REGULATIONS - EGCA – CHAMPIONS LEAGUE & Women’s Champions League 2026

These regulations are approved by the EGCA Competition Committee on Friday 12th September 2024 and they are valid during EGCA – Champions League’s & Women’s Champions League season 2026.

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## 1. GOALS

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

(1) To allow the best European goalball club teams and athletes to compete with each other

(2) To proclaim goalball and motivate people to practice this sport

(3) To support creation of goalball fan clubs and encourage their activity

(4) To improve the visibility of goalball in media and spread the knowledge of this sport around Europe and worldwide

## 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.

EGCA Competition Committee has responsibilities to determine:

a) Organizing clubs and dates for all stages of the EGCA - Champions League season

b) To supervise the general registration of clubs and rosters using a digital registration system

c) To supervise all regulations of a season in co-operation with all participating clubs

d) To send a representative of EGCA to each stages of the season

and to share:

a) Results, statistics and standings of the season on EGCA's website and social media

b) Publish news about the Champions League together with the EGCA Media Group

## 2.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EGCA REPRESENTATIVE

(1) To represent the Association with the official entities present in the event

(2) To work as a part of the tournament jury

(3) To ensure good tournament organization within fair play

(4) To assist the organizing club

(5) To collect information and data for communication platforms

(6) To collect feedback from teams, referees, officials and spectators and send a short report to the EGCA Competition Committee how the stage was organized.

## 3. COMPETITION FORMAT

(1)There are three qualification stages for a maximum of 8 clubs / stage in a season of the Champions League

(2) A club can announce their preferred stage, which they want to participate in terms of their competition schedule and economical situation but EGCA Competition Committee will make the final decision. The club can mark all the stages which they are available to participate in

(3) Top 3 clubs from each stages secure their slot at the Final Stage of the season

(4) The host club of the Final Stage is qualified automatically

(5) There is own competition weekend for the Women’s Champions League. There are maximum 10 participating clubs in the competition. Top 3 clubs of the last Women’s Champions League tournament as well as the host club of the Women’s Champions League are automatically qualified.

## 3.1 OFFICIAL DATES OF COMPETITIONS

(1) All competition dates will be published in the official competition calendar which is approved by the EGCA Competition Committee

(2) All qualification stages will start on Thursdays (arrival) and go until Sundays (departure). Competition days will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday

(3) The Final Stage and Women’s Champions League can also run from Wednesday to Sunday or from Thursday to Monday

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

(5) Dates of the stages are approved by the EGCA Competition Committee regarding the following model:

Champions League Qualification Stages

* 1st Qualification Stage: 19th – 22nd February, Odivelas, Portugal organized by CA Cultural
* 2nd Qualification Stage: 26th February – 1st March, Barcelona, Spain organized by ONCE Catalunya
* 3rd Qualification Stage: 26th – 29th March, Nis, Serbia organized by GC NAIS

The Final Stage of the Champions League

* The Final Stage: 17th – 21st September 2025, Berlin, Germany organized by Füchse Berlin

Women’s Champions League 2026

* EGCA Women’s Champions League: 20th – 24th August, Rostock, Germany organized by RGC Hansa

## 4 COMPETITION RULES

EGCA – Champions League is played under existing IBSA rules (2026 - 2028) with the changes approved by these regulations.

In just any of the 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

(1) Clubs must register their teams and players according to the registration regulations that can be found on www.egca.info/rules-regulations-egca-competitions

(2) Each registered club must be a real club that takes part in their national league / championships

(3) Each club, who wants to take part in the EGCA competitions must be an EGCA member

(4) There are maximum 8 participating clubs at one qualification stage in 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) Clubs who have taken part of the Champions League on season 2025 in ranking order

d) If there are still free spots at some stage , 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) There can be maximum 2 clubs from the same country at one qualification stage

(5) Current ranking in Europe (16th September 2025): Ukraine, Lithuania, Türkiye, Israel, Germany, Finland, Great Britain, Portugal, Montenegro, Poland, France, Greece, Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, The Netherlands, Serbia. All the other countries are equal situation in the ranking. Clubs from Russia and Belarus are suspended from the EGCA competitions.

## 4.2 ROSTER REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPATING CLUBS

(1) A team can name maximum 10 athletes in its squad during EGCA Champions League 2026 season (qualification stage + final stage). The line-up must be informed by a team no later than 30 days before the start of a qualification stage or the Final Stage. For Women´s Champions League, this has to be done 30 days before the tournament starts. The roster has to be registered with EGCA using an official form or online system.

(2) An athlete can represent only one club during a Champions League season except female athletes who can play for one club in the Champions League and for another in the Women’s Champions League.

(3) There must be always minimum 4 and maximum 6 registered athletes / team at a Champions League or Women's Champions League stage.

(4) There must be always a minimum one IBSA classified athlete in a squad of a team at a Champions League / Women's Champions League stage.

(5) Unclassified athletes (also sighted) athletes are eligible in the Champions League / Women's Champions League.

(6) A club must always have local athletes in its line-up for the EGCA Champions League or Women's Champions League stage. A local athlete is a player who has played for the club’s team during the last two national league seasons (the current season counts) or in two consecutive national championships (the current year counts) or in three consecutive years in EGCA competitions (current year counts).

(7) If a team registers 6 athletes in its line-up for the EGCA Champions League or Women’s Champions League stage, four of these athletes must be local athletes; if the team registers 5 athletes, three must be local; and if the team registers 4 athletes, three must be local. The nationality of the athlete does not matter, as long as the athlete meets the above-mentioned local player criteria. This rule also applies to athletes who come from the same country as the club.

(8) A club may register EU citizens in its line-up who does not meet the local athlete criteria.

(9) A club may register one non-EU citizen in its lineup who does not meet the local athlete criteria.

(10) A female athlete can take part in the Champions League and it will not prevent them to take part inWomen's Champions League, Youth Championships or EGCA Grand Prix tournaments. A female athlete can also represent another club in another competition like one in the Champions League and another in the EGCA Grand Prix.

(11) A U23 male athlete can take part in the Champions League and Youth Championships during the same year. A youth athlete can also represent one club in the Champions League and another at the EGCA Youth Championships.

(12) A male athlete who has taken part of the Champions League can't play the EGCA Grand Prix during the same year except U20 athletes.

(13) An athlete who has participated in the Champions League qualification stage but whose team has not advanced to the Final Stage, can take part in the EGCA European Cup representing the same team as in the Champions League qualification stage.

(14) Failure to comply with registration rules results in a 10-0 loss in the game.

## 4.3 REGISTRATION

(1) Registration for participating clubs of the Champions League qualification stages is open between 16th September – 10th November 2025 on www.egca.info/champions-league-2026

(2) EGCA Competition Committee informs the clubs who were qualified to the qualification stages just after the deadline of registration

(3) The participating club must pay the payment of participation fees not later than 60 days before the start of the stage. A club is officially approved to the EGCA – Champions League 2026 season when it has paid the participation fees in time

(4) If the club doesn’t pay the payment of participation fees in time its place at the stage may be offered for another club

(5) Once the club has paid the participation fees, it can't longer reduce the number of its participants without charge. Adding additional participants is possible, but additions or changes must be made no later than one week before the start of the stage

(6) Exact deadlines for the organizer to send the entry forms and invoices are informed in the Requirement & Responsibilities of the stage organizer document that can be found on www.egca.info/rules-regulations-egca-competitions.

(7) Registration dates and instructions for the Women’s Champions League 2025 will be published by the EGCA Competition Committee in the first quarter of year 2025

## 4.4 CLUB UNIFORM

(1Clubs have to wear the same color and design for all their jerseys. An aception can only be made by the EGCA representative for special cases as lost language during the trip to the stage

(2) Clubs can use numbers 1-19 on their jerseys. The size of jersey numbers are defined in the IBSA 2026-2028 rules.

## 5. QUALIFICATION STAGES

## 5.1 TOURNAMENT TREE

(1) Tournament tree at qualification stages:

a) With four teams; double round robin (12 games)

b) With five teams; a single round robin, semifinals and medal games (14 games)

c) With six teams; single round robin, semifinals, placement & medal games (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)

(2) There can be a maximum three matches for one team during one competition day

(3) There must be always minimum 75 minutes break for a team between two matches

## 5.2 POINTS

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

(2) 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 – subtracting a team’s goals scored against from their goals scored in the total round robin

c) Number of Wins – teams will be assessed on the number of wins in the round robin. Teams with the most wins will be given the higher ranking.

d) Goals Against – the team with the lowest goals against in the overall competition will be given the higher ranking.

e) Goal Difference – The same procedure shall be used again, but this time only the games in the round robin between the teams that have to be separated shall be included. In the event that a tie occurs between more than two teams, the above criteria will be used, in order, until one team has been separated.

f) If two clubs are still tied after criterions A-E the extra throw competition may be organized to determine the ranking of the teams.

(3) There will be awarded the best team of the qualification stage by a trophy that is provided by the organizing club

(4) 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

(5) The placement games are also important for the clubs who don’t qualify to the Final Stage because there will be the EGCA European Cup tournament in the end of 2026 where the best ranked clubs will be invited

## 6. THE FINAL STAGE

## 6.1 TOURNAMENT TREE

(1) There will be 10 participating clubs at the final stage and Women´s Champions League

(2) There will be 2 groups with 5 teams that will be drawn with the model that EGCA Competition Committee has decided:

(3) The ranking of the clubs in groups will be determined as in the section 5.2

(4) There will be quarter finals, semifinals, medal & placement games after the group stage

(5) Top three teams will receive EGCA – Champions League Season medals

(6) The best scorer as well as the MVP of the final stage will be awarded

## 7. WOMEN’S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2026

1. There will be maximum 10 participating clubs in the Women’s Champions League 2025 that will be held in Rostock, Germany on 20th – 24th August 2026. Top 3 clubs of last season as well as the host club RGC Hansa are automatically qualified to the Women’s Champions League 2026 tournament
2. If there are more than 10 registered clubs to the tournament, they will be qualified to the tournament in following order:
3. The champions of the countries which have own national league / championships for women (the countries are ranked in order of last European Championships A and B Divisions)
4. Club who took part I last Women’s Champions League tournament (ranking order)

c) Clubs who come from the countries which don’t have own national league / championships for women and who have not participated in last Women’s Champions League tournament (ranking of countries in last European Championships A and B Divisions). If there are clubs from countries which have not participated in last European Championships, the club which has registered first will be qualified

1. Ranking of countries after B Division European Championships 2024: Turkiye, Israel, Greece, Great Britain, Finland, France, Ukraine, Germany, Poland, Spain, Hungary, Italy. Other countries are equal situation in the ranking.
2. Athlete regulations for the Women’s Champions League are presented in the section 4.2

EGCA Competition Committee will confirm the play system and draw of pools for the Women’s Champions League 2025 after the deadline of registration

1. Three best clubs of the Women’s Champions League 2025 tournament will be awarded with the medals and the winner will be crowned as the European Champion of the clubs
2. Also the best scorer and the most valuable player (MVP) will be awarded

## 8. REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES 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 organizer of the EGCA Champions League, Women’s Champions League & Youth Championships 2026” that can be found on [www.egca.info/rules-regulations-egca-competitions](http://www.egca.info/rules-regulations-egca-competitions)

## 9. REFEREES

(1) Table officials and goal judges are primarily from the host country;

(2) The referees must be level III and / or II of the official IBSA classification. Also some experienced referees who are not IBSA classified anymore may referee in the Champions League and Women’s Champions League but the organizer must ask for a special permission from the EGCA Competition Committee

(3) 6-12 referees are invited by a stage organizer and approved by EGCA Competition Committee according to the list of IBSA level II and III referees. The organizer must send first the list of referees whom they are aiming to invite to the tournament and after the approval of the EGCA Competition Committee they can send the invitations;

(4) 50 % of the referees must be out of the host country of a stage

(5) 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;

or

b) 2 games on the court consecutively + 1 rest.

In some stages technological assistance may be introduced to the referee

## 9.1 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 2026 regulations

f) Work as a part of the tournament jury

## 10. 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. The protest should be always given literally by filling the protest document where must be informed which IBSA or EGCA competition rule the protest is considering. 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;
* Club representative (the chief referee will name a representative from the club that is not under the protest

## 10.1 INFRACTIONS, REASONABLE FOR A PROTEST

1. Mistakes in running the main game clock (video records can be provided);
2. Infraction of the 10 seconds rule (8-12s) (video records can be provided);
3. Goal from out of court line is scored (video records can be provided, if recorded from the back of the Goal line);
4. Players took off their eyeshades when the match had not finished yet (video records can be provided)
5. A player has cheated during the match and effected to the result (video records can be provided);
6. Violation of the team constitution rule;
7. 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.

## 11. RULES FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF SPORTS TRUTH

## 11.1 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.

## 11.2 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.

## 11.3 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.

## 11.4 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.