

**REGULATIONS FOR
EUROHOCKEY CLUB COMPETITIONS (OUTDOOR)
EURO HOCKEY LEAGUE (WOMEN)**

October 2019

1 **Authority and Title**

The competition is organised by the European Hockey Federation (EHF) and Euro Hockey League (EHL) and shall be played under the authority of EHF. The title of the competition shall be the Euro Hockey League Women.

2 **Entry**

- 2.1 Those National Associations qualified to enter the Euro Hockey League (EHL) for the coming season must send their correctly completed Entry Form(s) to the EHF by the deadline date as specified in the entry letter. The application must include the name, address, telephone and email details of the 2 contact persons of each club entered, so that EHF and EHL may communicate with them.
- 2.2 Each National Association affiliated to EHF shall be entitled to enter 2 clubs in Women's EuroHockey club competitions each season (to include EHL, EuroHockey Club Trophy and EuroHockey Club Challenge tournaments), and each National Association:
- (a) SHOULD enter its champion club for the first ranked place for which it is qualified; In exceptional circumstances, the EHF Competitions Committee Outdoor may, at its sole discretion, waive this requirement.
 - (b) Is entitled to decide its own procedure for choosing/qualifying the other club(s) it will enter, and the ranking of those clubs.
- 2.3 If such detailed entries are not received by the date specified in the entry letter then that National Association's entry for EHL will not be valid and may be refused. For those National Associations whose national competition is not finished by this date, then they must enter their current champion clubs at the entry date and are not allowed to submit club names at a later date.

3 **Qualification for the Euro Hockey League and EuroHockey Club Trophy**

- 3.1 Ranking points will be earned by each team entered by a National Association in the Euro Hockey League and in the EuroHockey Club Trophy. This set out in paragraph 4 below.
- 3.2 The preparation, justification and interpretation of the ranking table shall be at the absolute discretion of EHF.
- 3.3 After each season's Euro Hockey League competition has been completed, then the number of clubs each National Association is qualified to enter in the Euro Hockey League for the following season will be decided using the EHL Ranking Table.
- 3.4 National Associations ranked 1-2 will be qualified to enter 2 clubs, those ranked 3-6 will be qualified to enter 1 club in the Euro Hockey League.
- 3.5 It is a condition of playing in the EHL or the EuroHockey Club Trophy (and therefore of earning points in the ranking table) that not less than 2 clubs from a National Association must be entered and participate in EuroHockey (Women's) club competition in the season.
- 3.6 When teams are relegated from the EHL into the Trophy event, these teams will be ranked according to their countries' club ranking in the EHL Ranking Table.

4 **Ranking Points**

- 4.1 **Euro Hockey League (the top 8)**

The following points system for the EHL Ranking Table is the corrected average, based on the points calculated from previous EHL seasons and is as follows:

The points system is as follows:

- Winner EHL will receive: **32** points
- The runner-up will receive: **26** points
- The 3rd ranked team will receive: **21** points
- The 4th ranked team will receive: **17** points
- The 5th ranked team will receive: **14** points
- The 7th ranked team will receive: **12** points

In previous years all teams received bonus points for playing in EHCC and Trophy events. From the 2017-2018 season these points (including the points for 1st and 2nd place) were amalgamated in the total points awarded.

4.2 **EuroHockey Club Trophy**

For the EHL Ranking Table (which decides on qualification for EHL (the top 8) for the following season) the following points will be awarded based on a team's final ranking in the Trophy:

1 st place:	15 points	5 th place:	7 points
2 nd place:	13 points	6 th place:	6 points
3 rd place:	11 points	7 th place:	5 points
4 th place:	9 points	8 th place:	4 points

In the event of a classification match ending in a draw at full time, then a shoot-out competition, played in accordance with the relevant **Appendix** of the current **FIH General Tournament Regulations (Outdoor Competitions)** will decide the winner.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the points awarded after a match for the purposes of calculating the ranking in the pool competition in the Trophy will not count towards the EHL Ranking Table. Only the points based on the final positions as set out above will be included in the EHL Ranking Table.

Any team on being disqualified or withdrawing at any stage in the Club Trophy competition shall forfeit its entitlement to any ranking points in that season. Where a club has a team in the EHL and a team in the Challenge competition which is disqualified or withdraws at any stage of the Club Challenge competition, the EHL team shall forfeit its entitlement to any ranking points in that season.

4.3 **Number of Clubs from each National Association**

To decide the ranking of a National Association in the season's ranking table, the total number of points won by its clubs (and if necessary the number of goals scored and conceded) will be divided by the number of clubs which that National Association was qualified to have in the EHL and the EuroHockey club competition that season.

4.4 **If points are equal:**

National Associations in the Ranking Table

If the points of 2 or more National Associations remain equal in the season's final ranking table, their positions will be decided by:

- (i) dividing their points by the total number of clubs from the National Association playing in EuroHockey competitions and then
- (ii) by goal difference, established by dividing the accumulated goal difference of these clubs by the total number of matches played by them in the competitions.

4.5 **Ranking in Lower Divisions**

Ranking points will be awarded only to clubs playing in the EHL and EuroHockey Club Trophy.

Direct promotion and relegation (2 up, 2 down) will apply between the Trophy and Challenge I tournaments, and between all Challenge tournaments at all times, subject to the number of competing teams in each tournament (see para. A4 of the EHF Club Competitions Regulations).

5 **Entry Fees**

An entry fee of €1050 is payable to the EHF in respect of each club entered in EHL. National Associations are responsible for payment of entry fees on behalf of their club(s) and will receive from the Hon. Treasurer of the EHF an invoice for the entry fee(s) due. **Entry fees are non-refundable once the official entry form has been received by the EHF.**

6 **Format**

6.1 The format for the EHL (Women) will be a Knock-out tournament played over 4-5 days.

6.2 Teams will be ranked 1 to 8 with matches being played as follows:

Match 1	-	1 v 8
Match 2	-	5 v 4
Match 3	-	3 v 6
Match 4	-	7 v 2

Ranking of the teams is based on their final classification the year before.

6.3 The losers of these matches will play for places 5 to 8 as follows:

Match 5	-	Loser match 1 v Loser match 2
Match 6	-	Loser match 3 v Loser match 4

6.4 The winners of matches 1 till 4 will play for places 1 to 4 as follows:

Match 7	-	Winner match 1 v Winner match 2
Match 8	-	Winner match 3 v Winner match 4

6.5 The following matches will be played to determine final classification:

Match 9	-	Loser match 5 v Loser match 6	(7/8 place)
Match 10	-	Winner match 5 v Winner match 6	(5/6 place)
Match 11	-	Loser match 7 v Loser match 8	(3/4 place)
Match 12	-	Winner match 7 v Winner match 8	(1/2 place)

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

6.6 The EuroHockey Club Trophy tournaments, consisting of 8 clubs, will be played at Easter or Whitsun in 2 pools of 4, followed by classification matches of A1 v B1, A2 v B2, A3 v B3 and A4 v B4.

6.7 The EuroHockey Club Trophy tournament will be played in accordance with Appendix C of the EHF Regulations for Club Competitions (Outdoor).

6.8 The EuroHockey Club Challenge tournaments will be played in accordance with Appendix D of the EHF Regulations for Club Competitions (Outdoor).

6.9 In exceptional circumstances EHL reserve the right to change the dates on which any tournaments/matches are held.

7 **Applications to Host**

7.1 Applications to host any round/event must be submitted through a member National Association to EHF by such date and in such form as EHF may from time to time specify.

7.2 The hosting of those events will be subject to the provisions of the EHL Host Club Manual and of any other contract between the host club and EHL. Those agreeing to host will be deemed to have fully accepted the terms of the Manual and any contract.

- 7.3 Any appointed host club (or their National Association) which fails to comply with the terms of the contract shall be liable to penalty including deduction of ranking points or disqualification from the current competition or from subsequent competitions.

8 **Umpires and Officials Expenses**

The provision of all travel and bed and breakfast hotel accommodation for all EHL tournament officials – TD, TO, Judges, Umpires Manager(s) and all appointed Umpires and video Umpire(s) – will be made by the EHF.

9 **Teams Transport and Hotels**

- 9.1 Participating teams are responsible for arranging their own transport from home to the designated airport(s). All local transport (designated airport(s) to hotel, hotel to playing venue for 1 training session and matches) will be provided by the EHL (**if you are staying in the designated tournament hotel(s)**).
- 9.2 Each team is also responsible for booking and paying for its own hotel accommodation. The host club or EHL will recommend a number of suitable local hotels (and any special rates they have been able to obtain with those hotels) but it is entirely up to the participating teams where they choose to stay.
- 9.3 Transport arrangements will be provided by EHL for any EHF Representative(s) and for the TD and all the other tournament officials.

10 **Training Facilities**

- 10.1 Each participating team is entitled, at the host club's expense, to practice on the tournament pitch (if possible) or on an adjacent or nearby pitch which should be as similar as possible to the tournament pitch for at least 1 hour on the day before or on the morning before their match. Available practice times will be reserved on a "first come, first served" basis.
- 10.2 If it proves impossible to accommodate practice by all teams on the pitch prior to their match then the host club must arrange for another practice pitch in the area, which should be as similar as possible to the tournament pitch.
- 10.3 If a team requests additional practice/training facilities, over and above that specified above, then organisers shall use their best endeavours to assist them subject to payment by the team making the request of any actual costs incurred by the host club for water, lights etc.
NB If the organisers have to hire an alternative venue for this purpose then this shall also be at the expense of the team making the request.

11 **Team Entry**

- 11.1 Clubs playing in the EHL must submit to EHF their list of **29 players** (minimum of 5 goalkeepers) from which their team will be selected throughout the season's EHL and for each round for which they are qualified to play, provided regulation 5.1 of the FIH General Tournament Regulations is adhered to.
- 11.2 The list of players for those competing in the Final8, certificated by the National Association to confirm the eligibility of the players listed, must be entered into the AltiusRT system by the National Association **by 1 March** prior to the commencement of the Final8 of the EHL competition. A PDF of the **Team Registration Report**, which can be downloaded as soon as the team is entered into AltiusRT, must be sent to the EHF by the National Association and must be received by the EHF by 1 March. **For failure to enter the team list into the AltiusRT system and send the Team Registration Report to the EHF by 1 March, the National Association will be subject to a penalty to be decided by the EHF.**
Once a list has been submitted, no further changes will be allowed.
- 11.3 At a time and place to be agreed by the TD, before each match in which they compete, each team manager must submit to the TD a final list of up to 18 players who will play in that match.

Only those players who have been included on the original Team Entry List of 29 and have been certified by their National Association will be allowed to play in any match.

- 11.4 Teams can comprise up to 18 players, which includes 2 fully kitted goalkeepers. If a team has only one fully kitted goalkeeper available, then only 16 players in the team will be allowed (1 goal keeper and up to 15 field players). If a player has been permanently excluded from a match (e.g. following the issue of a red card), then that team will have one player less on the team bench.
- 11.5 Unlike the 29 players (who shall be as shown on the original list submitted to the EHF), the team manager, coach and support staff for a club may be changed from one round/event to another, provided the names of the current staff appear on the list submitted at the Event Briefing Meeting.
- 11.6 The EHF requires that all participating athletes in EHL complete an anti-doping education program as part of hockey's commitment to anti-doping. All participants must complete the WADA ALPHA course or a NADO course and the certificates and the list of players who have completed the course must be sent by the National Association to the EHF. The deadline date for submitting the certificates to the EHF is the same date as that for submitting the team entry list. Please note that the failure of any player(s) to complete an education programme will result in a sanction for the National Association and the player(s) not being allowed to participate until they have submitted the form.
A certificate is valid for 2 years from the date of completion.

12 **Advertising on Umpires/Officials Uniforms and team kit**

- 12.1 Uniforms for umpires and officials, including advertising in the form of a company's name, logo or trademark, will be provided by Euro Hockey League. It is compulsory for this uniform, and no other, to be worn during any and all EHL events.
- 12.2 Each club must submit to EHL for approval **by 1 March**, in accordance with instructions received from the EHF Competitions Manager, digital colour photographs of their playing kit, (shirts, shorts and socks) for both their first choice (club colours) and their alternative choice, including goalkeepers shirts.
- 12.3 Each player shall wear the logo of the EHL on either the **left or right sleeve** (7.5 x 9 = 67.5 sq cm) and in a position specified by EHL in such a way that no association with a sponsor is possible.
NB Only the manufacturer's logo can be worn alongside the logo of the EHL.
NB Due to women's shirts often being women's fit with smaller sleeves, the size of the EHL logo can be a little smaller than the 67.5 sq cm.
- 12.4 **Players' Uniforms:**
Advertising in the form of a company's name, logo or trademark is permitted on shirts and shorts as follows and is measured as the area within a rectangle drawn around the advertisement:
- (i) on the front of the player's **shirt** - size not exceeding 500 sq cm;
 - (ii) on the upper arm of the opposite **shirt** sleeve to the EHL logo - size not exceeding 80 sq cm;
 - (iii) on the reverse of the player's **shirt** below the player's name/number - size not exceeding 200 sq cm;
 - (iv) on the front of the **shirt** collar (both sides) - size not exceeding 40 sq cm;
 - (v) on the side panels of the **shirt** (both sides) - size not exceeding 100 sq cm each;
 - (vi) on the back of the player's **shorts** below the waistline - size not exceeding 100 sq cm;
 - (vii) on one front leg (left or right) of the player's **shorts** - size not exceeding 80 sq cm.
 - (viii) on the front of the **shirt** chest (both sides) - size not exceeding 40 sq cm;
 - (ix) on the reverse of the player's **shirt** above the player's name/number - size not exceeding 100 sq cm;
 - (x) on the sides or back of socks – size not exceeding 100 sq cm.

Advertising is **not permitted** in any other location on playing strip.

NEW: EHL Team Uniform logos

Each club must submit to the EHF Competitions Manager **by 1 March**, the *EHL Team Uniform logos* [document](#).

The **Shirt** can have up to 10 commercial & club logos, excluding the EHL logo.

The **Shorts** can have up to 3 commercial & club logos plus 1 manufacturers logo.

The **Socks** can have the club and/or any commercial (city) logo.

13 **Duration of Matches and Timekeeping**

- 13.1 A match shall consist of 4 periods of 15 minutes as specified in paragraph 2 of Appendix 1 of the current FIH General Tournament Regulations (Outdoor Competitions). The EHF will determine match start times in all rounds of the Euro Hockey League.
- 13.2 Should the result of a match be a draw at the end of regulation time, a shoot-out competition will be played to establish a winner.
- 13.3 Timekeeping will be controlled by the technical officials on duty whose responsibility it will be to signal the end of any period of regulation time (at half time and full time and for the time outs). However, in the case of an extension of any period of regulation time to permit the completion of a penalty corner awarded before the signal for the end of the period, the umpires will signal the end of that period.
- 13.4 The umpires shall blow a whistle to start or restart the game; they shall also signal to the technical officials every stoppage they may order and the subsequent restart.

14 **Video Umpire**

The procedure to be followed is set out in **Appendix 16** of the FIH General Tournament Regulations. **NB** During EHL matches with a video umpire, the video umpire will be available during any Shoot-out series.

15 **Radio Communication and Commentary**

It is intended that both the umpires and coaches of the teams shall be wired with radio microphones. The umpires' transmissions, in addition to going to their colleagues, including the reserve and video umpire, will be available to the TV director for broadcasting, as will the transmissions from the microphones of the coaches. It is compulsory for the umpires and the coaches to have their microphones live at all times during the match, and to follow any directions of the TV director (as relayed through the TD) as to the use of their microphones.

16 **Variations to the Rules of Hockey Applicable to the Euro Hockey League (Women)**

The Euro Hockey League (Women) is subject to all variations of the Rules of Hockey as set out in Appendix 1 of the current FIH General Tournament Regulations (Outdoor Competitions).

17 **Media and Marketing Provisions**

Clubs, players and officials are required to comply, both on and off the field of play, with EHL Media and Marketing requirements and with the EHL Clubs Manual.

18 **Disqualification or Failure/Refusal to Play**

- 18.1 Any team which fails to start its first match (albeit that it may have been rearranged for a later time), shall be treated as withdrawn and shall not be allowed to participate further in the EHL that season.
- 18.2 A team either disqualified or refusing/failing to play or to complete a match shall be considered to have withdrawn from the competition at that stage and to have lost that match;

Any team on being disqualified or withdrawing at any stage in the competition shall forfeit its entitlement to any ranking points won in that season of Euro Hockey League.

- 19 **Discipline**
For disciplinary purposes, the EHL is considered to be a single competition so that a carry-over suspension incurred by a player in any round must be served in the next round of the EHL for which the player's club qualifies and can only be served in a different event after the club has been eliminated from the competition.
- 20 **Appeals**
- 20.1 If one or more of the teams involved in a protest, or a person suspended by the TD, or any team affected by the decision of the TD wish to appeal, the team manager or the person suspended must do so in writing within 30 minutes after the TDs decision has been published. If no such appeal is lodged then the decision of the TD is final.
- 20.2 Appeals must be handed to the TD together with a deposit of €500, or equivalent in freely convertible currency. This sum is in addition to the €500 paid on the lodging of the original Protest.
- 20.3 The deposit may be refunded at the discretion of the EHF Executive Board.
- 20.4 The TD must immediately inform the Secretary of the EHF Appeal Panel, who will then convene a Panel. It may be that the members of the Appeal Panel will not be present at the venue, but will communicate electronically or by telephone and may use any available television footage.
- 20.5 No team or individual is entitled to a personal hearing before the Appeal Panel, but may make representations in writing (electronically) provided these are received within the time laid down by the Secretary to the Appeal Panel.
- 20.6 The Appeal Panel will make a decision in writing and publish it as soon as possible but not later than 2 hours before the start of the first match on the next day that matches are played.
- 20.7 The decision of the Appeal Panel is final and binding.