REGULATIONS - SEGL – WOMEN’s CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2023

These regulations are approved by the EGCA Competition Committee on Monday 23rd January 2023 and they are valid at the SEGL – Women’s Champions League 2023 tournament in Vilnius, Lithuania on 28th June – 2nd July 2023.

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## 1. GOALS

- To determine the strongest European women’s goalball club team in SUPER EUROPEAN GOALBALL LEAGUE (SEGL – Women’s Champions League);

- To allow the best European goalball club teams and athletes to compete with each other and encourage more female athletes to compete on international level;

- To proclaim goalball and motivate people to practice this sport;

- To support creation of goalball fan clubs and encourage their activity;

- To improve the visibility of goalball in media and spread the knowledge of this sport around Europe and World wide.

## 2. MANAGEMENT

European Goalball Club Association (EGCA) Competition Committee is managing the SEWGL 2023 tournament in co-operation with the club Saltinis who will host the competition.

EGCA Competition Committee has responsibilities to determine:

- Date and the hosting club for the SEWGL 2023 tournament;

- Participating clubs of the tournament by using a digital registration system;

- Regulations of the tournament;

- a representative of EGCA for the tournament.

and to share:

- Results, statistics and standings of the tournament on EGCA's website and social media.

## 2.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EGCA REPRESENTATIVE

A. To represent the Association with the official entities present in the event;

B. To work as a part of the tournament jury;

C. To ensure good tournament organization within fair play;

D. To assist the organizing club;

E. To collect information and data for communication platforms;

F. To collect feedback from teams, referees, officials and spectators and also send short report to the EGCA Competition Committee how the tournament was organized.

## 3. COMPETITION FORMAT

* There is an annual big major SEWGL tournament for all the clubs in Europe who have a female team;
* There are maximum ten participating clubs in the SEWGL 2023 tournament.

## 3.1 OFFICIAL DATE OF COMPETITION

- Competition dates are published in official competition schedule which is approved by the EGCA Competition Committee;

The SEWGL 2023 tournament will run from Wednesday 28th June to Sunday 2nd July (Thursday - Saturday are the competition days). The tournament will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania;

- Competition dates can be changed only due to objective reasons (weather conditions, transport breakdown, pandemic lockdown etc)… If such situation occurs, the clubs should inform the person responsible for the stage immediately;

## 4. COMPETITION RULES

SEWGL is played under existing IBSA rules (2022 - 2024) with the changes applied by these regulations.

Arbitration support technologies and goalball rule tests may be used with approval from the EGCA Competition Committee up to 30 days before the tournament and with information in the EGCA media.

## 4.1 PARTICIPATING CLUBS

- Clubs must register their teams and players according to the registration regulations;

- There are maximum ten participating clubs in the SEWGL 2023 tournament as following order:

A. Organizing club

B. Three best clubs of the the SEWGL 2022 tournament: FIFH Malmo, Old Power and RGC Hansa

C. The champions of national league / championships from each country of the division. We use order which is the position of country in European Championships (the highest ranked country first);

D. 2nd best team from countries which have own national league / championships;

E. If there are still free spots in a division, a place will be given in order for a club who comes from a country that has the highest position in European Championships.

- The ranking of the countries in the European Goalball Championships in women’s category (updated 1st January 2023): Turkey, Israel, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Germany, Finland, Greece, Ukraine, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Italy. There are also many countries who have female club teams but they haven’t participated at the European Championships and clubs who come from those countries are in equal situation after the countries who are ranked.

## 4.2 COMPOSITION OF THE PARTICIPATING CLUBS

The rules for the composition of the participating teams are defined in the registration regulations:

- A club can register maximum 6 athletes in its squad to the SEWGL 2023 tournament;

- There must be always minimum one IBSA classified athlete in club's squad in each SEGL stage;

- Due to the difficulty of classification verified; clubs can register unrated players who compete in official competitions (domestic league or championships) in their countries through the respective federation;

- A club can register maximum 2 foreign players in its squad to the SEWGL 2023 tournament and only one of these two players can come out of Europe;

- A player is a foreign player, if one of following parameters is actualized:

A. A player is not an official member of the club;

B. A player doesn’t participate actively in weekly trainings of the club;

C. A player doesn’t play for the club in national league or championships.

- These parameters are not concerning about players who come from the same country than the club;

- Clubs register athletes to the SEGL stage by filling the digital registration form that is available to monitor by EGCA Competition Committee as well as the stage organizer;

- Failure to comply with registration rules results in a 10-0 loss in the game;

- Each athlete who is taking part in the SEWGL 2023 tournament is also eligible to participate to the SEGL – Champions League, European Grand Prix stages and U23 athletes are also eligible to participate in the SEGL Youth Championships 2023 tournament.

## 4.3 REGISTRATION

- Registration for the participating clubs is open between 23rd January – 1st May 2023 on www.egca.info/sewgl-2023;

- EGCA Competition Committee will informed the clubs who are qualified to the SEWGL tournament just after the deadline of registration;

- The tournament organizer must send the entry form and invoice for the participation fees to the clubs not later than 45 days before the start of the stage;

- Clubs must have returned a completely filled entry form to the organizer and the participation fee paid not later than 30 days before the start of the stage;

- The organizer must send all the relevant information about the tournament for the participating clubs, referees as well as to EGCA media not later than 20 days before the start of the tournament.

## 5. PLAY SYSTEM AT THE SEWGL 2023

* The play system and the game schedule of the SEWGL 2023 tournament will be determined depending on the amount of participating teams in following system:

1. With 4 teams; a single round robin, semifinals and medal games;
2. With 5 teams; a single round robin, semifinals and medal games
3. With 6 teams: a single round robin, semifinals, medal & placement games
4. With 7 teams; a single round robin, medal & placement games
5. With 8 teams; 2 groups of 4 teams, quarter finals, semifinals, medal & placement games
6. With 9 teams; 1 group of 5 teams and 1 group of 4 teams, quarter finals, semifinals, medal & placement games
7. With 10 teams; 2 groups of 5 teams, quarter finals, semifinals, medal & placement games

* In a single round robin and group stage games a team earns 3 points from a victory, 1 point from a draw and 0 points from a loss;
* The ranking of teams in a single round robin and group stage will be determined as following order:

A. Earned points;

B. Goal Difference;

C. Missed Goals;

D. If parameters A - C are equal between two teams, better is a team who has won their respective match;

E. If the respective match has finished tie, better is a team who has led at half time;

F. If parameters are still equal and two teams are competing the victory of the stage there will be organized extra throws competition to determine the final ranking between these two teams.

- There can be maximum three matches for one team during one competition day;

* - There must be always minimum one and half hour break for a team between two matches;
* The TOP 3 teams of the SEWGL 2023 tournament will be awarded with the medals;
* Also the best scorer and the MVP of the tournament will be awarded.

## 5.1 DRAW OF GROUPS

* If there are 8 – 10 participating teams at the SEWGL 2023 tournament the online draw of the groups will be organized on “Goalball TV” YouTube channel;
* The host club and the winner of the SEWGL 2022 are automatically in the Group A and the runner-up as well as the bronze medalist of the SEWGL 2022 in the Group B;
* Other participating clubs are in one pot and they will be drawn alternately to the Group A and Group B.

## 6. REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSEBILITIES OF THE TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER

Requirements and responsibilities of a club who prepares to host the SEWGL 2023 tournament are informed in own document (Requirements & Responsibilities for the stage organizer of the SEGL 2023" that can be found on www.egca.info/sewgl-2023 page.

## 7. REFEREES

- Table officials and goal judges are primarily from the host country;

- The referees must be level III and / or II of the official IBSA classification;

- 6-12 referees are invited by a stage organizer according to the list of IBSA level II and III referees;

- Half of the referees must be out of the host country of a tournament.

The referees cannot whistle 3 consecutive matches, they refer according to these models:

A. 1 match on the court + 1 match 10 sec. + 1 rest;

B. 2 games on the court consecutively + 1 rest.

In some stages technological assistance may be introduced to the referee.

## 7.1 CHIEF REFEREE

The organizing club of a stage will name in co-operation with EGCA Competition Committee a chief referee (or in some cases a technical delegate) who has following responsibilities:

A. Create the schedule for referees

B. Monitor the work of goal judges and table officials (educated them if needed);

C. Fill in the tournaments’ protocols and provide teams with this information

D. Take care of the courts’ technical requirements, change game balls, remove all defects as soon as possible;

E. Check that team line-ups and athlete identities are following SEGL - Champions League 2022 regulations.

F. Work as a part of the tournament jury.

## 8. PROTEST

Protest will be analyzed only in case if officials‘ mistake may have influenced game score for the benefit of one team.

If after a match a coach is sure that officials made a harm to the team, he/she may write a protest. Protest is equivalent to 100 Euros. It is given to the chief referee within half hour after the end of the match. If the protest is acknowledged, the money is given back. If not, the money goes to the EGCA for development of club goalball.

## 8.1 INFRACTIONS, REASONABLE FOR A PROTEST

A. Mistakes in running the main game clock (video records can be provided);

B. Infraction of the 10 seconds rule (8-12s) (video records can be provided);

C. Goal from out of court line is scored (video records can be provided, if recorded from the back of the Goal line);

D. Players took off their eyeshades when the match had not finished yet (video records can be provided);

E. A player has cheated during the match and effected to the result (video records can be provided);

F. Violation of the team constitution rule;

G. Other rude mistakes of the referees.

Video clips for the protest must be taken from the official live stream record or by using video assistant referee.

The protest is considered if the mistake of the official / referee could change the result of the match and one team would get an advantage.

## 9. RULES FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF SPORTS TRUTH

## 10.1 SPORT TRUTH

- European Goalball Club Association defends the appreciation of the athlete for his / her work and the reflection of his / her overcoming, condemning any and all actions that alter the sports truth;

- EGCA is betting on the forefront of technological innovation that allows human error to be reduced as much as possible which can influence results;

- EGCA condemns any and all fraud or cheating initiatives by an athlete or club;

- The tournament directors and EGCA representatives have a duty to uphold the values of ethics and prevent illegal acts in competitions, as well as comply with and enforce the World Anti-Doping Agency's World Anti-Doping Code;

- Consequently, athletes competing in EGCA tournaments can be subjected to doping control tests at any time, with or without notice.

## 10.2 ACT OF CHEATING

- EGCA requires strict compliance with article 29 of the goalball rules;

-If any athlete manipulates glasses or eye patches to obtain any benefit from the vision, they will be automatically expelled from the game by Personal Unsporting Conduct;

- If a player is ejected, the referee must report this action to the Chief Referee / technical delegate of the tournament. Chief Referee / technical delegate, together with the EGCA representative will then, without delay, decide if a player will be suspended from further competition in that tournament;

- The EGCA Competition Committee will address any cases of cheating / doping after the tournament by the report of the chief referee / tehcnical delegate and the EGCA representative and will make a decision on disciplinary proposals;

- The suspension period will be determined by the seriousness of the infraction and the previous history of an athlete / club.

## 10.3 DOPING CONTROL

Any player, who is playing in an EGCA tournament may be asked to perform a doping control test.

Refusal to perform the test will lead to the immediate expulsion of the player and an immediate 2-year suspension from all EGCA competitions.

## 10.4 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- Every player has the right to defend during the disciplinary procedure, and must submit their defense in writing, within a maximum period of 30 days after the occurrence;

- The EGCA Competition Committee will address any cases of cheating / doping after the tournament by the report of the chief referee / technical delegate and the EGCA representative and will make a decision on disciplinary proposals;

- The suspension period will be determined by the seriousness of the infraction and the previous history of an athlete / club;

- The maximum duration of the suspension for cheating is two years;

- All disciplinary reports will be sent to IBSA and the respective national federation, which may increase the penalty.