

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ECL RULEBOOK

General Information

The ITSF EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE (ECL) is a **team competition held once per season – in November or December. It is played in two categories separately – Men and Women***.

Each ITSF Member is having the right to send one or more teams (depending on their quotas) to take part in the ECL in case they meet the ITSF League requirements.

If a country is temporarily having more than one member associations accepted in ITSF:

- In case there are two teams that are qualified for the men / women ECL due to fitting the minimum number of teams criteria for a wild card team - each association should hold a National League and have the right to send the winning team to the women / men ECL (2 teams send);

- In case there is one team that is qualified for the men / women ECL due to not fitting the minimum number of team criteria for a wild card team, each association should hold a National League and the winners of the team league competitions should play additional qualifications until one team is elected. The format of play is to be determined by the ITSF mediator responsible for the corresponding country.

*Note: No women player can take part in the men ECL. However, they are allowed to play for the men on National level.

ITSF League Requirements

Each ITSF member is required to fit the following criteria before being able to send a team to the ECL:

- Organize a National League or championship event at least once so that a team is nominated. This event should be confirmed by the Sport Commission (and the Federation Assessment Commission in case there are more than two ITSF members from a country);
- All players taking part in the National League Event should be ITSF Licensed players only;
- The National League should have at least 4 clubs taking part in the event;
- Each club qualified and confirmed by the ITSF Member country should pay an administration fee of 80 EUR for taking part in the ECL Event.
- The results of the National Competition should be announced within 3 days of its completion and minimum one month before the ECL. It should be communicated publicly – on the website, official pages or web platforms, emails etc.; The announcement should include as a minimum:
 - o Names of the participating clubs and teams
 - o List with all the players that participated
 - o Official info package or tournament information
 - o Final results of the game
 - o Photos of the event
 - o Any additional information
- The National League should be announced officially at least one month before the event takes place;

- All European federations must publish their qualifying league if they have one. Each Qualifying League is the highest league organized by the ITSF Member Federation.
- If the winner of the National League is not able to participate in the ECL it should announce it at least three weeks before the date of the ECL. Then, the federation can send the next ranked team (the runners-up).

In case some of the ISTF members are not fitting the necessary criteria for participation, their case will be revised by the Sport Commission.

ITSF Team Quotas

Each ITSF **Regular member federations** can send teams to participate in the ECL as follows:

- **Men:**

- o ITSF Members which have at least **6 teams** in their National Leagues can send **1 qualified team**;
- o ITSF Members which have at least **16 teams** in their National Leagues can send **2 qualified teams**;

- **Women:**

- o ITSF Members which have at least **4 teams** in their National Leagues can send **1 qualified team**;
- o ITSF Members which have at least **8 teams** in their National Leagues can send **2 qualified teams**.

Associate member federations can send teams to participate in the ECL only after approval by the ITSF federation assessment commission.

ECL Qualifying period

All ECL Qualifying League events must be **held and announced publicly between January 1st of the ECL Season and 30 days before the date of the ECL**.

“1 player, 1 club”

Players cannot represent a club in the ECL if they have played for another club in a Qualifying Leagues during the ECL Qualifying period.

A player who plays in more than one qualifying league is "outlawed" regarding the ECL and leads to the ECL disqualification of the clubs with which he/she has played. The player will have to face Disciplinary Committee and can be suspended.

EXCEPTION: Women players can play for both a Men and Women National Leagues (on national level) if so allowed by the National Member Federation. However no women players will be allowed to compete for the Men ECL teams.

Player Requirements

Only player member of a ITSF National Federation, or players with at least one year's residence in that country, having a public national league, can play the European Champions League. (Not applicable for Non-European Players).

Requirements for all Male players willing to participate in the Men ECL:

1. Their national federation, or the country where their residence have been for more than one year, is organizing a Public National League during the ECL Qualifying period.
2. They are not allowed to play in any National League for any other club during the ECL Qualifying period.

Requirements for all Female players willing to participate in the Women ECL:

1. Their national federation, or the country where their residence have been for more than one year, is organizing a **Public National League*** in the season of the ECL.
2. They are not allowed to play in any National League for any other club during the ECL Qualifying period.

* The **Public National League** can be either men, women or mixed. Women players are allowed to play ONLY women ECL and cannot play for the men ECL.

Player Transfers & General requirements:

- The decision if players (who are not playing ECL) are allowed to play in different national leagues is under the responsibility of each single National Federation.

Cheating

In case an ITSF Member is submitting false or corrupted information and it is verified by ITSF, it will be sanctioned in correspondence with the penalty ruling decided by ITSF.

Format of play

The players format for the:

- MEN ECL is: 4 + 3 reserve players (minimum 4 players to make up a team)
- WOMEN ECL is: 4 + 3 reserve players (minimum 4 players to make up a team)

Table choice

Each team is obliged to choose 1 table (only one for the whole tournament) form the official ITSF tables for the corresponding season of the ECL. In case an ITSF member has the right to send more than one teams, they can choose different tables.