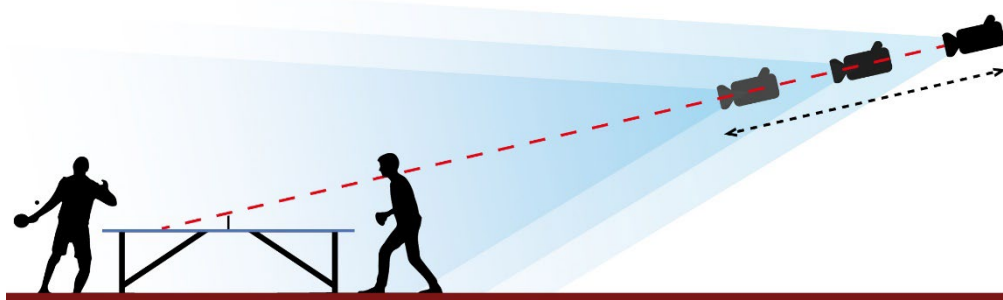


Figure 3

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 4

- 17.3 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).
- 18. TICKETS / VIP**
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,
- 19. VIP CARE**
There shall be a special VIP-room, where drinks and snacks are served to honorary guests, sponsors, suppliers, etc., free of charge.
- 20. TROPHIES and AWARDS**
After the final match the winner shall receive the appropriate trophy, the winner and the runner-up shall receive medals by ETTU.
ETTU will pay out a prize money of 60.000€ in total. The distribution of the prize money for each position is as follows:
Winner: 20.000€
Runner up: 14.000€
Losing semi finalist: 7.000€ (each team)
Group stage 2 second place: 2.000€ (each team)
Group stage 2 third place: 1.000€ (each team)
- 21. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS**
21.1 The entry fee shall be paid according to Directive 2.5.
21.2 The clubs participating in the ECLM shall provide a list of the team sponsors.

22. PRIVACY POLICY

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).

23. PENALTIES

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.

24. 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.

25. FORCE MAJEURE

In case of "force majeure"*, the ETTU Executive Board may decide, after consultation with the Club Competition Official and the Secretary General 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.
