

REGULATIONS FOR EUROHOCKEY CLUB COMPETITIONS **CLUBS CHALLENGE (MEN AND WOMEN)**

September 2019

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Qualifications and Pools

The tournaments will normally be played in divisions of up to 8 teams. The format for an 8-team tournament shall be 2 pools of 4 (3 matches per team), followed by classification matches.

Any tournament in which there are 5 teams or fewer shall be played on a Round Robin basis in accordance with the regulations set out in paragraph 10 below.

Women

- 1.1 Qualified for the **Club Challenge I (Women)** will be the clubs of those nations who finished ranked joint 3rd and joint 5th in the previous year's Challenge I and the clubs of those 2 nations relegated from the previous year's Trophy, plus the clubs of those 2 nations promoted from the previous year's Challenge II.
- 1.2 Qualified for the **Club Challenge II (Women)** will be the clubs of those nations who finished ranked joint 3rd and joint 5th in the previous year's Challenge II and the clubs of those 2 nations relegated from the previous year's Challenge I, plus the clubs of those 2 nations promoted from the previous year's Challenge III.
- 1.3 Qualified for the **Club Challenge III (Women)** will be the clubs of those nations who finished ranked joint 3rd and joint 5th in the previous year's Challenge III and the clubs of those 2 nations relegated from the previous year's Challenge II, plus the clubs of those 2 nations promoted from the previous year's Challenge IV (if appropriate).
- 1.4 Qualified for the **Club Challenge IV (Women)** will be the clubs of those remaining National Associations who have entered. If there are more than 8 entries, then there may, at the discretion of EHF, be further **Club Challenge (Women)** tournaments organised.
- 1.5 EHF will decide, after taking into account the numbers of entries and offers to host, the composition of Challenge tournaments.

Men

- 1.6 Qualified for the **Club Challenge I (Men)** will be the clubs of those National Associations who finished ranked joint 3rd and joint 5th in the previous year's Challenge I and the clubs of those 2 National Associations relegated from the previous year's Trophy II, plus the clubs of those 2 National Associations promoted from the previous year's Challenge II.
- 1.7 Qualified for the **Club Challenge II (Men)** will be the clubs of those National Associations who finished ranked joint 3rd and joint 5th in the previous year's Challenge II and the clubs of those 2 National Associations relegated from the previous year's Challenge I, plus the clubs of those 2 National Associations promoted from the previous year's Challenge III.
- 1.8 Qualified for the **Club Challenge III (Men)** will be the clubs of those National Associations who finished ranked joint 3rd and joint 5th in the previous year's Challenge III and the clubs of those 2 National Associations relegated from the previous year's Challenge II, plus the clubs of those 2 National Associations promoted from the previous year's Challenge IV.
- 1.9 Qualified for the **Club Challenge IV (Men)** will be the clubs of those National Associations who finished ranked joint 3rd and joint 5th in the previous year's Challenge IV and the clubs of those 2 National Associations relegated from the previous year's Challenge III, plus the clubs of those 2 National Associations promoted from the previous year's Challenge V.

- 1.10 If there are more than 8 entries in Challenge IV, then there may, at the discretion of EHF, be further **Club Challenge (Men)** tournaments organised. EHF will decide, after taking into account the numbers of entries and offers to host, the composition of additional Challenge tournaments.
- 1.11 **NB** In order to allow for an extra Trophy event (Trophy I) to be held from the 2019 – 2020 season, **for the Men’s events only**, in the 2018-2019 season the promotion/relegation system was adjusted as follows:
- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Trophy 2019 will play in the Trophy I in 2020 together with 3 teams from EHL (2nd teams from nations 7 and 8 and the champion team from nation 12).
 - The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge I 2019 will be promoted to the Trophy II in 2020.
 - The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge II 2019 will be promoted to the Challenge I in 2020.
 - The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge III 2019 will be promoted to the Challenge II in 2020. *
 - The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge IV 2019 will be promoted to the Challenge III in 2020. *
 - The EHF reserves the right to alter the number of teams competing in each Challenge tournament, to promote teams to fill spaces in a higher-ranking tournament, or to make a draw for entries and reserves once all entries are received (*).

2 **Dates and Format**

The **Club Challenge (Men)** and **Club Challenge (Women)** tournaments will normally be played from Friday to Monday inclusive at Whitsun. Alternatively, tournaments can be held Thursday to Sunday inclusive at the request of the host National Association and with approval of EHF. The EHF reserves the right to change these dates in exceptional circumstances.

3 **Trophies and Medals**

For each Club Challenge (Men) and Club Challenge (Women) tournament, the host club shall be responsible for producing 23 medals portraying the EHF logo in base metal but coloured gold for the club(s) winning promotion from the tournament as set out in the Responsibility Chart (**Appendix E**).

4 **Prize Giving Ceremony**

- 4.1 In Club Challenge events, only the club(s) winning promotion is/are required to remain at the tournament until after the Prize Giving Ceremony on the final day. **Failure to do so will be subject to a penalty to be decided by EHF.**
- 4.2 The ceremony will normally take place no later than 17.00hrs and the EHF would encourage other participating clubs to remain if possible with teams making their travel arrangements accordingly.

TWO POOL COMPETITION PLAN AND RANKING

5 **Plan of the Competition**

- 5.1 In each tournament, the 8 teams shall be drawn into two pools. Teams will be placed in pools in accordance with the ranking for the previous year (subject to Regulation A.3) as follows:

<u>Pool A</u>	<u>Pool B</u>
1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7

- 5.2 In case of non-participation of one or more team(s) any reserve team(s), if called upon, will in principle, automatically take the place of the defaulting team(s) without changing the pools of the match programme. However, EHF reserves the right to re-arrange the composition of the pools before the Event Briefing Meeting.

- 5.3 In any year, **after all tournaments have been concluded**, the EHF will rank teams according to their final positions in their respective tournaments for that year. If teams are ranked equally then rankings will be decided by one of the following procedures:
- (a) If teams finishing 1st equal, 3rd equal, 5th equal or 7th equal played in the same pool in the previous tournament then the team which finished ranked higher in the pool will be placed 1st, 3rd, 5th or 7th and the team which finished below in that pool will be placed 2nd, 4th, 6th or 8th.
 - (b) If the teams have not played in the same pool then the rankings will be decided by EHF taking into account the records of the 2 teams following section 7.3 below. If the number of teams in the 2 pools is unequal, the result against the lowest ranked team in the larger of the 2 pools will be discounted to allow for any difference in the number of matches played. Where this does not produce a clear ranking then their rankings will be decided by EHF. To avoid doubt, only the pool matches will be taken into account when deciding the Nations Club Rankings.
 - (c) Where a team has been drawn 1st reserve for the previous year but did not play in a tournament then that team shall be placed 8th in the appropriate tournament the following event. Where there were more reserve teams, the teams drawn 2nd, 3rd and 4th etc. shall be placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th etc. reserve the following event after the relegated team. In case of only 1 reserve team who is not able to play in 2 consecutive tournaments (and has entered again), that team will automatically take over the spot of the relegated team the next season.
- 5.4 When there are no rankings available, the same procedure as in 5.3 above will be used to determine rankings.
- 5.5 If there is a pool of 3 teams instead of 4 then the same order of matches will apply as in section 6.1 below. Any references to matches involving teams 8 and/or 7 should be ignored.

6 **Programme of pool matches and match schedule**

6.1 Matches in each of the two pools will be played as follows:

Pool A	Pool B
1 v 5	2 v 6
4 v 8	3 v 7
5 v 8	6 v 7
4 v 1	3 v 2
1 v 8	2 v 7
5 v 4	6 v 3

- 6.2 The proposed schedule and timing of matches shall be submitted to the EHF for approval in accordance with regulation D.3.
- 6.3 The EHF has the right to vary the programme of matches in special circumstances.

7 **Ranking in the pools**

7.1 In each pool, all the teams will play against each other and the following points shall be awarded for each match:

Win:	5 points
Draw:	2 points
Loss with goal difference of no more than 2:	1 point
Loss with more than 2 goals between the teams:	0 points

7.2 In each pool teams will be ranked according to the number of points each has accumulated in the tournament.

- 7.3 If at the end of the pool matches 2 or more teams have the same number of points for any place in a pool, the ranking of these teams will be determined according to the procedure (not the FIH points system) set out in **Appendix 3.2 of the current FIH General Tournament Regulations (Outdoor Competitions)**.

8 **Programme of Classification Matches**

After completion of the pool matches, the classification matches will be played as follows:

- 8.1 The team ranked 1st in Pool A will play the team ranked 2nd in Pool B and the team ranked 1st in Pool B will play the team ranked 2nd in Pool A. The winners of these two matches will be in joint 1st place. The losers of these two matches will be ranked in joint 3rd place.
- 8.2 The team ranked 3rd in Pool A will play the team ranked 4th in Pool B and the team ranked 3rd in Pool B will play the team ranked 4th in Pool A. The winners of these two matches will be in joint 5th place and the losers of these two matches will be in joint 7th place.
- 8.3 If there is a 7-team tournament, the team ranked 3rd in the pool of 3 teams will play the team ranked 4th in the pool of 4 teams with the winner being ranked in joint 5th place with the team ranked 3rd in the pool of 4 teams. The loser of the match will be relegated together with the team which withdrew.
- 8.4 If there is a 6-team tournament, the teams ranked 3rd in each pool will play for 5th/6th place.
- 8.5 If the score at the end of the regulation time of a classification match is a draw, then a shoot-out competition shall be played to establish an outright winner of the match for the purpose of the competition.

9 **Shoot-out Competition**

The procedure for all shoot-out competitions is set out in the **relevant Appendix of the FIH General Tournament Regulations (Outdoor Competitions)** current at the time of the competition.

ONE POOL COMPETITION PLAN AND RANKING

10 **Plan of the Competition**

- 10.1 Any tournament where there are 4 teams or fewer shall be played on a Round Robin basis where all teams play against each other in the following order:

1 v 3
2 v 4

3 v 4
1 v 2

1 v 4
2 v 3

- 10.2 Where the tournament involves 5 teams, it is only possible to play a Round Robin if the host club and all the participating teams and officials agree (and are able) to arrive a day earlier as a 5-team Round Robin competition requires matches to be played over 5 days as follows:

2 v 5
3 v 4

1 v 5
2 v 4

3 v 1
4 v 5

2 v 1

5 v 3

1 v 4

3 v 2

Where it is not possible to extend the tournament to 5 days, the competition will be played in a pool of 3 teams and a pool of 2 teams with the latter 2 teams playing each other twice. The pool of 3 teams will play each other in the following order:

1 v 3

1 v 2

2 v 3

11 **Match schedule**

11.1 The proposed schedule and timing of matches shall be submitted to EHF for approval in accordance with regulation D.3.

11.2 The EHF has the right to vary the programme of matches in special circumstances.

12 **Ranking**

12.1 The following points shall be awarded for each match:

Win:	5 points
Draw:	2 points
Loss with goal difference of no more than 2:	1 point
Loss with more than 2 goals between the teams:	0 points

12.2 Teams will be ranked according to the number of points each has accumulated in the tournament. If at the end of the tournament 2 or more teams have the same number of points for any place, these teams will be ranked in accordance with the procedure set out in Appendix 3.2 of the current **FIH General Tournament Regulations (Outdoor Competitions)**.

13 **Programme of Classification Matches**

13.1 If there are 4 teams or fewer in a tournament then, after playing 3 matches each in a single pool, there shall be classification matches as follows:

3rd v 4th
1st v 2nd

13.2 The results of these classification matches shall decide any promotion or relegation. If the score at the end of the regulation time of a classification match is a draw, then a shoot-out competition shall be played to establish an outright winner of the match for the purpose of the competition.

13.3 5 teams in 2 pools

The team ranked 1st in Pool A will play the team ranked 2nd in Pool B and the team ranked 1st in Pool B will play the team ranked 2nd in Pool A. The winners of these two matches will be in joint 1st place. The losers of these two matches will be ranked in joint 3rd place.

The team that ended 3rd in the pool with 3 teams, will finish ranked 5th in the tournament.

5 teams Round Robin

If there are 5 teams in a tournament then, after playing a Round Robin, no classification matches shall be played and the final standings in the pool will determine any promotion or relegation.

14 **Shoot-out Competition**

The procedure for all shoot-out competitions is set out in the relevant **Appendix of the FIH General Tournament Regulations (Outdoor Competitions)** current at the time of the competition.