The Regulations for EuroHockey Club Competitions (Outdoor) include full details of the qualification, relegation and promotion process for clubs entering all EHL, Trophy and Challenge events. Whilst the Regulations are intended to provide a comprehensive guide to all aspects of these processes, the EHF is aware from queries received that in some instances clubs are unsure of the interpretation of the Regulations. This document is intended to provide clarification of the relegation/promotion process and to answer some of the frequently asked questions.

In case of any differences within this document, the EHF Regulations for the competition shall prevail.

**General**

The following number of teams participate in each event:

**Men**
- EHL – 20
- Trophy I - 8
- Trophy II - 8
- Challenge I - 8
- Challenge II - 8
- Challenge III - 8
- Challenge IV - REST

**Women**
- EHL - 8
- Trophy - 8
- Challenge I - 8
- Challenge II - 8
- Challenge III - 8
- Challenge IV - REST

Ranking points will be earned by each team entered by a National Association - for Men in the Euro Hockey League and in the EuroHockey Club Trophy I & II, and for Women in the Euro Hockey League and in the EuroHockey Club Trophy. This ranking table is important as the number of teams each National Association can enter in the EHL is based on it. The nation’s ranking is only based on the results from participation in EHL (M), and Trophy (I & II)(W & M). The Challenge events are based on promotion and relegation and there is no national ranking produced for the performances of their Clubs where they compete only in the Challenge Competitions.

Notwithstanding anything else in the Regulations, which tournament clubs shall be entitled to play in, and the ranking of the pools within that tournament, shall be a matter entirely within the discretion of the EHF.

**Promotion and Relegation in Euro Hockey League (EHL) Men**

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.

Nations ranked 1-3 can each enter 3 teams into the EHL, nations ranked 4-6 can enter 2 teams and nations ranked 7-11 can only enter their national champion; being 20 teams in total.
It is a condition of playing in the EHL or the Club Trophy I & II (and therefore of earning points in the Men’s ranking table) that not less than 2 clubs from a National Association must be entered and participate in EuroHockey (Men’s) club competitions in the season.

**NB** Please see the Regulations ([Appendix A; point 4](#)) for the explanation of how the ranking table works.

**Promotion and Relegation in Euro Hockey League (EHL) Women**

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.

Nations ranked 1-2 can each enter 2 teams into the EHL, nations ranked 3-6 can only enter their national champion; being 8 teams in total.

It is a condition of playing in the EHL or in the Club Trophy (and therefore of earning points in the Women’s ranking table), that not less than 2 clubs from a National Association must be entered and participate in EuroHockey (Women’s) club competitions in the season.

**NB** Please see the Regulations ([Appendix B; point 4](#)) for the explanation how the ranking table works.

**Promotion and Relegation in Club Trophy (I & II) Events**

Qualified for the **Club Trophy (Women)** will be the clubs of those nations who finished ranked 1st to 6th in the previous year’s Trophy who are not otherwise promoted; the clubs of any nations relegated from the previous year’s EHL; plus the clubs of those 2 nations promoted from the previous year’s Challenge I. However, relegation and promotion from and to the EHL will be based on ranking points, not positions, and may therefore be 0, 1 or 2 teams.

Teams ranked 7th and 8th in a women’s Trophy event, are relegated to the Challenge I.

Qualified for the **Club Trophy I (Men)** will be the clubs of those nations who finished ranked 1st to 6th in the previous year’s Trophy I who are not otherwise promoted; the clubs of any nations relegated from the previous year’s EHL; plus the clubs of those 2 nations promoted from the previous year’s Trophy II. However, relegation and promotion from and to the EHL will be based on ranking points, not positions, and may therefore be 0, 1 or 2 teams.

Qualified for the **Club Trophy II (Men)** will be the clubs of those nations who finished ranked 3rd to 6th in the previous year’s Trophy II; the clubs of the 2 nations relegated from the previous year’s Trophy I; plus the clubs of those 2 nations promoted from the previous year’s Challenge I.

Teams ranked 7th and 8th in a Trophy II event, are relegated to the Challenge I.

**NB** Please see the Regulations ([Appendix C; point 11](#)) for the explanation how the ranking table works.

**Promotion and Relegation in Club Challenge Events**

If 8, 7 or 6 teams play in a Challenge tournament, then 2 will be promoted. If 5 or less teams play then only 1 will be promoted and the relegation adjusted accordingly.

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 1\textsuperscript{st} equal, 3\textsuperscript{rd} equal, 5\textsuperscript{th} equal or 7\textsuperscript{th} equal played in the same pool in the previous tournament then the team which finished ranked higher in the pool will be placed 1\textsuperscript{st}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 5\textsuperscript{th} or 7\textsuperscript{th} and the team which finished below in that pool will be placed 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 4\textsuperscript{th}, 6\textsuperscript{th} or 8\textsuperscript{th}.

(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 1\textsuperscript{st} reserve for the previous year but did not play in a tournament then that team shall be placed 8\textsuperscript{th} in the appropriate tournament the following event. Where there were more reserve teams, the teams drawn 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} etc. shall be placed 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 4\textsuperscript{th} 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.

The final ranking of a Challenge event is 1-1-3-3-5-5-7-7.

To determine which team of the two 1\textsuperscript{st} equal teams is ranked highest, Appendix D 5.3 is used.

Some examples \textit{(teams are random and purpose is solely to explain how the system works)}:

Final ranking in pools A and B is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pool A</th>
<th>Pool B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUR 15 points (10-2) *</td>
<td>WAL 15 points (11-2) *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUT 10p (9-3)</td>
<td>CRO 10p (10-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTU 5p (3-9)</td>
<td>DEN 5p (3-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWE 0p (2-10)</td>
<td>POR 0p (2-11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*\textit{In () the goals scored for versus the goals conceded.}

After the classification matches TUR vs CRO and WAL vs AUT are played, the following options are available to determine the final rankings for the following year:

**Option 1 (All teams are able to gain promotion)**
Where TUR and WAL win the classification matches, the ranking is:

1\textsuperscript{st} WAL (PROMOTION)
2\textsuperscript{nd} TUR (PROMOTION) (as WAL and TUR were in different pools, but WAL scored 1 FG more than TUR)
3\textsuperscript{rd} CRO
4\textsuperscript{th} AUT (as CRO and AUT were in different pools, but CRO scored 1 FG more than AUT)

**Option 2 (All teams are able to gain promotion)**
Where TUR and AUT win the classification matches, the ranking is:

1\textsuperscript{st} TUR (PROMOTION) (TUR and AUT were in the same pool; TUR had more points than AUT)
2\textsuperscript{nd} AUT (PROMOTION)
3\textsuperscript{rd} WAL (WAL and CRO were in the same pool; WAL had more points than CRO)
4\textsuperscript{th} CRO
Option 3 (TUR not able to gain promotion)
Where TUR and WAL win the classification matches, the ranking is:

1\(^{st}\) WAL (PROMOTION)
2\(^{nd}\) TUR (as WAL and TUR were in different pools, but WAL scored 1 FG more than TUR)
3\(^{rd}\) CRO (PROMOTION)
4\(^{th}\) AUT (as CRO and AUT were in different pools, but CRO scored 1 FG more than AUT)

Option 4 (TUR not able to gain promotion)
Where TUR and AUT win the classification matches, the ranking is:

1\(^{st}\) TUR (TUR and AUT were in the same pool; TUR had more points than AUT)
2\(^{nd}\) AUT (PROMOTION)
3\(^{rd}\) WAL (PROMOTION) (WAL and CRO were in the same pool; WAL had more points than CRO)
4\(^{th}\) CRO

The same principle counts to determine ranking 5-8.

There are two reasons why a team may not be eligible for promotion, namely:

1. Any club which withdraws from a tournament after the deadline date of 30 November in the year preceding the tournament, will cause the team next entered by that National Association to be automatically relegated to the next lower division of the competition the next time the relevant tournament is played. In addition that team will not be eligible for promotion in the year of its relegated participation.

   **NB** In case a team is relegated 2 or more divisions by the EHF after a late withdrawal, the team will be eligible for promotion in the year of its relegated participation.

2. In Challenge events ONLY a National Association may replace their second club entry provided such a request is received by the EHF before the deadline date for withdrawals. Any such replacement club:
   (i) will be subject to approval by the EHF Competitions Committee Outdoor and
   (ii) will not be eligible for promotion that year.

   **NB** In order that clubs can gain experience and exposure, a team that is not eligible to gain promotion still has the right to play in the event and can win the event (and receive a medal). Moreover, as a National Association who has 1 team in an EHL/Trophy (I & II) event but whose other team does not participate will not get ranking points, each participation is important to the National Associations.

It should also be noted that where a team is not eligible to gain promotion, it is still possible for it to be relegated from that event.