

H EUROPEAN TOP-16 CUP

H.1 AUTHORITY FOR ORGANISATION

H.1.1 The tournament, which shall consist of a men's and a women's event, shall be organised by one member Association appointed by the ETTU Executive Board.

H.1.2 Application procedure and decision

H.1.2.1 Any Association wishing to organise the event shall send a written application to the ETTU Secretary General.

H.1.2.2 The following conditions have to be acknowledged:

- The closing date for applications shall be specified by the ETTU Executive Board and notified to all Associations.
- Applications must be in line with the relevant Regulations as well as the Technical and Economic 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.

H.1.2.3 The Regulations, the Technical and Economic Directives and the directives for presentations can be obtained from the Secretary General, who will also set the date for the presentations.

H.1.2.4 The Executive Board shall appoint the organising Association, after the evaluation of the presentations held by the applicants.

H.1.2.5 The championships shall be organised according to the provisions of a contract between ETTU and the Host Association to be signed no later than 8 months before the start of the event.

H.2 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

H.2.1 All international TV, Internet, equipment, advertising and marketing rights are vested in the ETTU. The exact distribution of responsibilities in these sectors shall be stated in the Technical and Economic Directives and finally laid down in the contract between ETTU and the organiser.

H.2.2 All gate receipts belong to the Host Association.

H.3 DATE and DURATION

H.3.1 The tournament shall be played each year in February, over a period of 3 days.

H.4 QUALIFICATION

H.4.1 The Secretary General shall invite – not later than 7 weeks before the start of the competition – the eligible and reserve players for each event derived from the last available European Ranking List.

H.4.2 In each event the following players shall be invited:

- a) The current European Champion.
- b) The top 14 players from the last available European Ranking List excluding the current European Champion, or top 15 players if a Host Association player qualifies.
- c) If no players qualify from the Host Association then the Host Association shall nominate one Host Association player.

There shall be no more than 4 players from an Association. The first reserve man and woman player shall be present and the Associations of the next 3 men and next 3 women on each list shall arrange that these players can be contacted urgently to replace any of the eligible players who are unable to attend.

H.4.3 Substitutions before the entry closing date shall be as per entry regulations.

- a) If the European Champion is not available or withdraws, he/she shall be replaced by the remaining highest ranked player from the European ranking.
- b) If the Host Association player is not available or withdraws, another player nominated by the Host Association shall replace him/her.
- c) If any other player is not available or withdraws, he shall be replaced by the remaining highest ranked player.

H.4.4 Substitutions after the entry closing date shall be decided by the ETTU. The participation of an invited player has to be confirmed by the national Association which this player is eligible to represent, latest on or before the deadline fixed by the Secretary General.

H.4.5 Players who are not eligible to represent their national Association according to the rules 3.8 and 4.3.6 of the ITTF Handbook cannot qualify for the ITTF World Cup Event.

H.5 LEVIES

H.5.1 The organising Association shall pay the ETTU a levy of 15,000 €.

H.5.2 There shall be a levy of 250 € per participating player, payable to the ETTU.

H.6 THE DRAW

H.6.1 The draw shall take place the day before the start of the tournament and shall be conducted by the ETTU Competition Manager.

. It is an obligation for players to attend the draw.

H.6.2 Draw procedures

In the first stage all 16 players shall be divided in 4 equal groups of 4 players.

Players seeded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th shall head each group A, B, C and D respectively.

Players seeded 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th shall be drawn randomly into the second position of each group.

Players seeded 9th to 12th shall be drawn randomly into the third position and players seeded 13th to 16th shall be drawn randomly in the fourth position of each group.

The top 2 finishers from each group shall advance to the knockout quarter-final stage of the competition. The winner of Group A shall be seeded first (position 1 in the draw).

The winner of Group B shall be seeded second (position 8 in the draw).

The winners of Groups C and D shall be drawn into positions 4 and 5 of the draw.

The second place finishers of each group shall be drawn into positions 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the draw.

There will be a separation of group winners and second place finishers from the same group, so that they cannot meet before the closing rounds.

H.7 HOSPITALITY and EXPENSES

H.7.1 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality from lunch of the day before the start of the tournament until breakfast after it ends, for

H.7.1.1 Members of the Executive Board, the Medical and Press Officials or their deputies, the Chairmen of the Ranking and Technical Committees and 3 ETTU staff members;

H.7.1.2 All invited foreign referees and umpires.

H.7.2 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality for the Referee from the evening two days before the event begins until the morning after it ends, plus the travel expenses.

H.7.3 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality and reimburse the travel costs for the ETTU Competition Manager when he inspects the facilities and proposed playing conditions of the tournament.

H.7.4 Each Association shall pay the travel expenses and hospitality of its players and officials, but the ETTU shall reimburse to his parent Association the expenses of an invited reserve player who attends but is not required to play.

H.7.5 The cost of hospitality for persons not entitled to free hospitality, shall be agreed in advance by the Executive Board, and shall be subject to a contract between ETTU and the organising Association.

H.8 SYSTEM of PLAY

H.8.1 All group matches shall be the best of 5 games; starting from quarter-finals all matches shall be the best of 7 games.

H.8.2 The competition is played in 2 stages. In the first stage all members of a group will play each other. In the second stage the top 2 finishers from each group shall advance to the knockout stage of the competition, with quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final, to determine the winner of the competition. The losers of the semi-finals will play a match to determine places 3 and 4; the losers of the quarter-finals will play matches to determine places 5 to 8.

H.8.3 In a group, 2 match points shall be awarded for a win, 1 for a loss in a played match and 0 for a loss in a not played or unfinished match, and the ranking order shall be determined primarily by the number of match points gained.

H.8.4 Where the players in a group have gained the same number of match points, their relative positions shall be determined by the results only of the matches between them, taking successively the number of match points and the ratios of wins to losses in games

and points, as far as it is necessary to determine the order. If after this step the positions of the players are equal in matches, games and points, their relative positions shall be decided by lot.

H.9 JURY

H.9.1 The Jury shall consist of the Chairmen of the Ranking and Technical Committees, a representative of the organising Association, the ETTU Secretary General or representative of the Executive Board and the Referee or his deputy.

H.9.2 The Chairman of the Jury shall be the Chairman of the Technical Committee.

H.9.3 All members of the Jury shall have the right to speak and to vote.

H.9.4 The ETTU Competition Manager may attend the Jury meetings with the right to speak but without the right to vote.

H.10 REFEREES and UMPIRES

H.10.1 No later than 5 months before the event, the organising Association shall send to the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee the proposal for appointing a Referee. No later than 4 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 the Referee and one Deputy Referee. At least one referee must be from a foreign association. All referees shall be International Referees from ETTU member Associations and shall arrive the day before the start of the event.

H.10.2 All umpires shall be International Umpires and at least 1/3 of the total of umpires needed shall be from foreign ETTU member Associations. The organising Association shall send to the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee, no later than 4 months before the event, the proposal for appointing the umpires.

For all matches during the tournament the umpires shall be from Associations other than those of the players in the match.

H.10.3 All invited foreign officials shall receive from the organising Association a daily allowance in accordance with ITTF Directives for Match Officials.

H.11 EQUIPMENT and ADVERTISING

H.11.1 The ETTU, represented by the Executive Board, may enter into contracts with suppliers of playing equipment for the exclusive use of this equipment and the Secretary General shall notify all Associations by 1st November of the year before the tournament.

H.11.2 ETTU contracts for equipment shall include 2/3 of the advertising space on the inside and outside surrounds, and the remaining 1/3 shall be available to the organising Association.

H.12 TROPHIES, AWARDS and QUALIFICATIONS

H.12.1 Cups for the winners of the men's and women's events were donated in memory of World Champions Richard Bergmann and Trude Pritzi respectively.

H.12.2 Trophies and awards shall be presented by representatives of the ETTU and of the organising Association.

- H.12.3 All participants shall receive prize money unless they withdraw before fully completing the first stage matches.
- H.12.4 As determined by the ITTF the highest placed players (men and women) of the tournament who are eligible to represent their Association at an ITTF Title event are qualified for the World Cup Men and World Cup Women in the same year.