REGULATIONS - EGCA – CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2024

These regulations are approved by the EGCA Competition Committee on Monday 29th January 2023 and they are valid during EGCA – Champions League’s season 2024.

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## 1. GOALS

- To determine the strongest European men’s goalball club team in the EGCA – Champions League;

- To allow the best European goalball club teams and athletes to compete with each other;

- 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 league in co-operation with the organizing clubs of the EGCA - Champions League stages on season 2024.

EGCA Competition Committee has responsibilities to determine:

-Organizing clubs and dates for stages of the SEGL - Champions League season;

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

- Regulations of the season in co-operation with participating clubs;

- a representative of EGCA for each stages of the season.

and to share:

- Results, statistics and standings of the season 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 stage was organized.

## 3. COMPETITION FORMAT

* There are two qualification stages for maximum 10 clubs / stage on the season 2024;

- A club can prefer which stage they want to participate in terms of their competition schedule and economical situation but EGCA Competition Committee will make the final decision of the participating clubs of stages;

- Top 3 clubs from both stages secure their places at the Final Stage of the season;

- The host club of the final stage and the reigning champion of the league are qualified automatically to the final stage.

## 3.1 OFFICIAL DATE OF COMPETITION

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

- The qualification stages will run from Thursday to Sunday (Friday - Sunday are competition days). The final stage will run from Thursday to Monday (Friday - Sunday are the competition days);

- 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;

- Dates of the stages are approved by the EGCA Competition Committee regarding this model:

Qualification Stages - Between February - March 2024

* Krakow Stage: Krakow, Poland organized by WBR Groundhogs Krakow on 22nd – 25th February 2024
* Berlin Stage: Berlin, Germany organized by Füchse Berlin on 21st – 24th March 2024

Final Stage - Between May - July 2024

* Final Stage, Blankenberge, Belgium organized by Noordzee on 27th June – 1st July 2024

## 4. COMPETITION RULES

EGCA – Champions League is played under existing IBSA rules (2022 - 2024) with the changes applied by these regulations.

In just any of the 3 stages, arbitration support technologies may be used with approval from the EGCA Competition Committee up to 30 days before the tournament and with information in the EGCA media.

Goalball rules tests can be used in just any of the 3 stages, as proposed by IBSA and with approval by 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;

- Each registered club must be a real club that takes part in the national league / championships;

- Each club who wants to take part in the EGCA competitions must also be the EGCA member;

- There are maximum ten participating clubs at one qualification stage as following order:

A. Organizing club of the stage

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

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

D. 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 own national league / championships and the highest position in European Championships.

E. Current ranking in Europe (1st December 2024): Lithuania, Ukraine, Turkey, Germany, Belgium, Montenegro, Israel, Greece, Finland, Great Britain, Portugal, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, Hungary, Spain, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan. All the other countries are equal situation in the ranking. Clubs from Russia and Belarus are suspended from the EGCA competitions.

## 4.2 COMPOSITION OF THE PARTICIPATING CLUBS

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

- At each stage of the season a club can register maximum 6 players;

- Due to the accomplishment of several stages, each club can register a maximum of 8 players in its EGCA - Champions League squad during the season (qualification stage & final stage);

- 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 (national league or championships) in their countries through the respective federation;

- An athlete who has taken or is taking part of the EGCA - Champions League season 2024 is not eligible to participate in European Grand Prix stages except female and U23 athletes;

- Each team can register maximum 2 foreign players in its squad for each stage on EGCA - Champions League 2024 season 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 EGCA – Champions League 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.

## 4.3 REGISTRATION

- Registration for participating clubs was open between 5th July – 1st December 2023 on www.egca.info/egca-champions-league-2024/segl-champions-league-2024;

- EGCA informed the clubs who were qualified to the qualification stages just after the deadline of registration;

- Qualified clubs must pay a registration fee (500 € / qualification stage) to the organizers finally in given deadline;

- A club is officially approved to the EGCA – Champions League 2024 when it has paid the registration fee;

- The registration fee will be discounted from the total participation fees by stage organizers;

- If a club cancelled its participation to one of the qualification stages the registration fee will be not refunded and a stage organizer can keep it as a cancellation fee;

- The registration fee can be refunded only in some force majeure cases for example some pandemic restrictions and lockdown but EGCA Competition Committee will make always a decision about the refund;

- A stage organizer must send the entry form and invoice for the participation fee to the clubs not later than 40 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 20 days before the start of the stage;

- A stage organizer must send all the relevant information about the tournament for the participating clubs, referees as well as to EGCA media not later than 14 days before the start of the stage.

## 4.4 CLUB UNIFORM

- Club can use different designs of play jersey in a game at the EGCA – Champions League stage (also different colors are accepted);

- The front number of a play jersey can be smaller than in the IBSA rules but minimum 10 cents high. That rule helps clubs to get their sponsors' logos better displayed on their jerseys;

- Clubs can use numbers 1-99 in their jerseys.

## 5. QUALIFICATION STAGES

## 5.1 PLAY SYSTEM

- Play system at the qualification stages:

A. With four teams; double round robin (12 games);

B. With five teams; a single round robin, play-off game between 4th and 5th of the round robin, semifinals and medal games (15 games);

C. With six teams; single round robin, semifinals, placement & medal game (20 games);

D. With seven teams; a single round robin (21 games):

E. With eight teams: 2 groups with 4 teams, single round robin in both groups, quarter finals, semifinals, placement & medal games (24 games);

F. With nine teams, 1 group with 5 and 1 group with 4 teams, single round robin played in both groups, roup winners straight to the semifinals, quarter finals between group 2 - group 3, semifinals, placement & medal games (25 games);

G. With ten teams; 2 groups with five teams, single round robin in both groups, group winners straight to the final game, play-off games between A2-B3 and B2-A3, placement and medal games(27 games);

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

- There must be always minimum 80 minutes break for a team between two matches.

## 5.2 POINTS

- Teams will earn 3 points from a victory, 1 point from a tie and 0 points from a loss;

- Teams ranking in the tournament with single or double round robin as well as in group stage will be determined as follow:

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 winner of the stage.

- There will be awarded the best team of the qualification stage by a trophy that is provided by the organizing club of the division;

- There will be also given the award for the best scorer of the qualification stage as well as the most valuable player (The MVP). The MVP is chosen by the participating teams.

## 6. THE FINAL STAGE

## 6.1 Play System

- There will be eight participating clubs at the final stage:

A. The organizing club = Noordzee, Belgium

B. The reigning champion = Saltinis, Lithuania

C. Three best teams from the Krakow Stage

D. Three best clubs from the Berlin Stage

- There will be 2 groups with 4 teams that will be drawn as following:

\* Group A: The host club Noordzee, The reigning champion Saltinis, 2nd team of the Krakow Stage, 2nd team of the Berlin Stage

\* Group B: 1st team of the Krakow Stage, 1st team of the Berlin Stage, 3rd team of the Krakow Stage, 3rd team of the Berlin Stage

- The ranking of the clubs in groups will be determine as in the section 5.2;

- There will be quarter finals after the group stage;

QF1: Runner of the Group B will take on the 3rd of the Group A

QF2: Winner of the Group A will take on 4th of the Group B

QF3: Winner of the Group B will take on the 4th of the Group A

QF4: Runner-up of the Group A will take on the 3rd of the Group B

- Winners of the quarter finals will be qualified to the semifinals and medal games;

- Losers of the quarter finals will play in the placement games for places 5 - 8;

- Top three teams will receive EGCA – Champions League Season 2024 medals;

- The best scorer as well as the MVP of the final stage will be awarded.

## 6.2 SCHEDULE

- Thursday 27th June 2024: arrival of teams

- Friday 28th June 2024; 2 group games / team;

- Saturday 29th June 2024; one group game & quarter finals

- Sunday 30th June 2024; placement games, semifinals, medal games, medal ceremony, after party

- Monday 1st July 2024; Departure of teams

## 7. REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSEBILITIES OF THE STAGE ORGANIZER

Requirements and responsibilities of a club who prepares to host one of the EGCA – Champions League stage are informed in own document (Requirements & Responsibilities for the stage organizer of the ECL2024" that can be found on www.egca.info/egca-champions-league-2024 page.

## 8. 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 stage.

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.

## 8.1 CHIEF REFEREE / TECHNICAL DELEGATE

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 EGCA - Champions League 2024 regulations.

F. Work as a part of the tournament jury.

## 9. 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.

Tournament jury is consisted by:

* A chief refere / technical delegate or another referee if the chief referee has whistled in a game that is under the protest. A referee works as the chairperson of the tournament jury;
* An EGCA representative;
* The tournament director.

## 9.1 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.

## 10. 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 / 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.

## 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.